

NewsLETTER/ NouvELLES

Publication Agreement # 40688591

Volume 28, # 1 September 2004

NewsLETTER/NouvELLES is published three times per year in Fall, Winter and Spring and is available with membership in the Ontario Association of Library Technicians / Association des Bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario. We welcome your feedback as well as your letters, articles and photos, but must reserve the right to edit for style and space.

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ISSN: 0229-2645

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President's Message

I'm still a member of ASLIB, the association that was my first employer. I'm a member of another UK library association, three library technician associations, two Canadian, one regional and one provincial library / information associations, and two market research associations. And no, I'm not crazy.

When I first came to Canada, associations provided a quick introduction to the local library scene, as well as a host of new friends. At Dialog Canada, I came to realize that it was time to give to, as well as take from, my associations, so I involved myself in programming and conferences – the parts that most appeal to me. Other association roles have been offered, both behind the scenes (as secretary of CASLIS) and up front (as convenor of CLA's Library Technician Interest Group), when those organizations needed my contribution.

All of those activities exponentially increased my circle of friends and colleagues, right across Canada and indeed into Africa and Australia, where I've been invited to make presentations to library groups. Twice, membership in an association has been directly responsible for my landing a coveted job. Two of my associations published my book. What's so crazy about being a "joiner"?

Last year as President-Elect, it was an honour to be working with President Jill Anderson and the Executive team in OALT/ABO's first year under the new constitution. This year I expect will be equally rewarding, not least because the association has such great people volunteering in it. Chapter teams will be putting on real and virtual programming, members will be sharing knowledge and ideas at meetings and on the OALT/ABO discussion list, and all will be networking and advancing the profession and their careers. Can't you just feel the vibrations? I can!

Maggie Weaver, President

It's Time to Renew Your Membership

Our membership year runs from October 1 to September 31.

You will notice that fees are now separated out on your form. There is one fee that belongs to OALT/ABO, and an additional chapter fee to belong to individual chapters. You are welcome to join as many chapters as you wish, in fact we encourage you to do so.

Your membership forms will be mailed to you by month end. As always, we ask that you complete and return them, along with your cheque or money order, promptly.

Executive Biographies

Maggie Weaver - President

While at university, I spent a summer in the library of a research laboratory in the UK, where I met my future husband, a Canadian. A year later, I landed my first "real" job on the staff of ASLIB, the Association for Special Libraries, in Belgrave Square, London. Those two years were responsible for a career in libraries, my presence in Canada, and my being an association junkie.

I have a Diploma in Information Science from City University. Since then, I've been in Toronto 30 years this September, apart from two years in libraries at the United Nations in Vienna. I've worked as an information researcher for the Financial Post and two major management consulting firms, and as business librarian at a chemical company. On the supplier side, I was at Dialog Canada (then part of Micromedia) for seven years, established IntelliSearch at the Toronto Reference Library, and set up TradeLink, the export resource centre run by the City of Toronto. I've also taught at the library school at Dalhousie University, and now I'm self-employed, in the area of information for small business.

Annette Desrosiers - President-Elect

I am relatively new to OALT. I joined in 2003 after recently arriving in Ottawa from Alberta. I graduated from the Library Technician program of Grant

MacEwan Community College in Edmonton in 1984. My past library experience includes: a school library, a provincial government library, a public library, and for the last several years I've worked as a library consultant to the Federal Government.

As a member of the Alberta Association of Library Technicians, I've worked on a couple of conference committees, was membership coordinator, programs north councillor, and worked on various committees over the years. I have fond memories of my days in AALT and the friends I made there, as well as the invaluable library network I became a part of. To better acquaint myself with OALT/ABO, I am helping with the 2005 conference in Ottawa.

I hope that my past experience and enthusiasm for my new association will help me in the coming year as President-Elect. I look forward to serving you, the members of OALT/ABO, over the next two years.

Vicky Lynham - Treasurer

I have been a member of OALT/ABO since 1995, my final year in the Library and Information Technology program at Sheridan College, Oakville. I was elected Treasurer of the Halton-Peel Branch in 1997 and served as Director from 2001-02. I was elected Provincial Treasurer in 2002.

After graduation from Sheridan College I worked at the Humber College Library and Media Centre and Petro Canada Information Centre. I have now been working in the Health Sciences Library at the Brampton Campus of the William Osler Health Centre since 2000. I combine this position with a part-time job at the Ontario Genealogical Society where I am the resident InMagic specialist for their library and genealogy

resource collection. I was responsible for the design and implementation of several databases that are available from the OGS web site. The OGS collection is located in the genealogy department of the North York Central Branch of the Toronto Public Library.



Standing left to right: Maria Ripley, Kathy Heney, Vicky Lynham, Maggie Weaver, Marina Dranitsaris. Seated left to right: Penni Chalk, Jill Anderson, Stella Clark

I reside in Milton with my teenage daughter Tessa and her two cats and

sometimes find time to indulge in sewing, gardening and of course genealogy.

Maria Ripley - Internal Communications Coordinator

Greetings from your Internal Communication Coordinator. For those of you who don't know, I grew up in a small town in Northwestern Ontario at the end of Highway 583. My first library job was CEO of the Nakina Public Library. I held this position for nearly five years until I decided I needed to do more or at least find a job where I could expand my skill-set. I was approaching my twenty-fifth birthday by about four months when I applied to the Ontario Library Association to be their

Executive Biographies

Administrative Assistant. Two days before my twenty-fifth birthday I packed up my brother's pickup truck and moved myself to Toronto, where I knew but one person. Here we are in 2004 and after seven years in the city, I am still working for the OLA and learning wonderful things. My decision to move to Toronto has never been regretted, but I must admit I miss Nakina some days.

