

# NewsLETTER/ NouvELLES

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**OALT/ABO Conference - May 9 to 12, 2007**

**"Equi-Libra"**

**Humber College, Lakeshore Campus**

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## **From our President**

Tracy Morgan

Don't be afraid to volunteer. It comes and goes so quickly! Already it is my last Newsletter as President. What can I say?

Looking forward to Conference of course. Always do. My first Conference was a l-o-n-g time ago in a Region far, far, away – Geneva Park. I still remember my workplace laughing at my expense account – a bus to Orillia when others were booking flights to Florida. I digress. What I really wanted to talk about was the dance. Yes, there was a dance. Did I know what to expect? No way! Obviously that DJ wasn't with it either as he played a few fast songs (dance floor packed) and then a slow one (or two or ....) Dr. Phil would ask him today *"How's that workin' for ya?"* Although it wasn't working for him (I wasn't sure he ever noticed), it did give almost all the dancers (and I don't recall being one of them) a chance to rest. There were a few men among us (o.k. maybe just a couple). They were kept busy.

Why wasn't I on that dance floor? Well it was my first conference. I didn't know more than a handful of people. Initially I may have been in as much shock as that poor DJ. What did he see? A mass of terribly, tackily dressed (I think it was a "tropical" theme) "ladies" dancing with each other most of the time and likely glaring at him (when he "slowed things down") the rest of the time. What did I see? A remarkable group of confident females. Women perfectly comfortable in their own skins and comfortable being themselves with each other. These people were part of a professional association, took their work seriously but not themselves! WOW. Who knew a couple of crazy broads slow dancing with each other (to make a point to a dense DJ) would become mentors? (You can find their names among our Presidential Award recipients.) That dance was where I began to think of OALT/ABO as family. *"Friends are the family you choose for yourself."* (Edna Buchanan) Our conferences are safe places; welcoming places; places to take chances; places to grow.

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## **2007 OALT/ABO CONFERENCE**

### ***"Equi-Libra"***

Humber College  
Lakeshore Campus, Toronto  
May 9-12, 2007

This year's OALT/ABO conference team is thrilled to have developed a slate of twenty-six sessions and four social/networking events for you to learn, share experiences and grow at "Equi-Libra"! Take a moment to view our conference program at [www.oaltabo.on.ca](http://www.oaltabo.on.ca) by clicking on the conference link – and register today!

#### **Conference Planning Team:**

Melissa Hall, Chair

Susan Morley	Brenda Maxwell
Kate Morrison	Sheena Bujold
Brenda Holz	Valerie Walton
Maggie Weaver	Tracyann Crawford

**See you there!**

## ***President's Message***

continued from page 1

Fast forward to 2003 and Toronto's "interactive" DJ. Now that man knew his business! There was one small "problem" with him. He introduced OALT/ABO to props. If you don't know what I'm referring to, there are (unfortunately for some of us) pictures. Another thing? He was so interactive; he came out from behind the "turntable" to interact with me. His exact words (I'll never forget) – "Can I try something with you?" Who knew I could jive? Ballroom dancing classes never indicated to anyone that I had the "music in me". Another lesson learned from OALT/ABO. You can do anything with the right partner! I'll never jive again unless I find that DJ and I can't dance to "Footloose" without Susan Morley (but that's another story).

If I can get even more philosophical, perhaps the overwhelming response to that DJ had more to do with us knowing what would work for us and going out and finding someone who could deliver it! No one knows us like we do. That's why we have to do everything we can to keep our "little" Association alive and well. We are unique. We are in charge of our own destiny. We've been going since 1973. Only we can stop us now.

## ***Algonquin College LIT Program Has a New Bursary!***

*Submitted by: Mac Nason, LIT Program Coordinator, Algonquin College, Ottawa*

Thanks to the generosity of one of Algonquin College's dedicated retirees students registered in the Library and Information Technician program will be able to apply for a new bursary - *The Irene Stark Endowment Fund*.

Irene Stark was the first Librarian hired to establish the Eastern Ontario Institute of Technology library. With the amalgamation of EOIT and Algonquin College in 1967, Irene Stark's leadership was instrumental in the establishment of the Algonquin College Rideau Campus Resource Centre. Irene's passion for libraries and her tireless commitment to her profession were exemplary assets that ensured Algonquin College students and academic staff were able to access research materials and resources in an efficient manner. The Resource Centre was a welcoming place for those visiting to learn, to study, and to expand their horizons. Students demonstrating strong communication skills, a passion to follow a career path in Information and Library services, an inquiring mind, hard working and who are highly motivated may apply for the bursary after they have completed second semester. Brenda Rothwell, Executive Director, Algonquin College Foundation says that Irene Stark truly brings to life Winston Churchill's quote: "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

This newly established Irene Stark bursary is truly a gift from Irene's heart.

# The future of OALT/ABO is in our hands!

## 2007/2008 Executive Nominations

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### **PRESIDENT** *(One Year Commitment)*

#### ❖ **Stella Clark**

- The President is the official representative for OALT/ABO.
- Upholds the mission and purpose of OALT/ABO.
- Chairs Executive meetings and Annual Business Meeting.
- Prepares an annual report of Association activities for the membership.

### **PRESIDENT ELECT**

#### ❖ **Candidate Required** *(Two Year Commitment, President Elect moves to President)*

- In the absence of the President or at the request of the President, the President Elect shall perform the duties and exercise the power of the President.
- In the event of the President's resignation, President Elect shall assume the duties of the President if circumstances permit.
- Maintains minutes of all Executive meetings.
- Prepares and distributes agendas and minutes to the Executive and Appointed Officers.

### **TREASURER** *(One Year Commitment)*

#### ❖ **Claudia Scharmann-Persaud**

##### ❖ **Melissa Hall** (membership)

- Responsible for keeping all financial records and carrying out all financial transactions of OALT/ABO.
- Presents a written financial statement to the Annual Business Meeting and at each Executive Meeting.
- Compiles and maintains annual membership list, directory and supplements.
- Responds to membership enquiries.

