



Ontario Association of Library Technicians

NEWSLETTER/ NOUVELLES

Association des Bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario

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NEWSletter/NOUvelles

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*2002 & You/
2002 et Vous*
**Thunder Bay –
May 1-5, 2002**

Spring 2002

President's Message

Welcome to the Spring 2002 issue.

This is my last message as the President of OALT/ABO. I have really enjoyed my years on the executive and have learned lots from my fellow members. To say that it has been a bumpy ride is an understatement.

During my time, we have seen our Association take a drastic step to save itself from extermination with the formation of the Committee for Change. Many accomplishments have taken place, such as:

- Affiliation with the Council on Library/Media Technicians (COLT) of ALA
- Attendance at the Library Advance Canada meeting
- Invitation to participate in the planning committee of OLA 2003 Super Conference
- Evolution of corporate sponsorships for OALT/ABO functions which have included the website, discussion list & membership directory.
- Beginning discussions with OSLA, which is a division of OLA, on the school library issue

Before I leave, I want to give my heartfelt thanks to my executive, board and committee members. Without the support that I have been given, I would not have been able to make the contribution that I have to the Association.

So this is my challenge to all of you: take the time to get involved. The rewards are endless for both you and the Association.

Respectfully Yours,

Pam Casey, President
pcasey1@cogeco.ca

905-639-5621 (home)
905-362-4228 (work)



OALT/ABO Thunder Bay

Accommodations

There are 77 single rooms at the Avila Centre that may be rented for \$35.00 / night. There is no housekeeping service but towels may be exchanged daily. There is a daily \$3.00 parking fee except free for those staying at the Avila Centre.

Registration Fees

1. **Workshops**

Members	½ day	\$ 60.00 (1 workshop)
	full day	\$100.00 (2 workshops and lunch)
Non-members	½ day	\$ 70.00 (1 workshop)
	full day	\$140.00 (2 workshops and lunch)

2. **Meals**

Breakfast	\$10.00 /day	Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday
Lunch	\$10.00 /day	Thursday, Friday, Saturday

Special Evening Events

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Light dinner | \$10.00 Wednesday |
| Northern Knights Feast | \$40.00 Thursday |
| Banquet | \$30.00 Saturday |

Workshops

Thursday morning 2 May 2002

- Full-text Electronic Databases with Leslie Piekarz
- The Power of One: tactics for one-person libraries with Maggie Weaver
- Early Literacy with Carol Ohlgren

Thursday afternoon 2 May 2002

- Stats Canada with Sandra McIntyre
- Partnerships with Brian McKinnon
- Sign on the Dotted Line with Erika Maki

Friday morning 3 May 2002

- Microsoft Access with Jim Horbow
- Information Service: part 1 with Marian Doucette
- Finding Information for Small Business Clients with Maggie Weaver
(this workshop is based on her book).

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Workshops cont'd

**Join with OLS-North conference - choice of 2 workshops

1. Business Planning with Rebecca Jones of Dysart & Jones
2. After Harry Potter with Ken Settingington, OLA

Saturday morning 4 May 2002

Take Away the Mystery of the Computer with Barrie Hemming
 Critical issues for Customer Service with Maggie Weaver
 Creating Adobe PDF files with Gail Zanette and Carol Otte

Saturday afternoon 4 May 2002

ABM

Thunder Bay Regional Branch P.O. Box 10208 Thunder Bay ON P7B 6T7

A Superior Splash!
Éclat boussement supérieur!

OLA SuperConference 2002

OALT/ABO was proud to share a booth at the OLA's SuperConference with all of the Colleges that provide an LIT program. Frances Davidson-Arnott of Seneca, Jan Jacobson of Algonquin and Dolores Harms Penner of Mohawk, obviously have a lot of experience in these things and made it easy for us to incorporate our display into the overall promotion of our profession.

Many delegates to the convention filled out a ballot in our draw, and we have followed up information packages to visitors. Our portion of the booth was staffed by Jill Anderson (Lohania), Stacy Goddard (Quinte/Frontenac), Pam Casey, Erin McIntyre and Stella Clark (Halton-Peel), and Donna Ladouceur (TALTA). "2002 and You" literature and bookmarks supplied by Thunder Bay Region publicized our upcoming convention in that city. Thanks to everyone who helped in any way to make the display run smoothly.

