

NewsLETTER/ NouvELLES

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Abbey Market
P.O. Box 76010
1500 Upper Middle Road West
Oakville, ON L6M 3H5
T: 905.403.2561
F: 905.403.2453

Editor: Marina Dranitsaris
mdranitsaris@sympatico.ca

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President's Message

Welcome to the 2004 winter newsletter of OALT/ABO. Your executive was busy last year focussing on the changes to our constitution. We are working on restructuring the various executive positions and reviewing the formation of existing branches into new chapters. We hope that new interest groups will emerge from this change of direction in our association.

Now is the time to start thinking about how you can be a part of these changes. Elections for OALT/ABO executive positions will be held at the Annual Business Meeting on May 15, 2004. The following positions will be available : President-Elect/Secretary, External Communications Coordinator, and Conference Coordinator. Please consider the experience of holding one of these positions for the coming year.

Please also think about nominations for the Presidential Award and the Award for Innovation. It is also time to renew your membership. We value your continued support of the association.

The 31st Annual Conference will be in held in London, Ontario at the University of Western Ontario, May 12-16, 2004. Our theme is Phoenix / Phénix to symbolize the reorganization of the association. We are looking forward to seeing you in London in May.

The New Year lies before you,
Like a field of new fallen snow.
Be careful how you tread it
For every step will show!

Jill Anderson, President

Wanted by the Provincial Executive

It is already time for us to consider candidates to fill positions for the 2004/05 year.

The positions are: President-Elect, External Communications Coordinator, Conference Coordinator and Newsletter Editor (the Newsletter Editor is an appointed position, but we would be happy to hear from anyone interested in it).

Being a member of the provincial executive is a great way of meeting new people and assisting growth of our association. If you are interested in any of the positions, or would like more information on them please contact me.

Jill Anderson, Nominating Committee,
Email: jilldunc@execulink.com

2004 Annual Conference

The LOHANIA chapter wishes to welcome everyone to the OALT/ABO 31st Annual Conference / La 31ème conférence annuelle de l'OALT/ABO from May 12th to May 16th, 2004. Our theme this year is Phoenix / Phénix to emphasize the new start of our association with our new constitution and our new beginnings.

This year we are starting our plans with the University of Western Ontario, London as the conference site. We will be using classrooms at the university for the workshops, and space in the D.B. Weldon Library for additional sessions using computers in one of the training rooms there.

One of the newer residences at the university, Essex, has been chosen for accommodations. This residence has suites, which have four bedrooms, two bathrooms, with a living room and kitchenette in the middle. This residence also supplies free parking to one side for its guests as part of the conference services.

The programming committee is busy lining up speakers on a wide variety of topics. We will be

persuing librarians at the university and the London Public Library system. Plans are afoot to visit the newly built Archives and Research Collections Centre, known as the ARCC, at the university. It has a storage facility component with shelving forty feet high which uses an order picker (cherry picker) to collect materials. Also in the planning is a visit to the newly relocated and redesigned Central branch taking advantage of the London Public Library. This library has a number of unique features, such as the Chum Television Media Literacy Centre. This is the first Media Literacy Centre in a North American Library. The Reading Grounds Café opens into the reading lounge. Access to the Rotary Reading Garden is available from the London Free Press Reading Lounge as well as from the Spriet Family Children's Library. A visit/tour of a local winery will round out some of our plans.

Any questions or comments can be sent to the local committee.

Sharon Engel

Provincial Conference Coordinator

sengel@lib.uwo.ca

Jill Anderson

Kathryn Suffoletta

Linda Jemmett

Liz Aldrey



Annual Awards

Award For Innovation

This award has been created to recognize an OALT/ABO member who has done something innovative in the workforce, for the association or for professional development. The recipient will receive a commemorative plaque at the banquet at our annual conference.

The signature of one member, in good standing, is required for the nomination form; if others contribute to the submission, please include ALL contact names and contact information.

Outline the reason you think this person is deserving of the award, giving as much information as possible about the time involved, people affected and impact on both the candidate and others. The more information we have, the more we have to judge.

What was the major accomplishment? Was it one-time vs. ongoing or multiple day, i.e. workshops vs. program?

Who were the people affected, i.e. colleagues, patrons, the general public, or the community? What number of people were involved, how and where?

Did the nominee initiate the process?

How was the project, innovation, etc. funded? This could be an innovation in itself!

Please complete and submit the enclosed form to:

Gale Moreau

234 Duckworth Street

Barrie, ON L4M 3W9

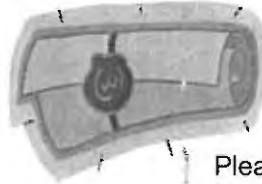
Email. twomoreaus@primus.ca

OALT/ABO Presidential Award

The Presidential Award recognizes outstanding contributions or achievement by an OALT/ABO member in promoting / developing our association.

Any full member in good standing, excluding the current President and members of the award committee, is eligible for nomination. Contributions and achievements may consist of:

- Innovative approach in promoting and/or developing the association
- Significant participation in the structure and development of the association
- Initiation and implementation in projects or programs to raise the profile of Library Technicians or the association



- Active participation in OALT/ABO through attendance at regional meetings and/or committee work
- A responsible attitude towards the profession and OALT/ABO

The name of a candidate shall be submitted by a nominator and a seconder, both being members of OALT/ABO in good standing. Nominations must be submitted in writing by April 1, 2004.

Please complete and submit the enclosed form to:
Nanci Abbondanza
2040 Pen Street
Oakville, ON L6H 3L3
Email: nabbondanza@cogeco.ca

Chapter Activities

What's New in the Chapters

Carol Bennett, Chapter Coordinator

I hope everyone had a wonderful autumn and holiday season. Mine has certainly been busy -- I attended meetings of two chapters and will be travelling to a third in January. I look forward to getting out to even more in the months ahead.

Thank you to the former regions that have submitted their chapter applications! Almost all have been received at the time of writing. Special thanks to TALTA for sharing their chapter application letter and giving others a template to use for their applications.

Now that the process of changing the former regions into chapters is almost complete, it is time to think about expanding our horizons by creating some new chapters... or re-forming old ones! After all, it isn't necessary to have a large number of members -- or executive members -- in order to exist.

Chapters need not be based on geography. Ideas mentioned in the past have included Francophone, student and school chapters. Other ideas that came up recently are chapters for retirees or solo technicians. There isn't any reason why we can't use ideas for groups from other associations, such as chapters for those working in public or special libraries.

What would chapters do if members were spread out across the province? They could be advocates for Library Technicians and libraries. They could share information on specific topics and issues of interest: what about a chapter for cataloguers or reference technicians? There could also be a group focused on socializing and networking -- we don't need to be serious all the time!

How will members of such chapters keep up-to-date? Traditional methods are available: each chapter will have a section on our web site <<http://www.oaltabo.on.ca/>> to keep members and prospective members informed of what's happening with the group, and information can be passed on in newsletters -- either paper-based or electronic -- if the chapter decides to publish one (chapters can include information in the OALT/ABO newsletter whether or not they have their own). Chapters can be based online. Members can keep in touch on a regular basis using an e-mail discussion list, or methods exist that would allow members to hold real-time online meetings. You could even have someone give a "talk" online if you wanted.

OALT/ABO and its chapters can only be as good as you make them. If you have an idea for a chapter and wish to find out if there is interest from other members, start spreading the word by letting me know (my e-mail address is cbennett@innocent.com) and sending a message

to the discussion list or newsletters. You won't have to do it alone.