### **EXTERNAL Communications Coordinator** *(One Year Commitment)*

#### ❖ **Maggie Weaver**

- Prepares all OALT/ABO marketing and publicity.
- Acts as liaison between OALT/ABO and other library associations, Library & Information Technician programs, other library education courses, OALT/ABO members and libraries.
- Coordinates sponsorship.

### **INTERNAL Communications Coordinator**

#### ❖ **Candidate Required** *(One Year Commitment)*

##### ❖ **Maria Ripley** (Newsletter Editor)

- Disseminates information about OALT/ABO, issues and developments in library and information science and library technicians to Association members.
- Coordinates newsletter distribution.
- Ensures Website content is current.
- Responsible for Listserv.
- Prepares Salary Survey.

### **CONFERENCE COORDINATOR**

#### ❖ **Candidate Required** *(One Year Commitment)*

- Responsible for coordinating the annual OALT/ABO Conference (with a volunteer team) by selecting a location, arranging programming and activities.
- Submits a Conference budget and written financial statement at the Annual Business Meeting and at each Executive Meeting.
- Presents Conference information to the Internal Communications Coordinator for distribution to the membership.
- Coordinates Conference promotion and sponsorship with the External Communications Coordinator.

### **CHAPTER COORDINATOR**

#### ❖ **Candidate Required** *(One Year Commitment)*

- Advocates on behalf of Chapters and Chapter members.
- Responsible for inter Chapter communication
- Provides upcoming information about Chapter events to the Internal Communications Coordinator.
- Submits Chapter programming and additional funding requests to the Executive for approval.

If you are interested in actively participating in your association contact Tracy Morgan (President) at [morvay@globalserve.net](mailto:morvay@globalserve.net)  
Telephone: (905) 878-4463

Need convincing? Please read the testimonials of past presidents within this newsletter. Remember, you get out of an association what you put into it!  
Time for you to step-up?

# The "Jar of Life" Philosophy

(Reprinted with permission)

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A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, he wordlessly picked up a large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

The professor picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous "yes."

The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

"Now," said the professor as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life.

The golf balls are the important things--your friends and family, your health, your passions."

The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house and your car. The sand is everything else--the small stuff. If you put the sand into the jar first," he continued, "there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff you will never have room for the things that are important to you.

Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness--whatever those things are. See your friends. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your spouse out to dinner. There will always be time to clean the house and fix the disposal. Take care of the golf balls first--the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand." One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the coffee represented.

The professor smiled. "I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of cups of coffee with a friend."

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*This article was reprinted with permission from Karen, Create-Your-Best-Life Coach, [www.personbest.org](http://www.personbest.org)*

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## **Past OALT/ABO President of well over 18 years ago shares her story**

*Susan Morley, OALT/ABO President 1989-1991; OALT/ABO Award for Innovation 2005*

Although it was many moons ago, I can say that without a doubt I benefited from my experience with OALT-ABO in that position, and would strongly urge anyone who wants to further themselves professionally to take it on.

How did I get to it? Well I was involved with organizing the 1985 conference, which was sponsored by TALTA. I thought at the time it was an interesting bunch of people, to be involved with and - wow - they are doing the same kind of stuff I am! One thing led to another, and I became Vice-President in 1988, and haven't looked back since. The experience helped me improve several work-related skills - many which I continue to use (and hopefully improve upon) still today.

It opened up my access to a whole network of peers, including OALT/ABO members, but even beyond - CLA, OLA, SLA, etc. Many like me had invested in this profession, then moved on to other aspects of the "information" profession, and/or higher levels of responsibility, but have remained friends and colleagues.

Consider this - the knowledge you gain through involvement with a peer group is valuable work experience, and I would strongly encourage anyone who is interested in adding that distinctive tidbit to your resume - the thing that will make you stand out from the crowd - to get involved. Believe me, you won't regret it!

# Why Would I Join an Executive?!

By Stella Clark

I joined OALT/ABO in September of 2000, and went to my first meeting in March 2001, the Annual Business Meeting. It was my first opportunity to see what the Association was all about. The reason I had joined in the first place was that I do believe if you are a professional, you should belong to the association affiliated with your job, and I had been working long enough to know that there was more than the public library in the information field, and maybe I should learn a little about them.

So my friend (who had joined at the same time) and I went to this meeting, knowing only our work colleague who had introduced us to OALT/ABO. The first thing that happened that I paid much attention to was that I was nominated the next president of the Chapter! I allowed myself to be talked into the position, and went home wondering what had happened. But that was the start of 3 years as President of Halton-Peel. I met the other executive members, none of whom were in a public library, and learned how to run meetings and set schedules and programs for the year. I made great friendships, which are precious to me even now, though sometimes we see each other only once or twice a year. I attended my first conference as a new President, and met people from all over Ontario. I learned to give my first public speech – I kept it short enough to introduce myself and not much else. I found it very interesting to listen to others and what they had to say as professionals.

I then joined the Association executive as Membership Coordinator under the Treasurer. It was good to know that I was not on my own there – that I was given the tools to perform that job, including Excel and Access for the databases. I learned how to use a database! This is not quite like storytime! I held that position for a couple of years, and passed it on when I agreed to become Conference

Coordinator for the 2006 annual conference.

I had never even considered anything like organizing a conference! To me that was way beyond my abilities, but I learned that it was not actually beyond me. There was a lot of coaching from executive members, but I also was encouraged to step out and organize it the way I wanted it. And the feeling at the end of the conference was very powerful – anyone who knows me would know that it was my conference by the topics, the theme, and I hope the relaxed feel of the whole thing.

This will be my first year as a member without any executive duties. I had thought I would be relieved – I have enough on my personal life plate right now, and I know that I need time to focus on them. But through being on the various executive committees I have met and become friends with people all over the province, and have come to know intimately how an association is run. I have learned so many technical things that have definitely helped me at work, but even more has been the leadership training that has been absorbed and transferred to what I do elsewhere. I am a far more confident person personally and professionally. I think that if I had not accepted the nomination that first year, I would not have had the opportunities to grow outside my own circle of workplace training. Maybe that wouldn't matter, but I also wouldn't have nearly as many friends as I do now. I have come to really appreciate what being part of a professional organization means, and wouldn't have had it any other way.