I have done a great number of exciting things while being employed at the Ontario Library Association. I started as their Administrative Assistant, I moved on to be their Reading Program Coordinator where I managed and coordinated the Silver Birch and Red Maple programs with the support of member committees. I worked on the CAP (Community Access Program) as a Central Coordinator, I was office liaison for the marketing and advocacy committee's, Libraries Advance Ontario and more currently the @ your library@ provincial campaign. I currently hold the position of Director of Education this includes responsibility for the Super Conference, the Education Institute and the Forest of Reading programs (all five of them).

I am happy to announce that in the spring of 2003, I graduated with honours from the Library and Information Technician program from Seneca College.

I look forward to working with you all again as OALT/ABO's Internal Communications Coordinator. I welcome you to contact me at any time to share your thoughts and concerns.

Jill Anderson - Chapter Coordinator

After graduating from the Library Technician Program at Fanshawe College in September of 1974, I spent the next six months on a contract at Bro-Dart in Brantford. The Library Technician Association was forming. I attended the first conference, Impact '74, October 18-20, at the Seneca College School of Nursing. It was an exciting experience to be part of this new venture.

I worked at the Fanshawe College Library from December 1974 to August 1977, where I ordered materials for the various technical departments across the College and assisted at the circulation desk as needed. During the summer of 1975, I helped to move the Library into larger quarters.

In June of 1980, after graduating from the University of Western Ontario, I was hired as the circulation

assistant at the School of Library and Information Science. While there, I handled circulation, in-house cataloguing, periodicals, acquisitions, reference, and guest lectured in various graduate library school classes about the role of library technicians. I was a general "jill-of-all-trades". I also was part of that library's move into another building across campus.

Due to budget cuts, I was "downsized" in June of 1998 and lost a job that I loved. Since then I have worked at the 3M Technical Information Centre, the Education Library at the University of Western Ontario, Faxon Canada, a RoweCom Company, a subscription agency in London, Ontario. This company was lastly known as Divine Information Solutions before it went bankrupt. I have also had contract work in the UWO archives and as a casual library assistant with London Public Library.

I value the friendships I have made through the association and look forward to the changing future for all library and information technicians.

Kathy Heney - Conference Coordinator

I booked Algonquin. Now I'm Conference Coordinator! I've never even been on a conference committee before...so this is all very new to me and sometimes very, very scary!! However, I have attended a lot of CLA conferences. In fact, that's how I found OALT/ABO. It was in a Library Technician Interest Group gathering at the 1997 Canadian Library Association conference in Ottawa. In that room I recognized two people, both from Toronto. So I asked the question: "Is there a library technician group in Ottawa? Here was a whole roomful! And...there I was...new blood, and they seemed thirsty (er, desperate??). Been actively involved ever since, except for a year or two. I've served locally as VP, Director and now as Chapter President.

I'm originally from Montreal where I did the Library Studies program at Concordia University way back in the '70s, graduating in 1981. I've been in Ottawa since 1982. After my contract ended at the Bank of Canada in 1984, I did the multi-part-time-jobs thing until I got full-time work in my current position at the law firm of Borden Ladner Gervais LLP.

To deal with the stress in my life I do Taoist tai chi and Chow qigong. And, in the past couple of years, I've developed the need to hit something (mostly a racquetball or tennis ball)!

2004 Conference Wrap Up

From Blogs to Grog: My experience at "Phoenix" in London

by Stacy Goddard, *Carrying Place*

I've been going to OALT/ABO conferences since 1996 and I felt that this one was the best for sheer variety. Variety was important to me, since I wanted workshops pertinent to my current job, where I was spending time with children and still others that would be relevant in my not-too-distant retirement, when I would be spending time with my ancestors. I was not disappointed.

Blogging with Marian Doucette was my first workshop at Western (how thoughtful of the organizers to provide exercise in getting to the venues in another part of campus!) and most of us there didn't care about much except finding out exactly what blogging is. Marian did her usual job of enlightening us with humour and experience. At the rate new things catch on in the world of technology, I don't feel the need to go into detail about the blog, since most of you are probably aware of what it is by now. Suffice to say, the word is a short form of weBLOG and I decided it would be useful in the future for you and me.

I partook of *A Novel Idea* later in the morning and Lorraine Busby showed us just how complicated it can be to do a community reading program. This program belongs to the Western community, but had applications anywhere. I was paying attention from the point of view of our own Book Club Chapter.

In the afternoon, I was *Thinking Outside the Box* with Chris Cavanaugh. In this case, the box was the in-box. No one is immune to the joys and sorrows of e-mail in this era of instant communication.

Thursday evening provided us with the "Grog" of my title. A bus took us (and shook us – road work was taking place) to Bellamere Winery. The setting is cosy, but impressive. The guide was well informed, even if he was younger than the offspring of most of us. The samples were welcome. My purchases were copious, and I had to borrow from Marina. I think I must owe her a sipping session.

On Friday morning, David Flander led *Saving the Time of the Reader: New Technologies at the Reference Desk*. While my job did not subject me to exactly the problems that Flander was faced with, I'm sure all participants found a close scenario in

their own workplaces. What he was basically telling us was that we are not responsible for all technology quirks and glitches, nor are we capable of fixing the machines in our care, even if we do know almost everything!

Next was *What Genealogists Expect From a Library* – now there was something I could really relate to: I was working in a library and I would be expanding my genealogy sideline in the near future. Ann Blake was very dedicated to family history and, though I have been researching my roots for five years, she had a lot to teach me.



Continuing on the late morning's theme, I joined a convoy of members' cars going to the London Family History Centre. I'm sure I speak for all of us when I say that we could have stayed all night. Genealogists have a habit of getting caught up in what they do and the leaders of this workshop, all three of them, were very helpful and understanding about our addiction. Again, I was not in unfamiliar territory, having been a frequent visitor to my FHC in Trenton, but again, I found lots to learn.