All the best for the New Year! As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any ideas, comments, concerns or questions.

Halton Peel

Halton-Peel's Shop Talk was held on September 26, 2003, at the Abbey Grill Restaurant in Oakville. Shop Talk is held to welcome members back from the summer, and is usually a social dinner, with a chance for everyone to reconnect, and say what is happening in their lives at home and at work. This year it was decided that we should celebrate the retirement of Doug Willford, founding member of OALT/ABO. Since retiring from Humber College in June, he has moved to Welland, where he volunteers in the school system, and is keeping himself very busy. We were able to keep it a surprise from Doug, which made the event even more special. He was presented with a navy golf cap with his name embroidered on, and was treated to his dinner. A cake was also provided, and members brought in some pictures from past years. Twenty-two people attended, and all enjoyed the restaurant and the fun. It was agreed that the restaurant provided a great venue for this type of get together, and would be recommended for future events.

LOHANIA

This chapter is concentrating on preparing for the 2004 Annual Conference in May 2004.

Ottawa

On October 7, 2003, the Ottawa chapter's first event was a talk on "What's New in Records Management" presented by Brian Stinson, General Manager at Iron Mountain in Ottawa and President of the Ottawa Chapter of ARMA (Association of Records Management Administrators).

When Mr. Stinson participated in an associations panel organized last spring by the Library Association of the National Capital Region, the OALT/ABO members participating and those attending liked him so much that we decided to invite him to our group. He has a wealth of experience and expertise that he shares in a down to earth, relaxed manner.

He basically summed up his presentation by stating that there really isn't much new in records management at all except for the new privacy legislation. He listed a few resources for more info: www.arma.org
www.armancr.ca
www.ironmountain.com

Thunder Bay Founders Museum Tour

Donald M. Henderson

For some and maybe not for others, memories have a funny way of hitting you on both sides of the brain which we all know makes for a very mixed experience. We first stopped at the schoolhouse, which was decorated and contained documents that dated to just before the Second World War, which has been over for almost sixty years. But guess what? For me, and at least one other who had a rural childhood, it was just like yesterday. There was very little in the school that we did not use while we were there. The desks, the stove, and the old Dominion of Canada pull-down maps with overdrawn rivers all brought back good memories.

On we went to the teacher's one room residence and then over to the train station. From there, we went on to the store where more memories were evoked and the idea that everything old was rough was dashed to pieces. There was a lot of very beautiful merchandise in the store which was a real general store selling everything from food to furniture. There is a shoe shop, woodshop, and a house that would have been occupied by middle European Nobility in the early years.

It was all topped off with a fine lunch in the reworked community hall. It is an old hall with old decorations and stage but is not outdated where the kitchen and washrooms are concerned. The room was warm and the food was homemade and good. Because most of the buildings are not heated, the Museum is only open during the summer season. We did have to bundle up for our later than usual tour. It was fun and we hope to be able to keep offering this kind of experience to our members in the future. We invite you all to join us next time.

TALTA

Fired with enthusiasm after a wonderful OALT/ABO Conference ("wasn't that a party!"), TALTA members worked hard on bringing more sessions to local members. We've had three programs this fall,

thanks to the organizational skills of VP Jenna Winkler and topic suggestions from the entire TALTA executive.

First up in October was "Defusing Difficult Situations: Personal Safety in the Library", at which Mary LeQuoc from Toronto Public Library described the Street Smart program. Mary went through the history of how the program, adapted from a US program in use among social workers, came to be used in the amalgamated library, after use in the former Etobicoke PL and Toronto PL systems. The program covers not just observing body language and using non-provocational techniques, but also ways to prevent violence in the first place. As a way to talk about our own techniques and practices, we afterwards discussed a few of the cases that are given in the kit "Difficult Situations in Libraries: Problems with Patrons", developed by Liz Bayley and Valerie Parke for OALT/ABO in 1992.

In November, we had a panel of members discussing their favourite websites. Ben Kahn, Penni Chalk and Maggie Weaver (standing in for Jennifer Daley), introduced attendees to sites for work, for professional development, and for fun. Officially, the panel represented business, government & public library viewpoints, but it quickly became clear "fun" sites (like Penni's favourite Food Network site, and Ben's music sites) are more memorable, and that Ben has a morbid sense of humour. But Penni introduced us to the Ontario online service site, which many of us went straight off to try, and everyone joined in with describing sites they thought we should all know about.

In December we had what must be a record turnout at our Holiday Social at the Mandarin Restaurant. Door prizes once again exceeded attendees. Thanks to the donors and TALTA executive. The first and last prizes went to the same (new) member – so we encourage new members to come to the Social!

Two more programs are scheduled for the spring, in February and March, and we invite all OALT/ABO members to attend.

By the way, TALTA is starting to use the phrase "TALTA, the Toronto chapter of OALT/ABO", because new and potential members are not familiar with the TALTA acronym.

Continuation to School Library Problems *Excerpt from an e-mail written by Tracy Morgan which continues the story started in Newsletter / Nouvelles, V27, #1*

Last night I went to a municipal candidates meeting in Milton. I had the opportunity to ask one of the gentlemen running for Halton District School Board Trustee about the lack of staffing in elementary school libraries. Unfortunately the other candidate wasn't there to weigh in, but Paul Tate's answer was a positive one. He feels the Liberal government will bring teacher-librarians back to our schools and that early literacy is vital to our kids. I believe he said Bill 160 (which he vocally opposed) virtually wiped out the teacher-librarian.

Regardless of who's elected, I'll be sure to send them copies of my letter and the last government's responses. Neither one of them mentioned libraries as an issue in a recent question and answer feature in The Canadian Champion (Milton's paper).

Next week I'm off to another meeting and will hopefully get to ask my potential Ward councillors about public libraries in Milton. Plans now are for a "new" library across Town. I have confirmation that the existing library (in my Ward) will be closed with no plans to making it a branch location. What short sightedness on the Town's part.

Editor's Note: Again, big thanks to Tracy for making sure that libraries and their staffing problems are brought to the attention of those who can affect change.

Happy New Year

Maria Ripley, Internal Communications Coordinator

Visit the OALT/ABO web site at www.oaltabo.on.ca for the latest news and chapter events. Over the next while, I will be working closely with our Webmaster, Farah Shaygan, and making some minor changes so our web site will be more informative for you. If you have any changes, additions, deletions, and suggestions for our web site, please send them to me at mripley@myvirtualnetwork.com. Alternatively, if you just want to drop me a line to say hello that would be great!

College LIT Program Updates

Mohawk College

Happy New Year to OALT-ABO members from the instructors and Program Manager in the library technician program at Mohawk College.

We are gearing up for winter term courses, which begin on January 12, 2004. Registration continues to be high, with many courses already full. Our program is geared to students who are already working in libraries but don't have formal library education, and they indicated that they appreciate our distance education teaching format, over the Internet.

If any of you have considered taking courses to upgrade your knowledge and stay current, our courses work well for this purpose. Graduate library technicians are considered as having met the prerequisite requirements for any of our courses. Some courses that you might want to consider for this winter are:

LT225 Genre Fiction and Readers' Advisory Service
LT302 Descriptive and Access Cataloguing I
LT351 Serials
LT361 Government Publications
LT375 School Libraries
LT385 Children's Services and Issues

Further information on these courses, and a registration form, are on our web site <http://www.mohawkc.on.ca/cecat/library.html> under the heading "next semester".