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*Stella's story appeared as an insert with the last newsletter. To preserve it for archival purposes we've added it as an article to the newsletter and to remind you again of reasons you too should step up! Do you have an inspirational story to share? The OALT/ABO newsletter always has space for your story.*

"People are like stained-glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light from within."

- Elizabeth Kubler-Ross

# Virtual Library Accessibility: "Ramp up" your website!

By James Wagner

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Scenario: Steven has Down Syndrome, and is visiting his library's web site. The scrolling marquee is moving too fast for him to read. There are a lot of bright colours and changing images. Some of the words don't make sense to him. He's getting frustrated trying to find the link he wants.

We spend a lot of time trying to make our physical libraries accessible to as many people as possible. We install automatic door openers, widen the aisles, place navigational signs around the room, set up reference desks, and, when we see someone wandering around, we get out from behind our desks to help them. In fact, many of us got into the world of libraries because we like helping people. But, do we give as much thought to making our digital presence as accessible as possible?

I work in a library with 2 physical branches, and my CEO refers to our website as "our third branch". Last year, we had over 25 000 visits to our website and 156 000 searches on our on-line catalogue. That compares to the number of visits (178 000) we had to our physical branches.

Some of our patrons have obvious disabilities. Take blindness or low vision problems, for example. Creating a website that is usable for these patrons is not an impossible task. Many of these people have screen readers to read aloud what is on the screen, or convert the text to Braille. Others use screen magnifiers to help them see the screen. All we have to do is create a logically organized web environment that adheres to HTML standards and these tools can work efficiently.

There are more subtle forms of vision problems, however. Consider colour blindness. Does your website have sufficiently high contrast between the text and the background for people to read the words? Is the meaning of some items on your website dependent on the colour of the item, (e.g. "The items highlighted in red will take place at the Fleming Branch.") thus making it hard for those who can't distinguish between red and green to use your page?

Does your site allow the user to control the colours and font sizes?

There are hosts of other less obvious 'disabilities'. For instance, as we age, our cognitive, coordination, and visual abilities change. As an example, older people tend to read every word on a page, whereas, young people will skim over the headings looking for what they want. A large portion of the people using our library is senior citizens. Our computer classes for seniors are full every session. We need to consider the needs of seniors as we set up our library websites.

Seniors are not the only ones who may have reduced muscular control, or just lack of experience using a mouse. Some people have physical handicaps, such as carpal tunnel syndrome, paralysis, joint problems, or loss of limbs. These people may not be able to use a mouse at all. Is your website able to be navigated using the Tab and arrow keys?

As mentioned in the first paragraph, some of our patrons have cognitive or intellectual disabilities. Our websites need to be clear of library jargon and have consistent navigational tools on each page. They should not be overly cluttered, but, they should combine text and graphics to convey meaning. They should also allow our patrons to turn off features (marquees, blinking words, Flash displays) that are distracting to them.

Personal physical differences are not the only impediments to people successfully using your website. Up until about 2 years ago, I had a dial-up connection to the Internet. Many web pages were so large, that I could go and make myself a cup of coffee, while I waited for them to download. One solution was to turn off the graphics. This sped up the page loading, but often, the graphics were used as navigational tools. My 'disability' was my equipment. Consider, also, patrons who access your website using cellphones and PDAs. Does your website easily, and logically, fit onto these small screens?

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## Virtual Library Accessibility - by James Wagner (con't)

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There are many more conditions that make using the Internet difficult for our patrons, but, I hope these few examples will get you thinking about how user-friendly your library's website is. Making your website accessible takes some time, thinking, and consultation. My own library's website is still far from accessible, but this is an on-going project for me - to convert over 220 web pages to accepted HTML/CSS standards. In the end, not only will it be easier for patrons with disabilities to use, but it will be easier for everyone to use.

### **Additional reading:**

#### **Internet Sites:**

How People with Disabilities Use the Web  
(<http://www.w3.org/WAI/EO/Drafts/PWD-Use-Web/>)

WebAIM (<http://webaim.org/intro/>)

#### **Books:**

Clark, Joe, Building accessible websites,  
Boston: Pearson Education, 2003.

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*James Wagner is the Technical Services Coordinator for the Lincoln Public Library in the Town of Lincoln (between Hamilton and St. Catharines). Besides being in charge of maintaining the library's website, he coordinates the cataloguing of all materials in the library, maintains the library software (SirsiDynix – Horizon), and takes his turn on the circulation/reference desk.*

Canadian Library Association / Atlantic  
Provinces Association / Newfoundland and  
Labrador Library Association

**National Conference**  
May 23 to 26, 2007

Trade Show – May 24 & 25, 2007  
St. John's, NL

<http://www.cla.ca/conference/2007/index.shtm>

## Another Perspective on Library Technicians – Part 1

By Nicole Watier, Vice-President, Ottawa Chapter

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Founded in 1967, COLT is the Council on Library and Media Technicians and is affiliated with not only OALT/ABO, but also the American Library Association. They address the concerns of library support staff such as technical and continuing education, certification and job description uniformity. There are no membership restrictions, including geography.

COLT's organizational structure is a little bit different than OALT/ABO. Although they do have a few chapters, they have five Region directors which serve the various regions of North America. For example, the Central Region serves Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Wisconsin, Manitoba, Ontario and Nunavut.

They also have a Yahoo! Groups discussion list to keep members up to date on issues events and job listings relevant to their members. The list is not moderated as to its content. Much of the trends in content are similar to that of our own discussion list as is the frequency of postings by subscribers. One need not be a member of COLT to subscribe to the group.

I've been a subscriber for about 2 years and I find we have more in common than not with our friends south of the border. Although many job notices are posted, recurring questions from members are: how to get a job in the library field, how to improve skills, and of course the little controversies which occur from time to time in any volunteer association. One difference I notice is the terms used... they often use Library Support Staff and Paraprofessionals.

The highlight on their calendar is the annual conference which occurs at the same week and the same city as the American Library Association's annual conference. The members themselves decided this was the organization they preferred to "attach themselves to" so members can attend both conferences with ease.