Pam Casey, OALT/ABO President, and Stacy Goddard, PR Co-ordinator, attended 2 workshops related to school libraries. In one of those workshops, we were asked to voice opinions on the staffing issue, a big concern for both librarians and technicians. This session was informative: it introduced us first-hand to issues facing those teacher-librarians who do remain at the elementary school level, and showed what approach one board has taken, to team-work with teachers and technicians. Having already met and chatted with the incoming president of OSLA the previous evening, we feel that SuperConference was a step in the direction of more cooperation between OLA and OALT/ABO.

by Stacy Goddard

The Future of OALT/ABO

"Disclaimer: This article is based solely on my personal opinions and thoughts."

I joined the association in 1996 and came in with what can be considered as extreme enthusiasm. I had just graduated as a Library & Information Technician and was eager to spread the good word. That enthusiasm has dimmed somewhat but I still have determination, which is something that I will never lose.

Since 1996, I have seen our Association go through some real ups and downs, but recently it seems that things are very shaky. However, all library associations seem to be going through similar regrouping and organizational uncertainty. And as far as I know, membership numbers are down in a lot of organizations. Why? - Which is the first question that comes to mind. Well, I think it has a lot to do with being stretched in so many directions, and burnout from work.

Will we as an organization survive? I hope so. OALT/ABO is the only bilingual Library Technician Association in Canada and it has 25 years of very rich history behind its name. Over the years, executives have come and gone, but the main players still remain. Individuals like Doug Wilford, Liz Aldrey, Janet Iles, Janet Scheibler, Janet Tieman, Linda Davis to name a few, come to meetings & annual conferences and give us the much needed support to go on. A lot of hopes are pinned on the Committee for Change and I, like everyone else, hope that some of their recommendations will help to form a new OALT/ABO. Without change, I personally can see the Association dissolving into another (already existing) library association. Do I want to see that happen? No, I do not.

My devotion to the profession will always remain no matter what happens. I am proud to be a Library Technician and always will be.

Looking forward to the future,

Pam Casey, President

Ontario Association of Library Technicians / Association des bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario

The 2003 conference planning group is very interested in your ideas.

Do you have something that you would like to see at the conference?

We'd like a good variety of topics so we need your input.

Maybe you've heard a speaker that you feel would be an excellent addition to the program. Please **do contact us** with those details.

Sue Thomas

s.c-thomas@rogers.com

2003 in Toronto

Penni Chalk

pchalk@sympatico.ca

A Day in the Life of an Elementary School Library Technician

(Reprinted from *In Touch with TALTA*, volume 41 # 1)

The school library is the place for you if you enjoy helping children and adult professionals find resources and also carrying out the technical side of the job. Every day is a whirlwind of activity and learning. In the York Catholic District School Board, where I work, the model is that of a teacher-librarian and a library technician each working 0.5 in elementary schools with 400 to 600 students. With both working between two schools, one or the other is in the school each day.

Every day involves cataloguing, processing, maintaining and circulating resources in all formats in addition to overseeing the inventory, maintenance of the audiovisual and electronic equipment, ordering supplies, supervising student helpers, setting up book and bulletin board displays, and assisting the teacher librarian in many other ways.

The most important part of the job is maintaining the collection so that it is easily accessible. Elementary schools use special systems to help children as young as 4 years old, learn to locate resources independently and return them on time - colour coding, alphabet stickers on the spines, separation of easier chapter books from the regular fiction, book displays at their eye level, and bright notices to tuck in the backpack if a book is overdue. For the older students, keeping the stacks and carrels in good order and helping them to use the OPAC and understand the Dewey Decimal System is critical to accessibility. For the teaching staff, the quick cataloguing and preparation of new resources, and efficient and timely searches for resources to support their units are of greatest importance. The school library technician performs all of these duties every day.

Many of the schools participate in the OLA's Silver Birch (grades 4,5,6) and Red Maple (grades 7& 8) reading programs whereby students read and vote on their favourite Canadian authors. The books are catalogued quickly so that they can be presented and shared with the class. These two programs promote reading in a fun way, and they, and the resulting rush, provide a unique opportunity for the school library technician and the teacher-librarian to work side by side to make things flow smoothly.

Training a large and reliable group of student helpers each term to assist in the daily shelving and clean up is well worth the time involved. With classes in the library all day long, there is a huge turnover of books. The technician would never be able to perform other duties if he/she had to shelve. I have found that grade 6 students who come a maximum of twice during the week works well.

Reference work involves helping students to locate resources for assignments. As a school library technician, I do incidental instruction only. I help students on the Internet to search faster and wiser. When asked, I provide sites to teachers to use in the classroom as well as sites regarding evaluation of information and how to cite electronic resources. The OSLA (Ontario School Library Association) listserv is a great source of good, evaluated sites.