Alternatively, if you are interested in expanding your knowledge base in a related field, Mohawk College also offers a distance education certificate program in Records and Information Management. This 6-course program is described on our web site <http://www.mohawkc.on.ca/cecat/recmgt.html>

Winter courses that we are offering include:
RM100 Records and Information Management Fundamentals
RM102 Micrographics and Image Management

Note that registration for the above courses is accepted until January 23, 2004, if there are still spaces available in the course.

Seneca College

The Seneca Library and Information Technician Program will start the New Year with approximately 100 students enrolled in the full-time program and a slightly higher number enrolled in the part-time program. The full-time program received an unexpected increase in its first semester fall enrolment. It wasn't, however, the effect of the double cohort! Rather more people simply seemed interested in working in libraries. It is about time.

We are still getting used to the absence of Frances Davidson-Arnott. Her retirement travels have taken her to such locales as Barcelona, London and Copenhagen. We have been sharing her travels via email.

Deborah Kay is now Co-ordinator of the full-time program, with the assistance of Karen Olcen; Carlisle Kemp-Jackson is Co-ordinator of the part-time program. Assisting in the teaching of our subjects are numerous librarians from the community.



Many of you wouldn't recognize the Newnham Campus. During the last two years in anticipation of the double cohort, a new building has been built and the other buildings renovated. You will notice that we are no longer using the term phases! The LIT Program has a classroom in Building D, uses the computer labs in Building C (the new building) and has offices in Building B. The new design

incorporates many windows, making the campus seem much more open and modern.

We are looking forward to the Ontario Library Association Conference. It is always a great opportunity for our present students to view the exhibits, and meet people from libraries through their volunteer activities at the Conference. We are also hoping this year to have some of the vendors and others do presentations for the students. The Conference is also a wonderful opportunity to make contact with our grads. Drop by the booth that we will be sharing with the other Ontario LIT Programs and OALT, and enter our raffles.

OALT/ABO AWARD FOR INNOVATION

JUDY KOENIG

When it came to the things she was passionate about, Judy Koenig was NOT a spectator. Whether it was her personal life and family, her community, her work or OALT/ABO, Judy jumped in with both feet, ready and very able. I'm sure her personal motto was "Lead, follow or get out of the way".

Judy joined Huronia Regional branch **and** then worked to start the library techniques program at Georgian College. When the program was up and running, she sat on the Advisory Committee **and** enrolled in the program; all while working at Collingwood Public Library and raising a family. And, not surprisingly, she was the first graduate of the program at Georgian College.

Judy seemed to have two favourite words. "I" and "do". Whenever Huronia was involved in a project Judy's voice would ring out: "Shall I do that?" and "I can do that!". And she did. And she did it well.

Judy was a VERY big part of the Huronia Proposal for Change, the spirit of which, now, three years after her death, is still with us. And Judy was, we came to find out, at the very heart of Huronia Regional Branch.

We know there are other "Judys" out there, and we want you to tell us about them...

This award, in memory of Judy Koenig, Huronia Region, is to recognize an OALT/ABO member who has done something innovative within the last two years, in the workforce, for the association or for professional development. The recipient will receive a commemorative plaque for their efforts.

Nominees should forward the name and contact information for the candidate, and their OALT/ABO affiliation.

Only one person is required to sign the nomination form; if others wish to contribute to the submission, please include ALL names and each nominators' contact information.

Outline the reason you think the nominee is deserving of the award, giving as much info as possible about the time involved, people affected and the impact on the both the nominee and others. A more detailed submission will ease the decision process.

Submissions for the 2004 OALT/ABO Award for Innovation should be completed and mailed by April 15, 2004 to: Gale Moreau, 234 Duckworth Street, Barrie, Ontario L4M 3W9.

Facts that will impact the decision:

- What was the major accomplishment?
- Was it one-time project versus an ongoing project or multiple days? That is, a workshop versus program
- Who were the people affected? Colleagues, patrons, the general public, the community
- The number of people involved/impacted, how and where
- Did the nominee initiate the process?
- The time frame involved
- How was project, innovation, etc. funded; this could be an innovation in itself!!
- Any observations from others about the nominee and their actions

**OALT/ABO AWARD FOR INNOVATION
2004 SUBMISSION FORM**

NOMINEE:

ADDRESS OF NOMINEE:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

CHAPTER:

OUTLINE:

NOMINATOR:

CHAPTER:

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

Submissions for the 2004 OALT/ABO Award for Innovation should be completed and mailed by April 15, 2004 to: Gale Moreau, 234 Duckworth Street, Barrie, Ontario L4M 3W9.

**Nomination Form
OALT/ABO Presidential Award 2004**

Please complete the following information as completely as possible and enclose a biographical sketch outlining the specific achievement or contributions for which the candidate is being put forward.

Name of candidate:

Address of candidate:

Telephone numbers of candidate:

(Home)

(Work)

Email Address:

Membership of candidate:

(Chapter)

(Number of years as an OALT/ABO member)

Employment history of candidate:

Current employer, position and number of years held:

Other profession-related employment positions held:

List of contributions to our profession demonstrated by the candidate at their workplace:

OALT/ABO Participation:

List of contributions to OALT/ABO at the Chapter level (i.e. executive positions held, committee affiliations etc.)

List of contributions to OALT/ABO at the Provincial level (i.e. positions held, committee affiliations, etc.)

List of other contributions to OALT/ABO (i.e. workshops presented, publications written, panel discussions etc.)

Demonstrated Professionalism:

List of other contributions to the Library & Information Technician profession (i.e. publications, seminars, projects, mentoring etc.)

Additional comments

Nominators:

Name:

Name:

Chapter:

Chapter:

Telephone Number:

Telephone Number:

Email Address:

Email Address:

Web Sites to Educate and Amuse You

Turning the Pages "is an award-winning interactive display system developed by the British Library to increase public access and enjoyment of its treasures. Visitors can virtually 'turn' the pages of rare books or manuscripts in a highly realistic way, using touch-screen technology and animation. They can zoom in on the high-quality digitized images and read or listen to notes explaining the significance of each page. There are other features specific to the individual books. In the Leonardo Notebook, for example, a mirror button turns the text round so visitors can read his famous mirror handwriting. There are currently nine treasures on display in the Turning the Pages system: the Lindisfarne Gospels, the Diamond Sutra, the Sforza Hours, the Leonardo Notebook, the Golden Haggadah, the Luttrell Psalter, Elizabeth Blackwell's Herbal, the Sherborne Missal and Sultan Baybars' Qur'an."

<http://www.bl.uk/collections/treasures/digitisation.html>

This site is slow and needs development but is another example of new ways to use the web to provide access to traditional library resources. Please note: This site requires Macromedia Shockwave to view the items, but is well worth it.

You might want to sign up to receive the "Library Link of the Day". This e-mail message service provides you a daily link for keeping up to date with the library profession. Destinations include the latest library news, good reads on the web, and other valuable resources that a library knowledge worker should know about.

<http://www.tk421.net/librarylink>

To boost your wardrobe, and to help bust library stereotypes, check out the T-Shirts available from the School of Library & Information Studies at Dalhousie.

<http://is2.dal.ca/~mdelia/tees/index.html>

Here's a site that is worth forwarding (or at least knowing about). Kind of cool to search. The name says it all.

<http://www.breakthechain.org>

Book Reviews

The Hamiltonians: 100 fascinating lives, edited by Margaret Houghton. Toronto, J. Lorimer, 2003.