This year's conference will be held in Washington D.C. from June 20 to 22. It is also their 40th annual conference and is titled: "Library Support Staff: An essential piece of the Library Landscape".

Stay tuned for the next instalment of this article, that will include a summary of the conference with my impressions, to be published in the Fall issue. I'm very much looking forward to meeting our American and other international counterparts!

COLT <http://colt.ucr.edu/> ALA <http://www.ala.org/>



# Tour of the Library of Parliament / Une visite de la nouvellement rénovée bibliothèque du Parlement

Submitted by the Ottawa Chapter

On January 25, 2007, the Ottawa Chapter of the OALT/ABO (Ontario Association of Library Technicians / Association des Bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario), organized a visit of the recently renovated Library of Parliament.

We were approximately 30 attendees, library employees from the National Capital Region, divided into two English tour groups and one French group. Our tour guides were employees of the Library, who each in turn, reviewed a bit of the Library's history, described the different aspects of the renovation, and enumerated the updated and improved services now provided to the many clients of the Library of Parliament.

The Library, inaugurated in 1876, survived 2 major fires, the first one in 1916, which destroyed the Parliament buildings' Centre Block except for the Library, saved by its fireproof doors, and the second, in 1952, in which smoke and water damaged the Library and part of its precious collection.

To celebrate its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2001, the Library underwent a major renovation project, which took 4-5 years to complete, including cleaning its exterior Nepean sandstone and the restoration of its Victorian Gothic Revival style, designed by Thomas Fuller and Chilion Jones. The renovation included the engineering feat of excavating, under its original structure, to expand its single basement into 3 new basements, the lower of which houses the heating and ventilation systems, geared to provide ideal conditions to protect and preserve this irreplaceable collection.

Approximately 1,200 artisans were involved in the renovation work, from stone carvers, to sculptors, to masons, to carpenters. The interior makeover aimed, not only to bring the Library into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and plan for future expansions, by modernizing its services, but also, to preserve its historic and architectural integrity.

The Library reverted to the original palette of colours that first adorned its walls and ceiling. The upper cupola's structure of iron was revamped and the columns and plaster were

La section d'Ottawa de l'OALT/ABO (Ontario Association of Library Technicians / Association des Bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario), a organisé une visite de la nouvellement rénovée bibliothèque du Parlement, qui a eu lieu le 25 janvier, 2007.

Nous étions environ une trentaine de participants, employés de bibliothèques de la région de la capitale nationale, divisés en deux groupes d'anglophones et un groupe de francophones. Nos guides étaient des employés de la bibliothèque, et chacun à son tour, ils ont revu pour nous, un peu de l'histoire de la bibliothèque, décrit les différents aspects de la rénovation, et énuméré les services mis-à-jour et améliorés, offerts maintenant aux nombreux clients de la bibliothèque du Parlement.

La bibliothèque, inaugurée en 1876, a survécu à 2 incendies majeurs, le premier en 1916, qui a détruit le bloc central des édifices du Parlement, sauf la bibliothèque, sauvée par ses portes à l'épreuve du feu, et le second, en 1952, où la fumée et l'eau ont endommagé la bibliothèque et une partie de sa précieuse collection.

Pour célébrer son 125<sup>e</sup> anniversaire en 2001, la bibliothèque s'engagea dans un projet de rénovation majeure, qui prit 4 à 5 ans à compléter, incluant le nettoyage de son grès de Nepean extérieur, et la restauration de son style néo-gothique victorien, conçu par Thomas Fuller et Chilion Jones. La rénovation inclut le tour de force d'ingénierie qu'a été l'excavation, sous sa structure originale, pour étendre son sous-sol unique en 3 nouveaux sous-sols, le plus inférieur, logeant le système de chauffage et ventilation, qui génère des conditions idéales pour protéger et préserver cette collection irremplaçable.

Quelque 1200 artisans ont contribué aux travaux de rénovation, dont des tailleurs de pierres, sculpteurs, maçons et ébénistes. La réfection intérieure visa, non seulement à amener la bibliothèque au 21<sup>e</sup> siècle et à planifier de futures expansions, en modernisant ses services, mais aussi, à préserver son intégrité historique et architecturale. Elle retourna à la palette originale de couleurs qui décora autrefois ses murs et plafonds. La structure de fer de la coupole supérieure fût retapée et les colonnes et le plâtre ont été rénovés et peints en blanc, avec des feuilles d'or ré-appliquées à ses ornements; les arches de la coupole inférieure sont revenus à leur gris-bleu original, alors que le plafond a été peint un aqua bleuté plus doux.

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## Tour of the Library of Parliament / Une visite de la nouvellement rénovée bibliothèque du Parlement

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*con't from p. 8*

renovated and painted white with gold-leaf re-applied to its adornments; the lower cupola's arches returned to their original blue-grey, while the ceiling was painted a softer bluish aqua colour.

The access corridors and galleries' intricately sculpted white Ottawa pine woodwork, decorated with thousands of flower rosettes, masks and mythical beasts, were cleaned, along with the coat of arms of the 7 provinces in existence in 1876, and glass floors were installed at the galleries' level, to take full advantage of the natural daylight pouring in from the tall gothic windows.

The central white marble statue of young Queen Victoria, weighing 3 metric tons, sculpted by Marshall Wood in 1871 to honour the Queen for deciding in 1857, that Ottawa would be the capital of Canada, still sits proudly on its heavy base, weighing 6 metric tons, surrounded by the flooring's intricate cherry, walnut and oak pattern, refitted by a Montreal company. Other sculptures housed elsewhere in the building, feature likenesses of Princess Alexandra, George VII, and other historical dignitaries.

Circling the central statue, a new reference counter was built to introduce state-of-the-art technology and connections to the Internet, while new tables for patrons were installed around the floor, allowing more room for tours visiting the Library. Around the periphery of the main circular room, a new meeting room and offices were set up to accommodate long-term searchers.