Saturday, I felt I really needed to attend one of Carol Witt's sessions on chapter building. She walked us through the process step by step using previous chapter applications as examples. I applied what I had learned that very afternoon in a brainstorming session with other interested parties to get started on a School Chapter charter.

For my last workshop, I attended *You Want me to Do What?* The team from local hospitals were very entertaining and informed about the various roles that library technicians play. Their handouts were outstanding and will be useful to anyone who is undergoing a review, has to explain what they do, or is in union negotiations.

Thank you, Phoenix!!

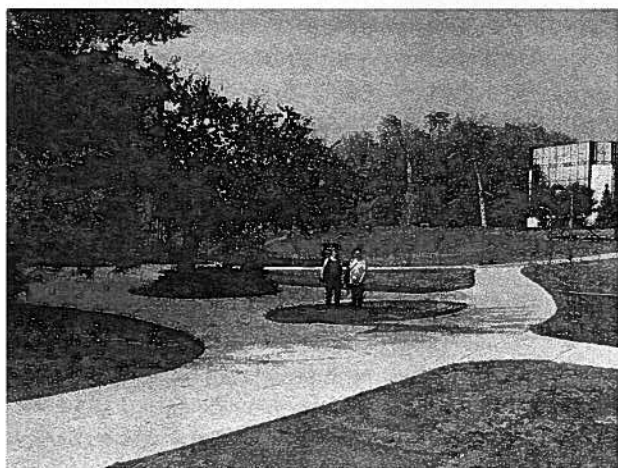
2004 Conference Wrap Up

Thank You!!

As always, a conference could not occur without the generosity of sponsors and donors. We'd like to take this opportunity to offer a big thank you to the following for their donation/sponsorship:

BX93 Radio
Casa Loma
East Park Golf Gardens
Hydro Connection Inc.
Jill Anderson
Johnson- Diversey
Kellogg Canada Inc.
Kids Can Press
Library Services Centre
Liz Aldrey
London Health Sciences Centre
London Public Library
Maria Ripley

McCormick Canada
Middlesex County Library
102.3 Bob FM
Ontario Library Association
Printers Plus!
The Reader's Digest Association Canada
Scholastic Library Publishing
Seneca College
Sharon Engel
Shaftesbury Associates
Sheridan Park Association – Library Information
Science Committee
Smiston Communications (Chatham) Ltd.
SPORTSWORLD
Steve Peters, MPP
3M
Tourism London
University of Western Ontario Libraries



The beautiful grounds at UWO



Who was the murderer at our banquet?



Enjoying the scenery and the beverages on the wine tour

Awards

Presidential Award

by *Nanci Abbondanza*

This evening commemorates the 20th anniversary of the OALT/ABO award. It is the highest honour granted by our association for the outstanding contribution made by a member in promoting and/or developing our association.

This prestigious form of peer recognition, established in 1984 has been awarded to 18 members who continue to demonstrate the importance of Library & Information Technicians and OALT/ABO. Tonight we add one more member to this group of inspirational leaders.

This year the Presidential Award Committee consisted of previous recipients Pat Henry, Marion Doucette and myself as chair. Together we reviewed the nominations, guidelines and criteria, which included the nominee's employment history, innovative initiatives within the delivery of information services and/or promotion of OALT/ABO as well as their personal and professional achievements. There was no doubt in our minds as to who was most deserving of this award in 2004.

The recipient lives by OALT/ABO's principles as outlined in our mission statement. She is an active member who is committed to education, professional development, promotion and marketing as well as forming partnerships and advocacy.

The first time I met her was at a Halton-Peel Chapter Annual Business Meeting. She was not only a brand new member but also recent graduate of Sheridan's Library & Information Technician Program. She enthusiastically volunteered for a position on the executive igniting the room with her passion and charisma. She has maintained that enthusiasm and passion for the next eight years while embracing new tasks and challenges, actively volunteering for various executive positions and committees at both the chapter and provincial level. Her enthusiasm and dedication has been an inspiration to many of us who have had the privilege of working with her.

All OALT/ABO members have benefited from the recipient's commitment to education and professional development. She has organized

many informative and interesting programs at both the chapter and provincial level. Moreover she has facilitated and has been a professional speaker at workshops for OLA, COLT and our annual conference. She is also committed to her professional development recently earning her Certification in Technical Training from Comptia, completing an intensive three-year program that is more extensive than Microsoft Certification.

Tonight's recipient has been a pioneer in raising OALT/ABO's profile within our professional community. She was responsible for establishing our affiliation with COLT – our U.S. sister association. She also expanded our relationship with OLA and CLA through championing OALT/ABO's presence at their annual conferences, participating in the OLA Think Tank sessions and ensuring OALT/ABO's presence at CLA's Libraries Advance Canada.



Our Presidential Award Winner is also one of OALT/ABO's greatest advocates. During her tenure as provincial President, she was an outstanding representative for our association ensuring that the interests of Library & Information Technicians remained at the forefront, especially during the school technician discussions with

OSLA and OLA. She is not only one of our most powerful voices within our professional community, but also one of our greatest listeners. She established the tradition of our Brainstorming sessions at our annual conference, providing members with a safe and informal forum where their ideas and concerns could be heard directly, and in some cases implemented by the executive. Without OALT/ABO's Brainstorming, we would not have a discussion list, enhanced content on our website or a corporate sponsorship program. The Brainstorming was also a critical first step towards streamlining and improving OALT/ABO's governance.