The Hamiltonians: 100 fascinating lives, is a compilation of over one hundred biographies of people (and one dog) who lived and are buried in the Hamilton area. It's a great book for coffee table browsing, as each entry is a page or less in length, and is placed in alphabetical order. Many of the names are famous locally, such as Joseph Brant, Billy Green of the War of 1812 fame, and E.D. Smith, famous for jams and jellies. There are also many names that are not familiar, but are an interesting note in Hamilton's history; such as Michael McConnell, the first person in Canadian history to try using a plea of insanity in a murder case. He was not successful, and was put to death and was the first to be buried under the yard at the Barton Street jail. The dog is Troy, the first police dog to be killed in the line of duty, and was buried in the Ancaster Pet Cemetery in 1992. There are many pictures to accompany the entries, some in colour.

Twenty-three local people contributed to this book, including myself. Margaret Houghton is the Special Collections Archivist at the Hamilton Public Library, and president of the Head of the Lake Historical Society.

Stella Clark
Halton Peel

Genealogy Online, 6th ed., Elizabeth Powell Crowe. Osborne/McGraw-Hill, 2002.

*This review originally appeared in the November 2002 issue of **Families**, a publication of the Ontario Genealogical Society.*

Whether you are new to genealogy and online resources or an experienced genealogist, this latest edition of the best-selling guide is the perfect reference tool. The author begins with an overview of genealogy and takes the reader step-by-step through the process of how to get online and how to make the most of the resources available. The book includes chapters on hardware and software requirements written in a language that beginners will understand.

This book takes the mystery out of the Internet and includes sections on browser software, search engines and email. You will learn how to get the most out of Usenet groups, Mailing Lists, online Chat Rooms and the World Wide Web. Although there is an emphasis on American resources, in-depth coverage is provided for international and ethnic resources as well as the major genealogy Web sites. Even experienced Web users will find new sources of online information.

With the addition of plenty of tips, notes and cautions throughout the book, readers will find this resource "The perfect map for family historians using the information superhighway."

This publication can also be purchased through the Ontario Genealogical Society using the order form on their web site: <http://www.ogs.on.ca/>

Vicky Lynham
Halton Peel

Most of us work in libraries. We don't have time to read! At least that's what Anne Galler told me when I applied to the Library Studies programme at Concordia University back in the '70's. I knew that. I just wanted to help people...and I'm still doing that.

So, what I've done over the years is carve out a very precious coffee/read time (8:00-9:00 AM) in the food court of the World Exchange Plaza. I started this when I was taking computer courses at Algonquin several years ago. I was getting extremely soul-starved reading Quattro Pro manuals and dBase texts! So soul-starved that I leapt into a Celestine Prophecy group (something I thought I'd never do). Read the book, yes. But not the groupie thing!

That's when I started to read stuff that would help me get through the day at a law firm. Motivational stuff, personal development stuff, spiritual stuff. Been heavily into the Kryon series. For more info go to: www.kryon.com

Also, for the past 3 summers I've decided to lighten my reading to include one fiction. Again, something I thought I'd never ever read...murder mysteries. All that killing and blood. Yuck. But, I heard a local author speak at a library association dinner. This woman was funny! She could be a stand-up comedienne! Turned out I won her 2nd book as a

door prize. Damn, I wanted to read the first book first!! So I went out and bought it: *Pluto rising* by Karen Irving. It was great. Set in Ottawa and Montreal (my home town)...so I could visualize the entire thing! And, what made it fascinating for me is that the main character is a psychologist turned astrologer...two interests I will pursue when I win the 6/49!

I cannot conclude without mentioning another book that I read this summer. It hit the streets the day before we headed north to the Yukon for our vacation. This book, which I started on the plane, is: *Ladies and Gentlemen!: daring to live what the soul already knows* by John Heney. My take on it is that it's kinda like a Canadian Chicken Soup for the Soul, but with a twist! For more info about this one, go to: www.gsph.com

I'm currently reading Zukav's *Seat of the Soul*. (I'm often reading stuff years after they are popular.) John says my read piles are so deep they are composting on the bottom. I'll leave you with that...

Kathy Heney
Ottawa

Barometer Rising, Hugh MacLennan. McClelland & Stewart, NCL, c1941,1989.

I tried to like it, really I did, but the recent TV mini-series based on the Halifax Explosion of December 6, 1917 was not that likeable. The build up to the explosion with background information about the two ships on a collision course with history was well-done; the background of the families that became victims of the tragedy was corny and soap-opera-ish and the addition of German spies superfluous. All the time I was watching this travesty (and, I have to admit, I even came back for Part 2), I kept thinking, "What was wrong with basing this story on Hugh MacLennan's novel 'Barometer Rising'? I *had* to read it again.

A search of the home shelves turned up other MacLennans, but no 'Barometer Rising'. Having once decided I needed it, I was not to be thwarted. The second-hand store in Trenton had no copies, so when I found myself in Belleville the next day, I managed to procure a copy at Greenley's Bookstore. (I don't have a library card, but that's a story for another day)

Like a lot of books I'd read in the distant past, I couldn't remember a thing about the novel, so it was like reading the book for the first time. MacLennan's tale is about the effects of the explosion on human lives, but it is, for the most part, the story of Neil Macrae, a soldier of the First War. It's also the story of Penny Wain, ship designer, and her quirky family. It is, to a large degree, the story of the people of Cape Breton, many of whom end up in Halifax. It is Halifax's story and Canada's story. The afterward by Alistair MacLeod notes that Halifax is a main character in the story. Moreover, there are many references to Halifax as a city in a country that had yet to achieve her full identity. We have to remember that MacLennan was writing this in the midst of another World War. Canada was being shaped by very different forces than those that face her today. War must have seemed ever present to MacLennan's generation, so there is a certain weary tone to his book.

The weariness does not detract from the increasing drama and horror. The chapters are just headed by days of the week, chillingly leading us to Thursday and beyond. We not only see how the physical destruction affected Halifax, but how the explosion brought the War to our doorstep. No one appreciated that more than the returned soldiers like Neil, with his personal problems, and the other soldiers put to work helping with the dead and wounded from the explosion and the horrible blizzard that engulfed the city in the days after. I finished the book with satisfaction. I was right; MacLennan's story was better than the mini-series. His Halifax, although I had no pictures of it, made a mockery of the Theme Park sets of T.V. and his characters, though not entirely loveable, had substance. I liked MacLellan's writing enough to read 'Two Solitudes' again and try 'The Watch that Ends the Night', only partly because I already own them. I would recommend this author to anyone.

Stacy Goddard
OALT/ABO

My Greatest Personal Challenge

Pam Casey, Walker #5037669

I just finished walking 60kms at the Weekend to End Breast Cancer in Toronto. It was one of the most challenging and emotional things I have done to date. I walked alongside 3,791 other walkers to raise 12 million dollars for breast cancer research at Princess Margaret Hospital. Everyone was there

for different reasons but I had two good ones. A month ago I lost my mother to cancer and 2 ½ years ago my sister to breast cancer. What a difference this has made in my life. I now realize that everything in life is important. That is why I took the challenge. I wanted to make a difference and to prove to myself that I could do this and I did.

I met some pretty amazing men and women during my training and subsequent 60kms walk. There were survivors walking, an 81 year old mom who lost her daughter age 44 to breast cancer and this mom walked the entire route with a walker. None of my aches and pains could compare to the courage that this woman had. I saw another woman doing the route in a wheel chair. Wow!!