The main floor houses daily Canadian serials, ephemeral collections and geographical documents, while the history of Canada and the United States' collections, and other main series are located in mobile storage stacks on the 1<sup>st</sup> basement. Some rare and ancient books, interviews with parliamentarians, and debates are conserved in the 2<sup>nd</sup> basement, where temperature controlled rooms will help preserve the collection longer. The restoration department, however, finds its home on the other side of the river, in Gatineau.

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Les boiseries en pin blanc de l'Outaouais des corridors d'accès et des galeries, décorées de milliers de rosettes, de masques et de bêtes mythiques, ont été nettoyées, ainsi que les armoiries des 7 provinces en existence en 1876, et des planchers en verre ont été installés, à l'étage des galeries, pour maximiser l'effet de la lumière naturelle, qui entre à flots par les hautes fenêtres de style gothique.

La statue centrale de marbre, de la jeune reine Victoria, pesant 3 tonnes métriques, sculptée par Marshall Wood en 1871 pour honorer la reine d'avoir choisi Ottawa comme capitale du Canada, trône toujours fièrement sur son lourd socle, pesant 6 tonnes métriques, entourée du complexe motif du plancher de cerisier, noyer et chêne, refait par une compagnie de Montréal. D'autres sculptures, logées ailleurs dans l'édifice, recréent la présence de la princesse Alexandra, de Georges VII, et d'autres dignitaires historiques.

Encerclant la statue centrale, un nouveau comptoir de référence a été construit afin d'intégrer des technologies d'avant-garde et des connections à l'internet, alors que de nouvelles tables pour les clients de la bibliothèque, ont été installées autour du rez-de-chaussée, laissant plus d'espace pour les membres des tours guidés de la bibliothèque. Autour de la périphérie de la salle centrale, une nouvelle salle de réunion et des bureaux ont été aménagés afin d'accueillir les chercheurs de longue durée.

Le rez-de-chaussée loge les périodiques quotidiens canadiens, les collections éphémères et les documents géographiques, alors que la collection d'histoire du Canada et des États-Unis, et les autres séries principales sont logées au premier sous-sol, dans des unités de rangement mobiles. Certains livres rares et anciens, des entrevues avec des parlementaires et des débats, sont conservés au second sous-sol, où des pièces à température contrôlée préserveront la collection plus longtemps. Le service de restauration, pour sa part, trouve sa demeure de l'autre côté de la rivière, à Gatineau.

La bibliothèque du Parlement a ré-ouvert ses portes le 30 mai, 2006, et demeure ouverte durant les heures où le Parlement est en session. Elle offre des services de recherche et de référence, aux membres du Sénat et de la Chambre des Communes, aux comités parlementaires et à leur personnel, ainsi qu'à des associations et délégations. Les centaines d'employés de la bibliothèque (bibliothécaires, bibliotechniciens, coordonnateurs de presse, analystes et autres employés de soutien), tous experts, soit en droit,

## **Tour of the Library of Parliament / Une visite de la nouvellement rénovée bibliothèque du Parlement**

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*con't from p. 9*

On May 30, 2006 the Library of Parliament re-opened its doors and remains open during hours when Parliament is in session. It offers reference and research services to Senate and House of Commons officials, parliamentary committees and their staff, associations and delegations. The Library's hundreds of employees (librarians, library technicians, media coordinators, analysts and other support staff), all experts in either law, economics, or related fields, provide research and analysis services, regarding legislation and public policy issues, to the Library's many clients.

Hundreds of questions, originating locally, from Canada, and from all over the world, are answered daily, within tight time frames, ranging from 15 minutes, to a few hours, with a very high satisfaction level, regarding Canada's history, economy, environment, governmental law, sciences and humanities. Services covering the Library's collections, current issues reviews, background information and compilations, legislative summaries, and reading lists, are delivered in various formats, (including books, periodicals, government documents, CD-ROMs, videos, photocopies and PDF files from on-line databases), either directly, by phone, fax, courier, via inter-library loans, or through the internet, from the many local buildings housing its numerous employees.

The new Library of Parliament may not look much different than it looked like before, to the untrained eye, but, as much as it was initiated to repair its ageing crows' feet and smooth out its visible wrinkles, this major facelift was also embarked upon to provide a technology platform, in order to launch the Library into the new century, towards a new era of enhanced services, as one of our country's and the world's leaders in information dissemination.

This was an enlightening and entertaining visit for all of us. We wish the Library of Parliament a long, prosperous and fruitful life!

en économie ou en disciplines connexes, fournissent des services d'analyse et de recherche, en rapport avec les questions de droit et de politique fédérale, aux nombreux clients de la bibliothèque.

Le personnel de la bibliothèque répond quotidiennement à des centaines de questions, provenant de la région, du Canada, et des 4 coins du monde, dans des délais les plus brefs, allant de 15 minutes à quelques heures, avec un degré de satisfaction très élevé. Les questions portent sur l'histoire du Canada, son économie, l'environnement, le droit gouvernemental, les sciences et les sciences sociales. Des services couvrant les collections de la bibliothèque, la revue des questions courantes, des informations de base, des compilations, des résumés législatifs et bibliographies, sont livrés sous divers formats, (allant des monographies et périodiques, aux documents gouvernementaux, en passant par les CD-ROMs, vidéos, photocopies et documents électroniques de banques de données), soit en personne ou par le moyen du téléphone, du télécopieur ou de services de messagerie, ou encore, par le biais des prêts-entre-bibliothèques, ou de l'internet, à partir des divers édifices locaux, qui logent les nombreux employés de la bibliothèque.

La nouvelle bibliothèque du Parlement peut ne pas avoir l'air bien différente de ce qu'elle était auparavant, aux yeux des non-avisés, mais cette remise à neuf majeure, bien qu'elle ait été amorcée pour réparer les pattes d'oies et aplanir les rides visibles qui dénonçaient l'âge de la bibliothèque, a aussi été entreprise pour fournir une plateforme afin de lancer celle-ci dans le 21<sup>e</sup> siècle, et vers une nouvelle ère de services rehaussés, en tant que l'un des centres d'avant-garde de notre pays dans la dissémination d'information à travers le monde.

Cette visite a été révélatrice et divertissante pour nous tous. Nous souhaitons longue vie, prospérité et succès à la bibliothèque du Parlement ...