The recipient's passionate belief in promoting and marketing OALT/ABO has resulted in many positive outcomes for our association. This is especially evident in her corporate sponsorship accomplishments which include the publication of our membership directory, hosting of our website

Awards

and overseeing the vendors exhibit hall during the 2002 OALT/ABO Conference. She also managed to find the time to generate the highest sale of OALT/ABO golf shirts. If you haven't already guessed, the winner of the 2004 Presidential Award is Pam Casey.

Pam has enjoyed career success in both the school and special library sectors. She started out in school libraries completing her diploma part time and winning the Sheridan College Eva Schurr award for excellence in Continuing Education. What impressed Pam's current manager at NPS Pharmaceuticals was Pam's dedication to her profession and ability to be ahead of the curve in bringing new ideas and innovation solutions to the organization.

Pam is also an active volunteer at other professional associations including holding the position of Membership Coordinator at SLA Toronto and Programming Chair for LISC.

During her tenure as OALT/ABO President, Pam exemplified the qualities of a great leader. She was a mentor and coach who empowered her teams providing guidance and support when needed. She also ensured that her teams were motivated and not overburdened which is a difficult task when leading a group of volunteers. Finally, she implemented the Committee for Change recommendations, leading the association through a complete restructuring while still successfully overseeing the day-to-day business under the old model.

What I personally admire most about Pam is her ability to not only take on the most difficult challenges but also embrace them. She has the unique gift of bringing out the positive during the most adverse situations. She recently completed the 60km Walk to End Breast Cancer in dedication to her mother and sister.

Pam, you are an inspiration and role model for both our vocation and association. It is my extreme honour to present you with this award of peer recognition and to welcome you to what Marion calls the OALT/ABO Hall of Fame.

Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read.

- Julius Henry "Groucho" Marx, 1890 - 1977

Service Awards

Congratulations to our long-standing members. Ten-year members are awarded a certificate and 25-year members are given an OALT/ABO pen.

25 Year Members

Cheney, Ronn (Halton Peel)
Clark-Mills, Sally (TALTA)
Froud, Margot (TALTA)
LaFleur, Louise (Provincial)
Moreau, Gale (Provincial)
Pomer, Leslie (TALTA)

10 Year Members

Elizabeth Bodrogi (TALTA)
Elaine Jagnandan (TALTA)
Jeff Corbett (TALTA)
Sally Gardian (TALTA)
Maureen Pakosh (TALTA)

OALT/ABO 32nd Annual Conference La 32ième conférence annuelle de l'OALT/ABO



Algonquin College Residence/
Résidence du collège Algonquin
1385, avenue Woodroffe Avenue, Ottawa
May 11-15 / 11-15 mai 2005

The 2005 OALT/ABO Conference Committee is working hard getting workshops, tours, and sessions organized for our annual conference in May. This is a super way to keep abreast of new technologies, remain current in the library field, and touch base with old friends and acquaintances. Come join us in the nation's capital!

Chapter Activities

Book Club

The Book Club chapter has tottered to its feet and is now cutting teeth on its third book. Marina Dranitsaris has done a lot of work to make the chapter a success while making sure to find out what members want. A suggestion was made that at least three books into the future would be announced thus making it easier to get them from our libraries. Marina picked up that suggestion and ran with it by polling members to see what we should be reading for the next three months. Meanwhile, Maria Ripley had a suggestion of her own, a discussion forum with which she was familiar. Voilà, it was linked to our home page and ready in time for the second book and we were away with a new means of communication. We are still getting used to this new tool, but members are slowly making use of it. To get a peek at the chapter and its members, visit our website:

www.oaltabo.on.ca.

Membership in this chapter has been free up till now, but starting October 1, there will be a \$20.00 membership fee to take part in this chapter. The fees will be used to bring in an author(s) to our annual conference to discuss the writing process and interpretation.

We started in June with Michael Ondaatje's *In the Skin of a Lion*. July's book was Kim Moritsugu's *Old Flames* and we have just finished August's book *The Lovely Bones* by Alice Sebold.

Upcoming titles:

September 2004 *Falling Angels* / Tracy Chevalier
October 2004 *The Y Chromosome* / Leona Gom