Inventory is a shared responsibility at year end but the technician is responsible for sorting out the problems which arise – bad barcodes, missing items, locating resources, etc. This is the kind of detective work I rather like – there is a bit of it every day, in fact. You will not enjoy working in a school library if you are not an analytical person!! Things turn up in the most amazing places for the strangest reasons. And it is important to be on top of it all, but diplomatic.

The teacher- librarian handles the instructional program and acquisitions while the library technician is responsible for the organization and circulation of all resources and equipment. This calls for a team effort where each individual appreciates the education and skills of the other person. I know that I work alongside a couple of very dedicated teacher-librarians who make the library a welcoming place for staff and students alike.

The library technician must respect the teaching staff above all and appreciate the tremendous workload they have. Your job is to make their's easier. That is why you are classed as support staff and your support can make a big difference to the learning in the classroom. A library technician in an elementary school has a special set of skills but perhaps a willingness to keep learning and to share that learning is the greatest skill - and one that is common to information workers in any setting!

by Sheila Browne

An appeal to all TALTA members

TALTA's Annual Business Meeting was held on March 23rd. Part of our business for the day included elections for a number of openings on the 2002/2003 Executive. The following positions are still available:

Vice President (term of office: one year, followed by one year as President)

Representative to the OALT/ABO Board of Directors (term of office: two years)

Publicity Coordinator (term of office: one year)

For more information about the duties, or if you are interested in filling any of these positions, please contact me (Carol Bennett) at cbennett@innocent.com or 416-266-7285.

Thank you

Editor's Note:

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue. Please send your submissions for the Fall issue to me (Marion Warburton) at warburtonm@hhangus.com by October 4, 2002, or call me at 416.443.8200 (bus) or 416.964.9140 (home).

Winners at the OLA Conference

The door prizes from the **OALT/ABO** booth at the OLA Conference in January, 2002 were won by:

Grand Prize: Lynn Haist
(\$50.00 gift certificate from Chapters & chocolates from Laura Secord)

Additional Prizes: Connie Ruscica & Ian McDonnell
(Leather bound binders from 2001 Conference)

Around the Regions

Halton-Peel

-Mar. 28, 2002, Regional ABM, Oakville P. L.
-June event, time & place TBA
Contact Vicky Lynham,
(H) 905.875.0039 (Wfax) 905.796.4050
email lynhamv@stn.net

Huronia

-May 4, 2002, ABM, Thunder Bay
This branch will close on this date.
Contact Pat Henry,
(H) 705.728.3480 (W) 705.739.6569 email
whenry@interhop.net

Lohania

- March 16, 2002, Annual meeting, Chapters, London
Contact Jill Anderson, (H) 519.473.3695
email jilldunc@execulink.com

Ottawa

-Mar. 18, 2002 Student meet & greet
-April 4, 2002 ABM
Contact Kathy Heney
(H) 613.224.6888 (W) 613.237.5160
email dk204@freenet.carleton.ca

Sudbury

-Annual Business meeting TBA
Contact Linda Davis,
(H) 705.566.9374 (Fax) 705.670.5770 email
<linda.davis@ndm.gov.on.ca>
Or Jo-Ann Larose,
(H) 705.692.9886 (W) 705.675.9193 x8343
email jlarose@nemhc.on.ca

TALTA

-Feb. 19, 2002 "A Survey of Continuing Education Opportunities for LTs"
-Mar. 4, 2002, Andre Paradis, Janice Hayes: "Video-on-Demand & Metadata"
-March 23, 2002, ABM
Contact Marina Dranitsaris, (H) 416.267.3226
email mdranit@rogers.com

Thunder Bay

-February 9, 2002, "Preparing Electronic Resumes"
-March 21, 2002, ABM & Dinner, Slovak Legion
Contact Valerie Barten, (H) 807.475.3668
(Hfax) 807.577.2915 Home email
rbarten@tbaytel.net Work email
vbarten@lhbe.edu.on.ca

**ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF LIBRARY TECHNICIANS/
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We're on the Web!
www.oaltabo.on.ca

OALT / ABO Discussion List

The OALT/ABO discussion list is a moderated discussion list of our provincial association, OALT/ABO. It provides information concerning job opportunities, meeting notices and professional development activities.

The list is sponsored by Rowe Com Canada and is run on their server using Majordomo software.

To subscribe, send the following message to oaltabo-request@faxon.ca

subscribe oaltabo

Be sure to leave the subject line empty and write the message in the body only.

You will receive a confirmation and welcome message from our list manager. Questions or comments can be directed to Ronn Cheney, ronn.cheny@ca.pwcglobal.com

Our thanks are extended to the following sponsors: Rowe Com for our website and discussion list; Lexis-Nexis for our 1999 Membership Directory.