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*Written and translated by José Gélinas, with some facts corroborated by the Library of Parliament website. This text also was reviewed by Irène Kumar.*

*Écrit et traduit par José Gélinas, avec certains faits corroborés par le site web de la Bibliothèque du Parlement, et revu par Irène Kumar.*

## School Library Chapter

Submitted by Douglas Willford

Photos were to accompany the article on page 23 of the January Newsletter "School Library Chapter – News and Updates".

Pictures were taken at the School Chapter panel workshop held in the Niagara Regional Police Office Community Room on Nov 22, 2006.

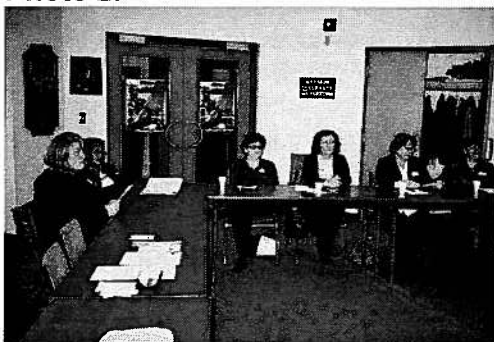
**Photo 1:**



**Panel Members (L to R):**

Francine Latcham Niagara Catholic DSB; Vlda Slack, DSB of Niagara; Joan Goodram, DSB of Niagara

**Photo 2:**



**Panel Members (L to R):**

Robin Harding, Grand Erie DSB; Rosanna Lorenzana, Grand Erie DSB; Mary Lacroix, Niagara Catholic DSB; Fran Longo, Niagara Catholic DSB; Annabell Burbridge, Niagara Catholic DSB; Jo Anne Teeuwsen, Town of Pelham Public Library.

**Photo 3:**



**Panel Members (L to R):**

Vlda Slack, Don Reilly Resource Centre, DSB of Niagara; Joan Goodram, DSB of Niagara; Francine Latcham Niagara Catholic DSB; Joanna Zalewa, Niagara Catholic DSB.

## Be Inspired!

Submitted by Pam Casey

I became a full-fledged technician in June 1996 Shortly after that I got involved on the executive and never looked back. I have made some great relationships and networked with other library staff from other associations. I did a presentation at a COLT conference on why should I volunteer and I got some really good discussion going there.

Let it be said that the time that I spent on the exec of OALT/ABO was the cornerstone of where I am today. Being President-Elect and President is not as scary as it seems and the rewards are endless. The positions that I held are on my resume and my current employer values my involvement.

I hope this and the other messages of OALT/ABO presidents inspires someone to take the leap.

Pam Casey

Past-President , OALT/ABO

President, SLA-Toronto

### Social Networking Websites and Teens: An Overview

A social networking site is an online place where a user can create a profile and build a personal network that connects him or her to other users. In the past five years, such sites have rocketed from a niche activity into a phenomenon that engages tens of millions of internet users. More than half (55%) of all online American youths ages 12-17 use online social networking sites, according to a new national survey of teenagers conducted by the Pew Internet & American Life Project.

The survey also finds that older teens, particularly girls, are more likely to use these sites. For girls, social networking sites are primarily places to reinforce pre-existing friendships; for boys, the networks also provide opportunities for flirting and making new friends.

#### View PDF of Report

[http://www.pewinternet.org/pdfs/PIP\\_SNS\\_Data\\_Memo\\_Jan\\_2007.pdf](http://www.pewinternet.org/pdfs/PIP_SNS_Data_Memo_Jan_2007.pdf)

# Library Numbers

## Three Books You Should Know About

By Maggie Weaver

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From 2002 to 2005 U of T's Professional Learning Centre offered my one-day workshop called "The ABC of Library Numbers: How Accounts, Budgets and Cost centres help you to manage". The course hasn't been offered recently, but here are some books that will help you cope with library numbers.

*Duncan J. McKay*

### **Effective Financial Planning for Library & Information Services**

*Aslib Know How Guide*

*Europa Publications, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 2003*

This short guide provides a basic overview of the major areas of financial management. About one third of the guide is on budgeting, then two shorter sections on costing and on financial reporting, covering bookkeeping, accounting, budget variances etc. There's also a useful discussion of the access vs. purchase decision.

*Alice Sizer Warner*

### **Owning Your Numbers – An Introduction to Budgeting for Special Libraries**

*A Self-Study Program*

*Special Libraries Association, 1992*

Though this is out of print, it is still worth making the effort to locate a copy. It's "a beginner's workbook for special librarians who...hope to become more effective fiscal managers." It provides an opportunity to practice using numbers, and to suggest what questions to ask when faced with a real money question. Essentially, it's about budgeting: estimating, relating the library budget to the parent organization, various budget types, profit vs. non-profit, cash vs. accrual methods (very important when you can't spend all the journals money before the end of the calendar year), standards and statistics. And there are very practical sections for when you use the budget: when making budget presentation, dealing with budget cuts, charging back to users, and even building a budget for a new library.

"Owning your numbers" means knowing how to talk about numbers, about money, easily and well. Most special libraries exist in atmospheres where numbers count, where decisions are based on numbers.

Once you own your numbers, they can be *used*, not simply to report on the activities of the library, but also to promote the *value* the library brings to the organization or community.

*Joseph R. Matthews*

### **The Bottom Line – Determining and Communicating the Value of the Special Library**

*Libraries Unlimited, 2002*

Knowing the "value" of anything means we have to be able to measure it, so this guide is mostly about evaluating library services: standard ways to measure inputs (and this where your budget comes in), processes (this is where costing is important), and outputs (e.g. customer satisfaction measures). There are chapters on determining the impact of a special library, and on developing a "balanced scorecard" for the library, a recent approach that adds some measures of the future to the accounting statements that imply measure the past. Communicating this value is the subject of the final brief chapter.

Really this last step, communicating the value, is about marketing yourself and your library to management.

Recently I gave a short presentation "Making the Business Case" at library association meetings in Vancouver, Alberta, Winnipeg and Ottawa. Unlike the three books above, my presentation didn't include any numbers at all! It covered who will tell you which numbers to collect, where to get the numbers from, how to make the numbers tell the value story, and finally how to make a convincing presentation.