Halton-Peel

2004 / 2005 - Halton-Peel Chapter Executive

President: Erin MacIntyre
erinm@inco.ca

Vice President: Kate Morrison

2ksjmorrisson@sympatico.ca

Secretary: Dena Monachino

diamond.assertions@sympatico.ca

Treasurer: Gisela Smithson

giselasmithson@hotmail.com

Publicists: Wendy Stevenson

wstevens@hwdsb.on.ca

Karen Kennett

kkennett@cogeco.ca

Upcoming meetings

Thursday, September 23, 2004 – Shop Talk

Thursday, October 28, 2004 – Town Hall

Friday, December 3, 2004 – Christmas Social

Saturday, January 15, 2005 – Super Saturday

Thursday, March 31, 2005 -
AGM

LOHANIA

2004 / 2005 - LOHANIA Chapter Executive

President – Kathryn
Suffoletta

suffoletta@sympatico.ca

Treasurer – Liz Aldrey

aldreyl@hwcn.org

Secretary – Sharon Engel

sengel@lib.uwo.ca

Ottawa

2004 / 2005 - Ottawa

Chapter Executive

President - Kathy Heney

KHeaney@blqcanada.com

Vice President - Irène Kumar

irkumar@nrca.gc.ca

Treasurer: -Theresa Ziebell

Theresa.Ziebell@statcan.ca

Secretary - José Gélinas

jgelinas@nrca.gc.ca

"tête-à-tête" Committee - Linda Landreville

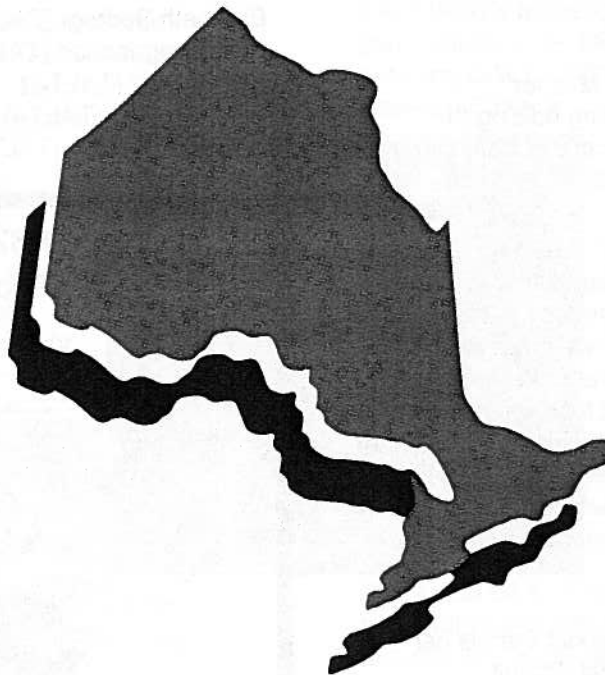
landreville@rogers.com

Event Coordinator - Barbara Cope

barbara.cope@pwgsc.gc.ca

Membership - Ann Censner

acensner@magma.ca



Chapter Activities

Thunder Bay

Chapter information was not received in time for publication.

Toronto Chapter

2004 / 2005 - Toronto Chapter Executive

President - Jenna Winkler

jwinkler@tpl.toronto.on.ca

Vice President - Marianna Cseto

mcseto@tpl.toronto.on.ca

Secretary - Ben Kahn

benkah@yahoo.ca

Membership - Brenda Maxwell

bmaxwell@lsuc.on.ca

Treasurer - Aileen Fisher

aileenfisher@sympatico.ca

Newsletter Editor &

Publicity Coordinator - Jeff Corbett

jeffcorbett@hotmail.com

Upcoming meetings

Tuesday, October 5, 2004 – Personal Branding: Selling Ourselves in a Tough Market at the Lillian H. Smith District Branch

Tuesday, November 2, 2004 - Legal Resources for the Rest of Us at the Toronto Reference Library

Monday, December 6, 2004 – Holiday Social at the Mandarin Restaurant

Monday, January 24, 2005 – tba

Wednesday, March 30, 2005 - ABM

Proposed New Chapter

The School Chapter has long been desired by the many members who work in a school or school board. To expedite its start, a committee consisting of former Chapter Coordinator, Carol Witt, and school employees Joanna Zalewa, Stacy Goddard, Doug Willford, Tracy Morgan and Helen Maturan was quickly struck at the end of the 2004 conference to hammer out details of a charter. Tracy and Stacy polished it up at home and have passed it to current Chapter Coordinator, Jill Anderson.

One's work may be finished someday, but one's education never.

- Alexandre Dumas, père, 1802 - 1870

College LIT Program Updates

Algonquin College

The Library and Information Technician Program at Algonquin College continues to be a popular choice for students. This year our waiting list started in February. We look forward to greeting 40 new students on Monday, August 30, 2004.

We are starting to plan a 35th anniversary for graduates. The first planning meeting will take place this week. All grads will be invited to a dinner at the International Restaurant, an extension of Algonquin's Hospitality program, the evening of May 12, 2005. Following the dinner, delegates attending the OALT/ABO Conference in Ottawa, will be invited, along with librarians and library technicians affiliated with the program, to attend a reception.

Mohawk College

Faculty, staff and students in the distance education Library Technician program at Mohawk College are keenly anticipating the start of another academic year.

One exciting development in our program this summer is the articulation agreement that we have made with Athabasca University. Graduates of our program will receive two years' credit towards a Bachelor of Professional Arts Communication degree from Athabasca.

Fall course registration began on Aug. 9/04, and at the time of writing, many courses are full or close to full, with some additional sections added in order to accommodate demand for courses. Most courses start on September 13, 2004, and run until early December. If there are spaces available, students can register in a course up to the end of the second week of the course, which this term would be September 24, 2004.

Our courses are taught via distance education, over the Internet. Graduate library technicians are considered to have met the prerequisites for any course. If you are interested in refreshing your knowledge or learning some new skills, you might consider the following courses. These are courses that might be of particular interest to OALT/ABO members:

LIBRL306 Cataloguing Electronic Resources

LIBRL050 Information Brokering: An Introduction

College LIT Program Updates

LIBRLT405 Law Libraries and Legal Research

LIBRLT350 Acquisitions

LIBRLT302 Descriptive and Access Cataloguing I

For descriptions of these courses and registration instructions, choose the heading "next semester" from our web site
<http://www.mohawkc.on.ca/cecat/library.html>

Also, for library technicians who would like to broaden their professional expertise, Mohawk offers a certificate program in Records and Information Management. This 6-course certificate is designed to prepare participants to operate a records management program in any organizational setting.

This fall, courses offered in the Records and Information Management Program are:

OADMRL101 - Active Records Management

INFORM140/141 - MS Office Professional

COMMLL122 - Researching and Reporting

If you'd like to contact Dolores Harms Penner, the Program Manager regarding either the library technician or records management program, she can be reached by phone at 905.575.2309 or by e-mail at dolores.harmspenner@mohawkcollege.ca

Seneca College

Loraine Jackson joins Deborah Kay and Karen Olcen as full-time faculty in the Library and Information Technician Program at Seneca College. Loraine has worked as a librarian in various types of libraries and was involved with a Library Technician Program at a community college in Barbados. Most recently, she has been working at the Cedarbrae District Library, Toronto Public Library. Loraine has a Master's degree in library science from Columbia University.