The route went from the CNE, up Parliament Street, through Rosedale, behind Sunnybrook Hospital, west below the 401 and then ended up on the first day at Downsview Park. The majority of walkers camped for the night and then up the next day and back on the walk. We walked down Jane Street and followed the Humber River for most of Sunday. When I was walking down Windermere Avenue, I saw the lake and the Gardiner and I knew I was on my way to the end. We walked along the boardwalk next to Lake Ontario, back over the bridge from Ontario Place into the CNE. There I was greeted by lots of walkers who had already finished and their families, everyone was cheering the walkers in to the end. My feet were sore, my legs very sore and my body just plain tired. We then had closing ceremonies and found out the total raised. It was an awesome sight – almost 4,000 walkers all dressed in blue. All yelling and waving together. I will never forget this wonderful weekend.

And I will do it again.

SPECIAL NOTE: My sincere thanks to my family for putting up with me during my training and to my husband who was my coach and my support during this weekend.

Don't forget to send in your membership renewal forms!

You don't want to miss future newsletters and the chance to attend this year's conference in London for a reduced rate.

People News

Dear **LaRea Moody**:

On behalf of OALT/ABO Thunder Bay Chapter I would like to:

Thank you for being a pioneer Library Technician student. You studied in the first such program in Ontario right here in Thunder Bay at what has become Lakehead University. It takes courage and tenacity to pursue an unknown goal and set the example.

Thank you for being one of the first of many excellent Library Technicians that worked for the program and helped the students of those early years to bond into professional and social support groups. Your influence shows in the newsletters and photo albums of the time.

Thank you for creating momentum and incorporating the strong viable Lakehead Library Technicians into the provincial association. Seeds germinated by the CLTA members grew into our present OALT/ABO. The process began at a seminar in Sudbury focusing on Library Technicians in 1973.

Thank you for your years of service to OALT/ABO as a member of the executive several times regionally and as Secretary to the provincial body in 1980. This is only what we know about. Even while not on the executive you continued to contribute greatly.

Thank you for spearheading the Annual Award for students in the Lakehead University Library Technician program. In the early days the association and the classes were tightly bound and this award was another way to encourage and help those who aspired to enter our profession.

Thank you for the many short (??) speeches at the conferences. Especially the one you gave when you were honoured for ten years of continuous membership in 1983. Twenty years later and you are still coming out. Your words were always a delight and inspiration to those that were just beginning the long journey that you have so far accomplished.

Thank you for winning the President's Award in 1988. Thunder Bay need not feel left out. So much history of OALT/ABO took place in Thunder Bay because of people like you. One could almost say that the province joined us and you were a huge part of all that.

Thank you for being part of the Degree/Diploma program from 1988 until 2001. You taught many of us, you gave us a place to do practice work, and above all so many stories and tours or classes here in this Law Library that you "owned" for so long. So many of us have been touched by your instruction.

In order to truly thank you LaRea, I move, on behalf of OALT/ABO Thunder Bay Chapter, that LaRea Moody be accepted as our first life member.

Donald M Henderson
President

Maxine Corea has a new job working as Technical person at the L.E. Shore Memorial Library in Thornbury. A very nice library built and donated by the firm who employed the late Mr. Shore as architect. She is still living through house renovations and also helping out her husband in his business. A busy gal!

Bette Choquette, longtime OALT/ABO member, former secretary on the provincial executive, and stalwart contributor to the Sudbury Regional Branch, retired in June 2003. Bette worked diligently on behalf of library technicians and enjoyed a 28-year career with the Rainbow Board of Education.

Tracy Morgan has been involved for the past two and a half years with the Ontario Tennis Association, and at their AGM was named the OTA volunteer of the month. Tracy and other committed individuals at the Milton Tennis Club are at last seeing a fruitful end to their long time struggle to get their club relocated and rebuilt. Between having to deal with developers and city hall, it's been a frustrating time, but the new Milton club now boasts eight courts and a clubhouse, which will be officially opened in June.

Tracy has just been elected President of the Milton Tennis Club for a second (uncontested) year. As she so succinctly puts it, "You know how it is these days, you volunteer, you're it!"

This past season saw Tracy winning both the Women's Single Crown and the Ladies Double title at the Milton Tennis Club.

Letters to the Editor

I just received my copy of the September issue of Newsletter/Nouvelles and want to congratulate you on a particularly informative edition. It is rewarding to see some new names appearing alongside the stalwart executive/committee members and I was pleased to read that Marian Doucette and Nanci Abbondanza were recognized for their contributions to the Association. In spite of the loss of viable regional groups, OALT/ABO has obviously emerged stronger and with a renewed vision of the future. All those who worked so diligently on this transition deserve commendation.

Thank you too Marina, for your work in ensuring that the newsletter is pertinent and timely. It is a great issue.

Linda Davis
OALT/ABO

Just a note to let you know how much I enjoyed the September *NewsLETTER*.

Loved the bios, "People News" and other content.

Keep up the great work!

Tracy Morgan
Halton Peel



I just received the latest newsletter and thoroughly enjoyed it. I especially enjoyed the short biographies of the executive. As a member who lives in the far west of the province, it is not easy to know who the executive really are.

The What's New in Chapters is also a good new addition. The letter on School Library Problems really hit home. As a tech who is the one and only employee in our Board's media centre I really understand this problem. Our board hires only assistants who have only on the job training for the elementary system. The only t-l is in the largest of our three high schools. We are now automating and many of the assistants don't know what to do. The board figures all books can now be ordered catalogued and so central board cataloguing technically is not necessary. THEY DON'T HAVE A CLUE.

I also like the People News. As another grandmother with the latest being born on May 6, 2003, (my wedding anniversary), this was especially enjoyable. My 4 grandchildren are Zachary Robert John Tolen (age 7 years), Abigail Rebecca Anne Tolen (age 4 years), Kayla Lynne Michl (age 2 years) and Cassandra Ann Michl (5 months).

Judy Carter, Library Technician
Central Resource Library
Rainy River District School Board
Fort Frances, Ontario
e-mail: jcarter@mail.rrdsb.com

OALT/ABO Executive

President

Jill Anderson
jilldunc@execulink.com

President Elect

Maggie Weaver
kweaver5478@rogers.com

Treasurer

Vicky Lynham
vicky.lynham@sympatico.ca

Chapter Coordinator

Carol Bennett
cbennett@innocent.com

Internal Communications Coordinator

Maria Ripley
mrpley@myvirtualnetwork.com

External Communications Coordinator

Stacy Goddard
stacy.goddard@sympatico.ca

Conference Coordinator

Sharon Engel
sengel@lib.uwo.ca

Newsletter Editor

Marina Dranitsaris
mdranitsaris@sympatico.ca

ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF LIBRARY TECHNICIANS/
ASSOCIATION DES BIBLIOTHECINIENS DE L'ONTARIO

Abbey Market Post Office, Box 76010
1500 Upper Middle Road West
Oakville, Ontario, Canada
L6M 3H5

Phone: 905-403-2561
Fax: 905-403-2453

Website: <http://www.oaltabo.on.ca>
Email: webmaster@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 Canadian General Technologies and is run on their server using Majordomo software.