The numbers are important, and the effort you have to go through each budget round pays off when you use them to communicate to management the value of your services.

# Learning Through Distance Education Courses

By Catherine Glynn

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After high school and college, I worked in hopes of attending university full-time the following year. Plans changed and instead evening classes at Seneca and York were in my future. After working all day, having no dinner, taking two buses to get to class, sitting through lectures and then taking two more buses to get home, I knew night school was not for me.

Distance education courses were the answer, since they would allow me to continue studying at my own pace. Part of the registration process included obtaining transcripts from other schools I attended. Most universities or colleges give advanced standing for previous studies.

The first course I took via distance education was psychology through the University of Waterloo. Twenty cassettes, one textbook, lecture notes and a study guide arrived by mail. Initially, I felt overwhelmed going through the package, and I wondered how the work would ever get done. I even took the course materials with me on my honeymoon because there were biweekly assignments that I had to submit.

After psychology, I took an amazing sociology class with a wonderful instructor. Everything was perfect when I became pregnant and moved house again. I received a "C" on my major assignment. The professor offered to let me rewrite my essay, which was ironically about lifestyle changes. Despite his offer, I never resubmitted the assignment. During the exam, horrible morning sickness overwhelmed me but I persevered and finished the test.

After taking a break from school following the birth of my new daughter, first year English was on the agenda. Putting the baby to bed, I would put on a tape and study. My professor had a monotone voice and some nights I fell asleep. Rewinding the tape, I would discover I had dozed off at the beginning and had the whole lesson to do again.

Along the way, my son was born and I returned to work. Correspondence courses allowed me to take time off and return to studies when it suited me. There is usually no time limit to complete undergraduate degrees.

Finals for correspondence students are held one month after the university students have their exams on-campus. Students are given due dates for assignments and exams at the beginning of every semester. When I asked for time off to take the children's literature test, my boss was not delighted. Exam day, I was too ill to write. The university required a doctor's note and my taking a make-up test, which I completed later, and had proctored by a friend who is a high school teacher.

After going to private industry to work, I directed my efforts towards my job, not my studies. On the eve of my fortieth birthday, I decided to quit my job and return to library work. Mohawk College offered a reference course that would "refresh" my skills.

At the same time, I had to attend a three day conference for my volunteer work. Feeling divided, I approached the instructor of my course who told me to not miss this opportunity, and granted me an extension for the first assignment which meant catching up later.

This course was unlike anything I had taken previously. We had online chat with the teacher and emailed our assignments. One 14 page assignment was deleted as I was submitting it through email and 45 minutes later, the work was retrieved. My classmates and teacher shared so much of themselves through the online component. This was the first time I felt connected to my course.

Assignments were due every other Sunday night. My schedule was down pat. Fridays were my day off. In the morning, my kids went on the school bus and by the time they came home, my coursework was done. I worked at the library on Saturday and proofread the paper on Sunday.

For a first experience with online education, Mohawk was ideal. Another co-worker finished her library technician diploma through their courses. In addition, Mohawk tried to offer subjects that students needed. For example, when the college introduced a school libraries course, they asked current students for their input.

Con't on p. 14

## Learning Through Distance Education Courses

### By Catherine Glynn (con't)

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Two students recommended University of Athabasca for another course when I had problems making a registration deadline for University of Waterloo. Athabasca students choose when they would like to start and are expected to finish the course within in six months. The school was accredited which meant students could transfer credits between institutions. Students also had the option to complete three credits before having to submit transcripts.

Unfortunately, illness caused me to withdraw early from the course, but there was no academic penalty for doing so. This was a tough decision because I had an "A" again. Even though I had the option of purchasing a time extension, I still could not have completed the course.

Here are some final thoughts about why distance courses suit me. I work well independently and am diligent about following a schedule. One very important factor is my success with correspondence course was my supportive family. Yes, there were complaints about frozen dinners when assignments were due but I was there to help my kids with homework and tuck them into bed. They also knew that mom was a student just like them.

Another major consideration was that both my husband and I worked shifts. In addition, sometimes we have only had one car. We live in York Region where taking buses to university on a good day could be an hour and half each way. Also, by attending classes in person, we would have had the expense of a babysitter.

Over the years, other obligations overshadowed my need to be a student including volunteering regularly in my school community for over 18 years and being very involved with my kids and their activities.

Last year, my husband had major surgery in June, so an online winter course from ALA was the answer. I loved being the only Canadian in the class. The course, "Teens and Technology", gave me the idea to use a blog for our teen summer reading program.

Finally, continuing my education is important. Correspondence courses fit into my lifestyle and allow me the chance to grow and learn. Just writing this piece has left me thinking about searching again for another online adventure. I wonder what I'll take next.

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*Catherine Glynn is the Teen Services Assistant at Angus Glen Library, a branch of the Markham Public Libraries.*

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## OZone: Digital Preservation

A collaboration between the Ontario Legislative Library and the Ontario Council of University Libraries' Scholar's Portal has resulted in the Legislative Library's Ontario government documents collection now being available through OZone. This collection is also accessible through the Legislative Library catalogue. The OZone partnership and database will help to ensure the digital preservation of these materials for the long term, create a permanent url for the documents, and housing multiple copies in these two locations will help keep the collection safe (LOCKSS). The OZone database has about 300 files now, and it is expected to be fully populated with 13,000 files in the next few months. The collection contains Ontario government monographs; serials and other restricted access documents are not included. Ontario government documents will continue to be added to the OZone collection by the Legislative Library on a monthly basis. It is worth noting that searching the Library's catalogue will continue to give you access to the most currently archived titles (i.e. within the month).

OZone: <https://ospace.scholarsportal.info/>

*Christopher Evans, Commercial Acquisitions Technician  
Information Resources Branch, Legislative Library of Ontario*

## CLA News

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This year, CLA's annual conference will be in St John's Newfoundland, May 23-26. Actually it's a joint conference with the Atlantic Provinces Library Association (APLA) and the Newfoundland Library Association (NLLA). The theme is *Retain - Recruit - Restructure: Regenerating the Library Community*, in response to the 8Rs study regarding the predicted shortages of library-trained professionals in the not too distant future.