Also teaching subjects this fall in the full-time Library and Information Technician Program are Vicki Casey, Susan Ibbetson, Bozena Karczewska, Carlisle Kemp-Jackson, Katherine More and Helena Merriam. Karen Olcen is on leave for the fall and winter semesters.

The Faculty of Continuing Education is offering numerous subjects in the Library and Information Technician Program on weekends, especially on Saturdays. The scheduling on weekends is very popular.

CLA – Library Technician Interest Group

by Maggie Weaver

In a tradition begun several years ago in Calgary, LTIG held a social at the CLA Conference in Victoria, jointly with the local provincial technicians' association, LTAIG-BCLA. I met some terrific technicians, mostly from BC – look out for the rising star of LTAIG-BLCA, who I predict will become President of CLA one day!

As a result of the LTIG business meeting in Victoria, this will be my last contribution as convener of CLA's Library Technician Interest Group. May I introduce to you the new convener – **Karen Hildebrandt**, from Edmonton.

Here's Karen:

"I graduated in 1998 from the Grant MacEwan College, Edmonton AB, Information Management and Library Technology program. I'm currently employed with Concordia University College of Alberta here in Edmonton.

I'm an active member of the Alberta Association of Library Technicians (AALT). I've served as conference co-chair, President-Elect and just finished my term as President in May this year.

I'm a brand new member of CLA and I look forward to being part of a national association as well as advocating on behalf of my fellow library technicians."

Thank you, Karen, for stepping forward to become the new convener, especially as such a new member of CLA. I'm sure you'll bring new vitality to the Interest Group.

Currently, Karen is looking for ideas for programs to propose for the 2005 CLA Conference in Calgary. If you have suggestions, or ideas for great speakers, please contact her at karen.hildebrandt@concordia.ab.ca

Canadian Library Association Library Technician Interest Group (CLA LTIG) Report

It was my pleasure, on behalf of the AALT membership, to bring forth the following special resolution to the CLA membership at the AGM on Saturday, June 19, 2004.

Whereas the funding and staffing of school libraries continues to deteriorate and negatively impact Canadian school children; and

Whereas school library issues continue to concern all library professionals, specifically qualified teacher-librarians and library technicians; and

Whereas the Alberta Association of Library Technicians (AALT) has formed a school library committee to investigate and form solutions on this issue based on a study it plans to conduct in partnership with the Canadian Library Association's Library Technicians Interest Group; and

Whereas CLA also supports the Canadian Coalition for School Libraries;

Be it resolved that the Canadian Library Association (CLA) demonstrate its support the CLA Library Technician Interest Group, in conjunction with the AALT School Library Committee, by advocating for the hiring of qualified staff for school libraries.

Moved by Karen Hildebrandt

Seconded: Joseph Saad.

The resolution was well received and carried by the membership. CLA was happy to announce at the AGM that the Canadian Association of School Libraries is now an official division of CLA. I would like to encourage all the library technician associations to designate this division on their CLA membership. I would also like to encourage any library technicians that are working in a school library to seriously consider becoming a member and becoming active with this division on a committee level. There is only so much the association can do on our behalf and we do need to have more library technicians becoming active with CLA so that our voices and concerns can be heard.

The study that I refer to in the motion is being drafted but one of the major stumbling blocks is funding. Currently LTIG has around \$3,800 to use toward this project but we need at least \$5,000. Dalhousie has said that they will match some of the

funding. So as the study is being drafted, ideas for raising funds will also be required and investigated.

At the CLA LTIG/BCLA LTAIG joint social event on Thursday, June 17, 2004, I was named as the new convener of CLA LTIG. Maggie Weaver will still be active with the group but as she has just been named President of OALT/ABO, she felt she was being stretched a little too thin.

As convener, I would like to see more dialogue occurring between library technicians across the country and plan on establishing a newsletter for CLA LTIG members. I also hope to send information blurbs to all the associations as well, as events transpire.

Best wishes,

Respectfully submitted by:

Karen Hildebrandt
CLA LTIG Convener

Pen Pal Program at HPL

by Stella Clark

Children in several branches of the Hamilton Public Library were very busy this summer making posters and pictures about their city, library, and summer programs. They drew pictures of their favourite things, and wrote letters to friends they hoped to get to know.

Children in several branch libraries in Nunavut were doing the same thing: making posters, pictures, lists, and letters.

Librarians in both library systems then exchanged packages filled with all this information from the children, plus some goodies from the city's tourism bureau, and welcome letters from the mayor, CEO, and head of children's services. This program offered their young patrons an opportunity to see another part of Canada in a way that's fun and creative; and gave the children a chance to find a personal pen pal. As well as discovering another part of Canada, our children were given a sense of who they are by learning about their own home – it's history, and what it offers to others.

This is the third year for this program, which began at the Stoney Creek Branch of the Hamilton Public Library. Two years ago, Stella Clark contacted the Greater Victoria Public Library in British Columbia, and connected with Anne Parker, then children's

librarian at the Emily Carr Branch. After several phone calls and emails to work out the details, both library systems managed to get several branches to participate. The results were wonderful. Stoney Creek received a package containing beautiful Bristol board posters of whales and the sea, and sent posters of Billy Green and the Battle of Stoney Creek. Last year Hamilton Public Library connected with Nova Scotia, with a branch in Hamilton joined with a branch in Nova Scotia. The children in our branches have a lot to be proud of, and sent pictures and information on their own area of the city, such as the African Lion Safari, Hamilton Tiger Cats, the Royal Botanical Gardens, etc. The children in Nova Scotia proudly sent pictures of children taking part in summer activities.