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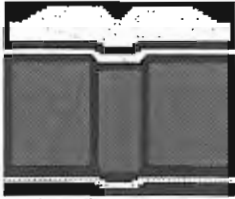
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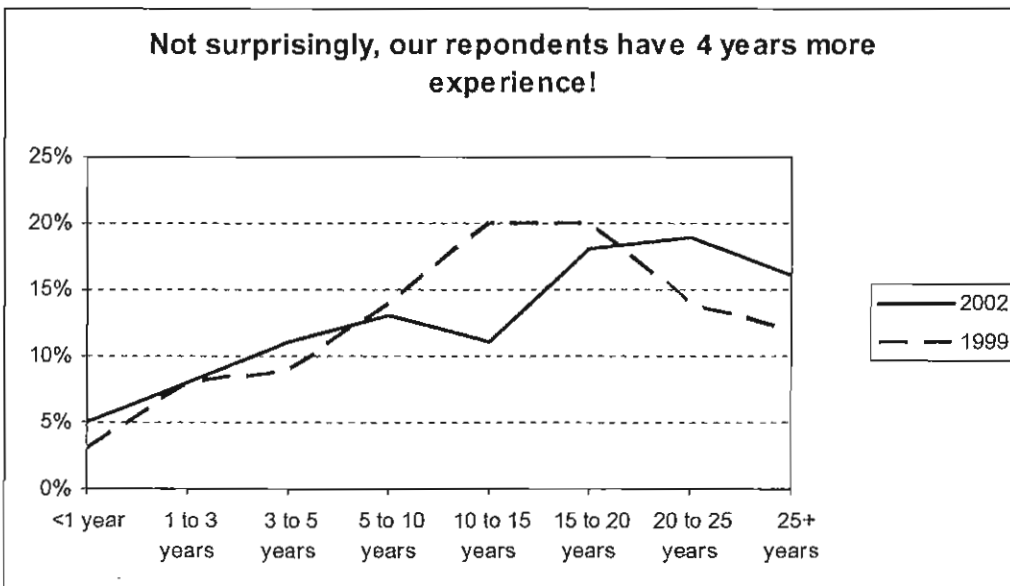
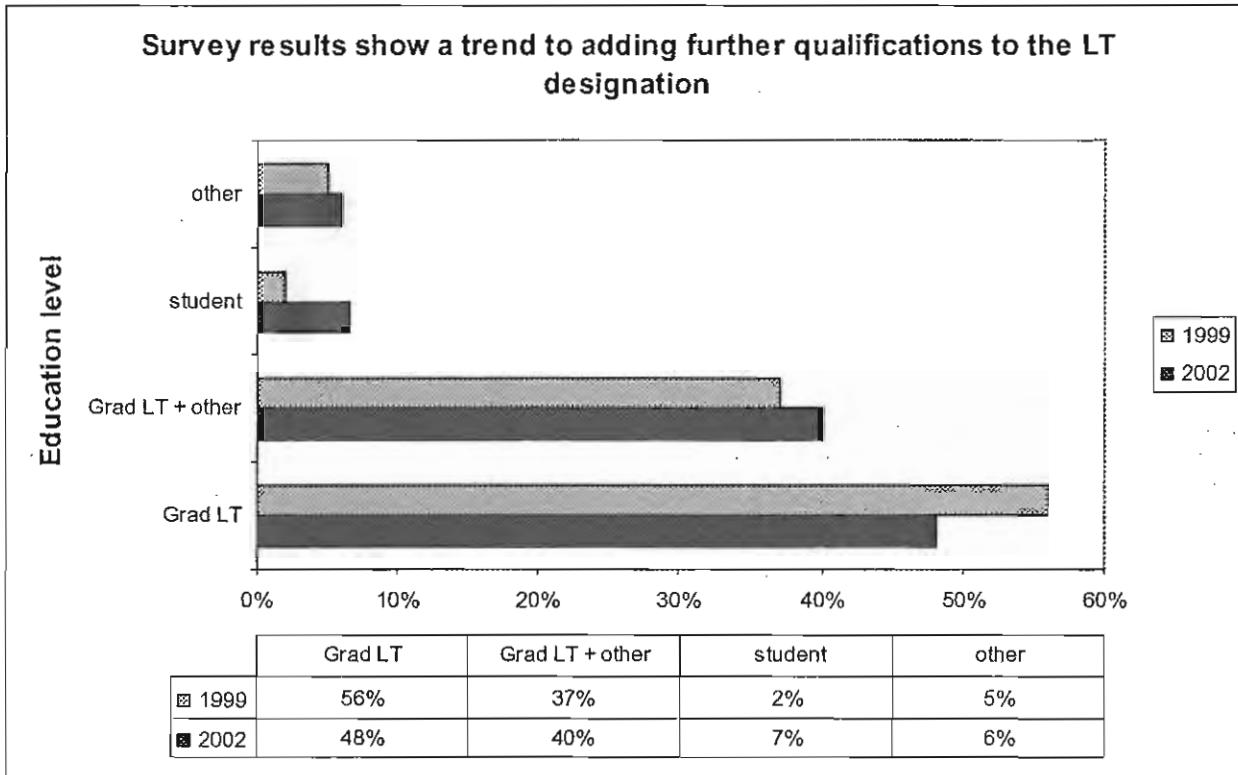




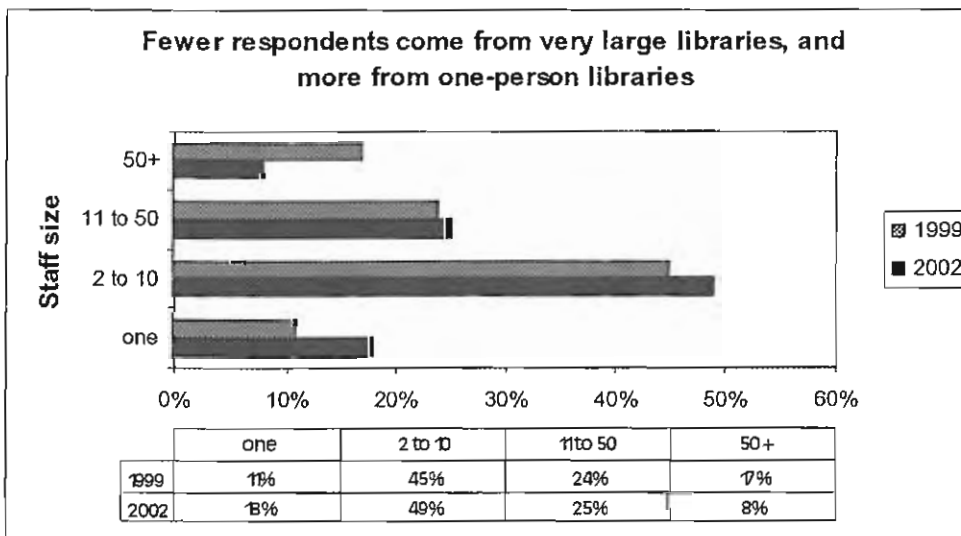
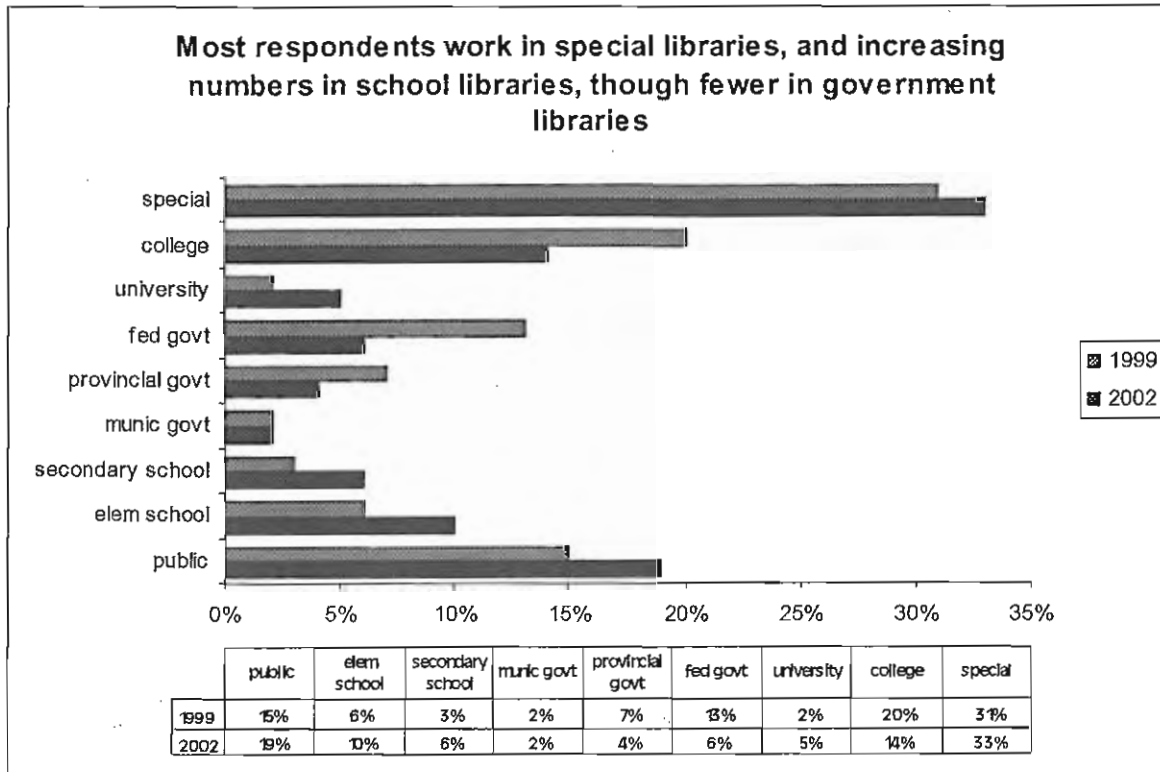
OALT/ABO Salary Survey 2002-2003