Last year, the Canada Post Heritage Club started to help with the mailing costs, which was appreciated by the branches, as the budget for programming is not large. The City of Hamilton also donated lots of gifts to be sent for draws or prizes, as well as pamphlets that could be used by the children to make posters, and to be sent along with the pictures.

It is the hope that this program, called "Library to library: pen-pals across Canada", will take off at other locations; that those who have participated will continue by corresponding with other areas in Canada, and so encourage a chain of correspondence between children and librarians that reaches from coast to coast.

A copy of the proposal can be requested, or any questions directed to Stella Clark at hpl.ca

Secrets Revealed

by Jeff Corbett

Welcome to what I hope will be an interesting and informative column. The title that I have chosen for this column is "Secrets Revealed." Why "Secrets Revealed?" That's the way I felt when I discovered these job searching websites, that I found a "secret location for library jobs." First, some background. For those of you who are subscribed to our association's discussion list, you likely noticed an increase in activity. That is a result to new jobs being posted frequently. When I personally started looking for job postings, I only focused on the OLA and FIS websites because I thought that any job posting would be listed in one of these two websites. Boy was I mistaken! Little did I know that

there are a lot of jobs being posted elsewhere! All you have to do is "Surf the Net!"

For those of you who don't know where to search, I hope that this column will help to make your job searching easier. The first website that I am reviewing is "Government Jobs" at: http://www.jobsetc.ca/category_drilldown.jsp?crumb=1&category_id=2&lang=e. It's bit of a long url but I think that once you have bookmarked this site, you will find yourself returning often. When you click the link, you are given a choice to search for jobs with the "Federal Government", your choice of which "Provincial and Territorial Government" or your choice of which "Municipal Government." What I like about this website is that you don't have to remember many different addresses. It's an "all in one" website. Let's briefly look at its components.

Federal Government: Please follow the following path by clicking the hyperlinks that will take you to: [Federal Government](#) > [Public Service Commission](#) > [Job Search](#) > and now enter your desired job title in the box. There are interesting alternate pathways to explore along the way which I will not review in this column today due to space and topic limitations. Just like any other web based search, the more general the search statement, the greater the number of hits. I would suggest leaving all of the databases checked so that you can perform a "metasearch", which is to search several databases at once. Please note to specify your province of choice in the next box as one can search only by one province at a time. Finally, if you desire, you can specify to only return results from a specific community within the province.

Provincial and Territorial Government: Your second option from the main menu is to search for jobs within a specific province. For Ontario jobs, please follow the following path: [Provincial and Territorial Government](#) > [Ontario - GOjobs](#) > click the "Forward" button > and now enter your desired job title in the box. Your results for library jobs may at times be few and far in between. A message on the screen that appears on the top right corner of the webpage that says in part, "...the Ontario government announced a hiring freeze in the Ontario Public Service" explains why there are few postings. My suggestion is to continue checking, as there are on occasion library postings.

Municipal Government: Finally, your last option from the main menu is to search for jobs within a particular municipality. They do not utilize a "search box" but rather list every municipality that they cover

since some municipalities use various names. From the main menu click through the following path: [Municipal Government](#) > Municipal jobs and work > and finally choose your favourite municipality, separated into sections by province. Again, there are other interesting pathways to explore too.

Good luck on your job search. I hope that this website helps you. Don't forget to check

OALT/ABO's discussion list often as new jobs are posted frequently. I would love to hear about your job searching stories, successes and flops. Please write to me at jeffcorbett@hotmail.com

Web Sites to Educate and Amuse You

Guidelines for Children's library Services From The International Federation of Libraries (IFLA) (pdf file)

<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s10/pubs/ChildrensGuidelines.pdf>
For practicing librarians, library administrators and decision makers, students and instructors in library and information science training programs. From the introduction: "Library services for children have never been as important for children and their families all over the world, as they are today. Access to the knowledge and the multicultural riches of the world, as well as lifelong learning and literacy skills have become the priority of our society. A quality children's library equips children with lifelong learning and literacy skills, enabling them to participate and contribute to the community."

From the National Information Standards Organization: A Framework of Guidance for Building Good Digital Collections
<http://www.niso.org/framework/forumframework.html>

From the site: "The Framework of Guidance for Building Good Digital Collections provides a set of high-level principles as a framework for identifying, organizing, and applying existing knowledge and resources to collections of digital resources." Originally prepared under the auspices of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and released in 2001 the site was intended as a resource for grant applicants to the IMLS and other federal (meaning US) funding agencies. Updated February 2004. Includes links to several resources including collection development, digitization, sustainability etc.

From BC's Prince Rupert Public Library: Unusual Libraries

http://www.bookboat.com/unusual_lib/unusual_libraries.htm

Libraries come in some unusual forms. This page launched in 2000 links to some of the most unusual ways that library materials are delivered throughout the world serving populations that typically would have access to library services. The staff of the Prince Rupert Library have discovered bookboats in Venezuela, Florida, Sweden, Norway, Thailand, and Alaska. Other unusual libraries: Book Bicycles, Book Backpacks, Camel-Drawn Libraries, and Donkey-Drawn Libraries.

Join The Discussion List Today!

by Maria Ripley

Join the discussion, ask questions, listen in to the conversations, or receive the latest job postings - this is all available to you if you join the OALT/ABO discussion list. Remember, discussions and conversations don't start themselves, we all need to be active on this list, so don't be shy! If we all share one favourite website, one tidbit of information, one favourite book you've read, the latest job you have come across that might be of interest to another member, or a problem you happen to have trying to accomplish something - we have 300+ members that are here to help.

To join, follow these six simple steps found on our website at www.oaltabo.on.ca:

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2. Type this message in the body of your e-mail: **subscribe you@youremailaddress.com**
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If you find you are having problems joining, please contact Maria Ripley
mripley@myvirtualnetwork.com
A wealth of information is available through our membership if we all share our ideas and thoughts. Sign up today!