We are very pleased that 194 members responded to the latest salary survey. Respondents came from all regions, with particularly good response rate from Thunder Bay and Lohania. We've included some comparisons with the 1999 survey, which had 117 respondents.

1. First, some personal information.



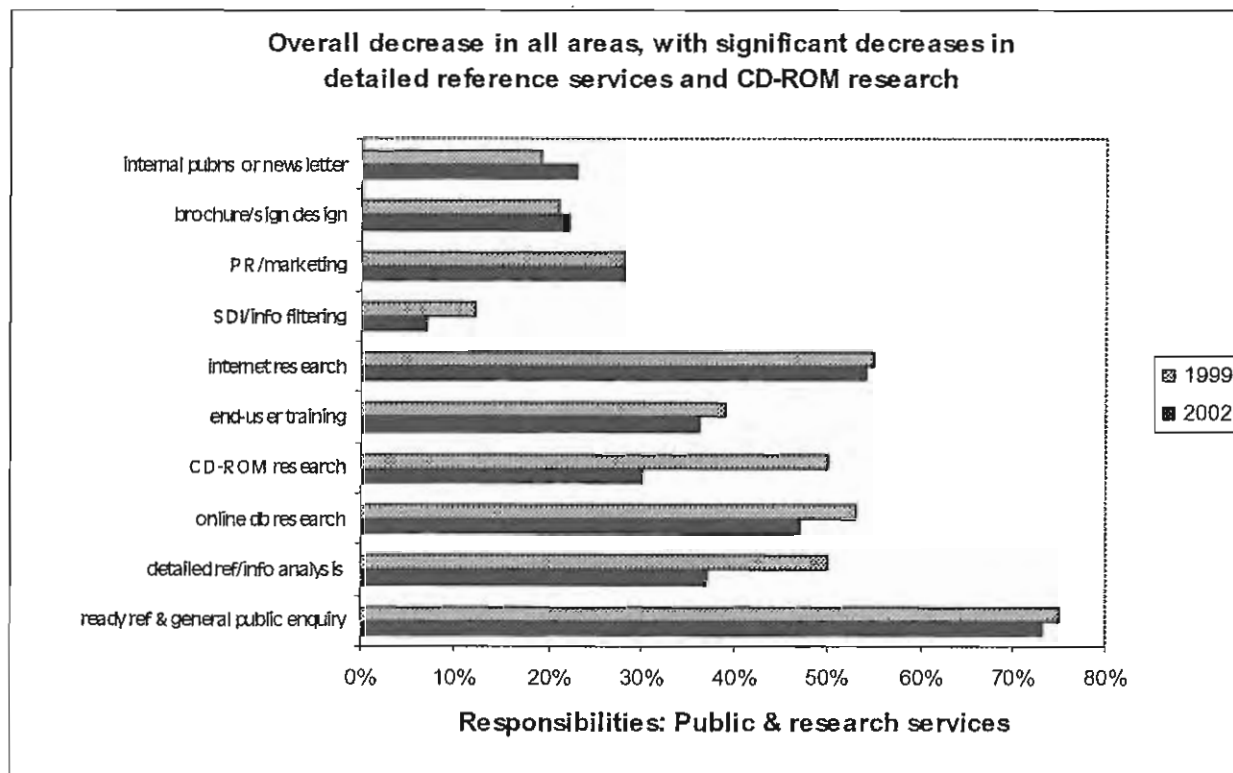
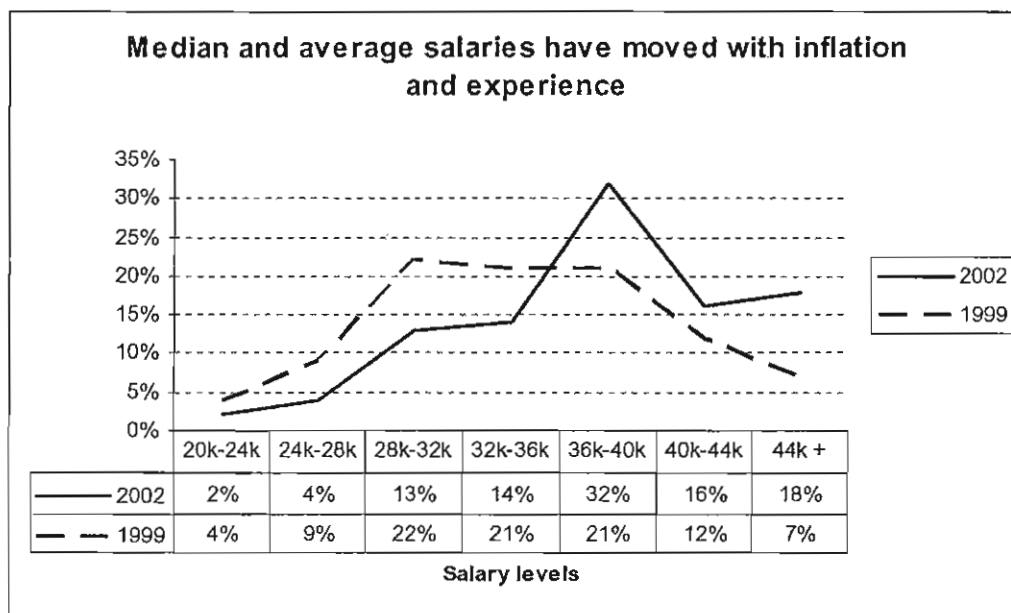
2. Library types