Join the Team - The 2004-2005 OALT/ABO Executive Needs YOU!

by Maria Ripley

Are you passionate about being a library technician? Now is your chance to share this passion with others.

The External Communications Coordinator will be the official spokesperson of the association with those outside the current membership - to voice and publicize the association's values and standards. If you are truly passionate about being a library technician then this job will be a breeze and we need you as part of our 2004-2005 Executive team. Share your passion through voice while speaking at local Library & Information Technician programs, other library education courses, and events. Share your passion through the written word as you communicate with vendors the need for their support so that OALT/ABO can move forward with key projects.

Share your passion as a member of the OALT/ABO Executive where you can make a difference and let OUR voice be heard!

For a detailed listing of this role visit us online - www.oaltabo.on.ca/externalvacant.htm or contact Maggie Weaver, 2004-2005 OALT/ABO President kweaver5478@rogers.com

Book Reviews

Nancy Drew in "Alley Kat Blues" and a Quote About Library Budgets

by William Land

Kijewski, Karen. *Alley Kat Blues*. New York: Bantam, c1995. ISBN 0553573152

Currently, I am reading an adult novel in the Kat Colorado detective series by Karen Kijewski.

In this book, Kat's investigation takes her to the Rocklin Public Library where she meets with Lisa Kittredge, the head librarian.

Kat states: "I'm doing a background investigation. Ezra Dillard is part of it."

"Oh?" Alert and interested, no doubt about it.

"I understand that Mr. Dillard has very little to do with anyone in town but he does frequent the library."

"Yes, that's true. I don't know him, however. As you pointed out, he's not very social. *Antisocial* would be more like it."

"You know more than you think you do."

"I do?"

"Sure. Think of how much you could learn about someone just from knowing the videos he watched, the groceries he bought, the magazines he subscribed to, the—"

"Books he took out of the library," she finished triumphantly, bounding a little in her chair, her voice excited. She'd been a Nancy Drew fan when she was younger, I'd put money on it.

"Oh, *this is* fun. I loved Nancy Drew when I was a girl.

See? I'd pat myself on the back but, really, it was way too easy. (pp. 232-33)

As a library technician by profession, I am naturally interested when libraries are discussed in books. I love this very realistic quote: "Libraries everywhere have taken a heavy hit. In the good old days they operated on a shoestring. Now they were down to a paper clip."

Kat Colorado is "a hard-boiled Sacramento P.I. with a soft spot for the unlucky, the unloved, and one special cop named Hank. ...", and in her business curiosity can be more than an occupational hazard—it can be murder."

I really enjoy this series. I believe the last book was published in 2000 or 2001. I've looked for current books in new bookstores, but haven't found anything. Are other members aware of this series and if Kijewski is planning any more?

The Enduring Library: Technology, Tradition and the Quest for Balance by Michael Gorman (2003)

by Kathy Heney

While attending CLA in June, I picked up this book after his talk (Mr. Gorman was one of the keynote

speakers). Rather pricey for such a slim volume, so I made a point of reading it soon after the conference. Not exactly light summer reading but it was enjoyable nonetheless. Hadn't read a "library" book since my Concordia days back in the '70s. (OK...I've done a bit of professional reading in the form of CALL, CLA and OALT/ABO journals since then...but most of them end up in my multiple and very deep read piles!) But that's one of the very points Mr. Gorman makes...information overload!

He has a somewhat traditional stance and emphasizes our enduring need for libraries if we're going to have a literate society. What I liked most about this little tome though, was his chapter near the end of the book offering practical tips on how to deal with the stress of information overload. The most amazing thing about this title is that it really "stuck" to me for a while. Kept citing it when talking to people...and have already loaned it out to a friend.

People News

After 25 years of working in OPS libraries, **Linda Davis** retired August 31st from the Ministry of Northern Development & Mines. Former Sudbury director and provincial newsletter editor, Linda has been a longstanding member and supporter of OALT/ABO. She has retired to Guelph to spend time with her grandchildren, garden, curl, golf and just generally enjoy a more relaxed pace of life.

Stacy Goddard has given up her position on the executive of OALT/ABO and also her position as Library Technician at Bayside Public School near Belleville. She intends to spend most of her time in libraries, however, doing genealogy research.

On October 18, 2003 **Janet Iles** completed the requirements for the Professional Learning Certificate in Genealogical Studies: Canadian Records issued jointly by the Professional Learning Centre, Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto and The National Institute for Genealogical Studies. The Professional Learning Centre has granted the right to add the academic postnominal to her name of PLCGS. Forty courses were taken over a period of four years and all were taken via the Internet. During three analysis courses she worked with a Professional Genealogist who acted

as her mentor and critiqued her work. In addition to this certificate, one was also granted for Genealogy General Methodology and for Basic Level: English Records. The graduation ceremony was held at the Ontario Genealogical Society Seminar at the end of May. Since then Janet has completed her Basic level: Genealogy for Librarians. Janet is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists.

It is with much sadness that I must share with you the death of **Campbell Leckie**. Cam was very involved in the early stages of OALT/ABO and was one of the individual who assisted with the drafting of the original OALT/ABO constitution. For those of us that knew Cam saw him as a tireless worker and one who was very much involved with the growth of the Association in it's early years. He will be missed both as a good friend and a fellow Library Technician.
Doug Willford

From the Editor

We are always looking for articles, photos, book and/or software reviews, short blurbs about our members and our profession.

The cut off dates for submissions for future editions are:

December 17, 2004 for the January issue
March 26, 2005 for the April issue

Please send all submissions to:
mdranitsaris@sympatico.ca

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Publication Agreement # 40688591