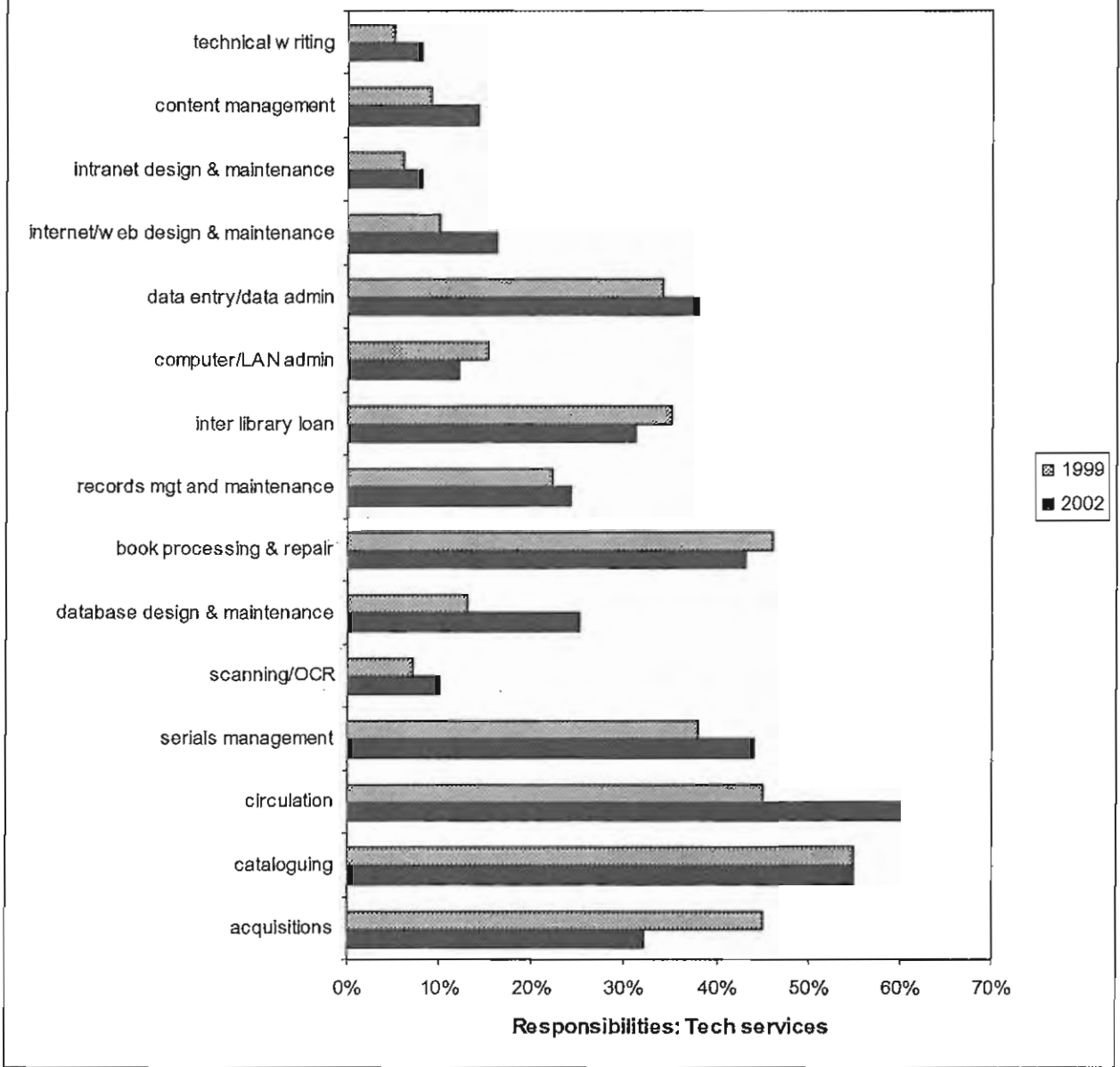
For more than half our respondents, a librarian is in charge, but 30% report that a library technician is in charge of his/her library.

3. Jobs and responsibilities

Nearly 50% of our respondents have "library technician" or "technician" in their job title. 14% are called "information specialist". About half have supervisory responsibility. Eighty percent of respondents have full-time positions, 13% part-time, with 7% on contract (either full- or part-time). Fifteen percent work flex-time (up from none in 1999).

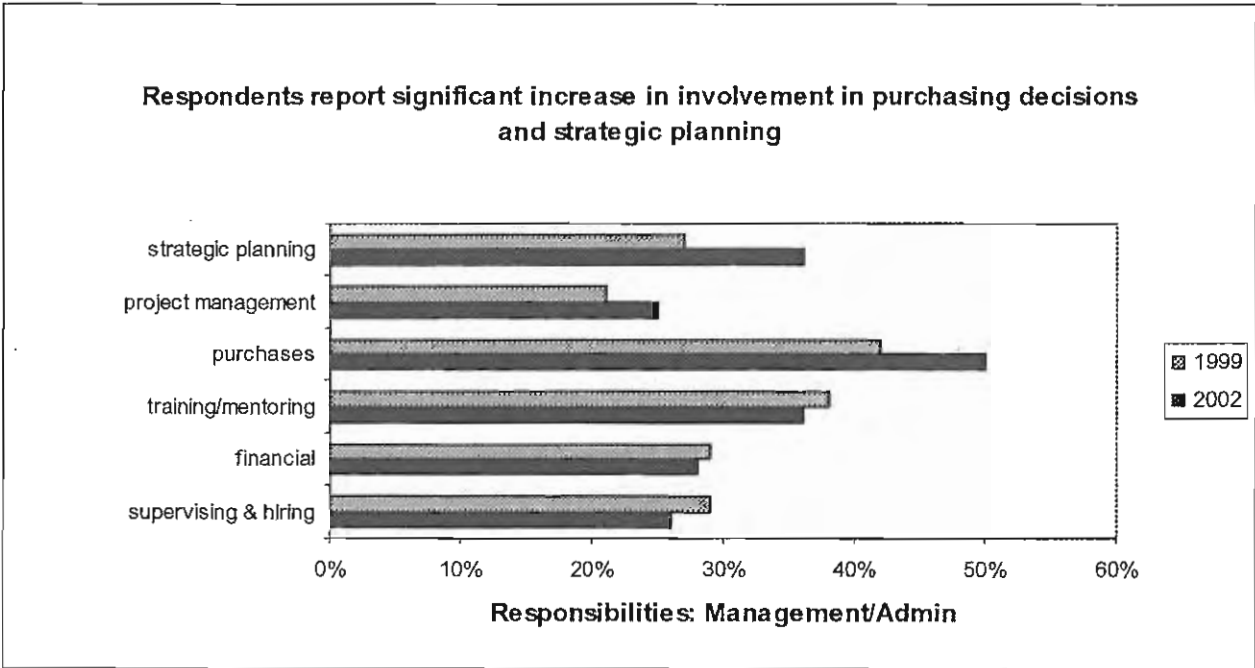


Technology improvements and digitization projects are affecting tech services responsibilities



Ninety-two percent of libraries are automated, and 40 different systems were named. The top 10 are: Bestseller, DRA, Dynix, Endeavor/Voyager, InMagic/DB Textworks, Innovative/Innopac, Mandarin, SIRSI, Sydney, and Winnebago.

Despite the increase in technology use, 42% of respondents report that their employer provides no regular job training/upgrading.



Finally, OALT/ABO members were asked, "In the last twelve months, has there been any change in your position?"

For 42% of respondents, professional life had been stable, with no changes. However, the majority reported a wide variety of changes: 31% reported an increase in duties, and 16% endured departmental or organizational restructuring.