The conference program is available online: [www.cla.ca/conference/2007/preliminary\\_program2007\\_1.pdf](http://www.cla.ca/conference/2007/preliminary_program2007_1.pdf)

As usual, CLA has a call out for volunteers, who will be needed to help with registration, hospitality, public relations, the JobLink Centre, author book signings and social events. If you're planning to attend the conference, but don't know anyone, this is a great way to get involved, and meet library workers from across Canada [www.cla.ca/conference/2007/CLA\\_volunteer\\_form.pdf](http://www.cla.ca/conference/2007/CLA_volunteer_form.pdf)

Win a trip to the CLA conference! The contest is open to all students registered in, or recently graduated from, a Canadian library school, a library technician program, an information science program, or faculty of education library program. Registered students may be full or part time; graduates should have completed their studies within one year of the competition's closing date of March 31, 2007. Articles submitted must be written while the student is enrolled in a program of study, or within one year of graduation. For more information click here: [www.cla.ca/awards/student.htm](http://www.cla.ca/awards/student.htm)

And for your summer reading program....

Each year, the The Writers' Union of Canada (TWUC) Library & Curriculum Committee compiles a list of Canadian authored children's books that fits in with the national summer reading theme. This year's theme is *Lost Worlds*. The link to this year's listing is [docs.ooole.com/Doc?id=dd3wifb\\_9c5vdbn](http://docs.ooole.com/Doc?id=dd3wifb_9c5vdbn)

## 2007 Presidential Award Winner shares her OALT/ABO Experiences

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As another Past President, I thought I should add my two cents worth. I am a graduate of the Library Techniques Program at Seneca College (1972). That is really dating myself. I became involved with OALT/ABO, as part of the TALTA Executive in 1975. I took a break from the Association for a few years but rejoined in 1981, and I have not looked back since. I worked on the Standards Committee and was part of the TALTA Conference Committee in 1991.

In 1993 I decided it was time to become involved in the Provincial Executive, and took on the position of Secretary. I held that position for two years, and then, because no one else was willing to stand I agreed to become Vice President. I have to admit it was a scary thought, because I wasn't sure I was up for it, but I never regretted for one minute that I stepped forward. I held the position of President for 2 years, and then the position of Ex-Officio for 2 years - it was the best time of my life!

I have made some wonderful friends, learned some very valuable skills, and I continue to let students know the value of being a member of our Association, and the value of becoming involved in the Association. As you might have read in the last newsletter, I am not presently working in a library, but working as the Information Coordinator on the MOST Project, for the Ontario Ministry of Finance. Not only was I able to transfer my library skills to the position, I was also able to use all of the skills I learned by being President of the Association, including great negotiating skills.

I would recommend the position to anyone. Please consider your involvement. I am sure you will be glad you did.

Penni Chalk,  
Past President, 1996/97, 1997/98  
Presidential Award Winner 2007

<p>"The secret of health for both mind and body is not to mourn for the past, worry about the future, or anticipate troubles but to live in the present moment wisely and earnestly." -Buddha</p>
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## SENIORS HEALTH RESEARCH TRANSFER NETWORK

Linking Caregivers, Researchers & Policy Makers

Kathryn Moore has joined the Baycrest Staff Library a teaching hospital affiliated with the University of Toronto as part of the Seniors Health Research Transfer Network (SHRTN). SHRTN is funded in part by the Province of Ontario. It aims to improve the healthcare of seniors by fostering innovation at the local level; building on the strength of community-based bodies; and connecting people to support knowledge exchange and practice improvement.

The exchange of knowledge is facilitated in a variety of vehicles such as face-to-face meetings, teleconferences with partners, on-line collaborative tools, library services, as well as more formal organizational approaches to knowledge exchange such as a Community of Practice (CoPs).

We have four libraries within our network located in Toronto, Ottawa, Hamilton and Waterloo/Wellington. Our toll free 1-866-393-4877 number allows us to cover questions generated from clients anywhere in Ontario. The library service is free to all caregivers / frontline staff across Ontario. Over the next few years the network hopes to expand the number of host libraries and Information Specialists available to support clientele throughout the province.

There are currently 13 Communities of Practice's within SHRTN. An Information Specialist from the four libraries is assigned to each one to assist the members with their information needs.

Our mandate as Information Specialists is to build the relationships with the formal seniors' care providers. This is accomplished by providing reference services, customized education and training, the development of evidence-based tools and helping the members within the network connect and collaborate.

I am excited about this opportunity as it allows me as a Library and Information Technician to combine traditional library services with customized training and education sessions for my clients.

For more information about the network please visit our website at [SHRTN.ON.CA](http://SHRTN.ON.CA)

Kathryn Moore  
[shtrnlib@baycrest.org](mailto:shtrnlib@baycrest.org)

### "Volunteers"

Many will be shocked to find, When the day of judgement nears,  
That there's a special place in Heaven, Set aside for volunteers.

Furnished with big recliners, Satin Couches and footstools,  
Where there are no committee chairmen, Nor yard sale or rest area coffee to serve.

No library duty or bulletin assembly, There will be nothing to print and staple.  
Not one thing to fold and mail, Telephone lists will be outlawed.

But a finger snap will bring, Cool drinks and gourmet dinners, And rare treats fit for a king.  
You ask, "Who'll serve these privileged few, And work for all they're worth?"

Why, all those who reaped the benefits, And not once volunteered on Earth.

- Anonymous

# A Day in the Life of a Law Library Technician

By Brenda Wong

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Previously I have worked for one of the top five law firms in Vancouver. At one time Fasken, Martineau & DuMoulin could boast that it had the largest private law library in Western Canada. I enjoyed the demanding pace in the 4-person library.

My mornings started off with looseleaf filing and serials check in. Before I worked at Fasken, I did not realize books were published as a main work with periodical updates. These updates were looseleaf pages. Why update with looseleaf pages? The law can change quickly, and in this way, lawyers received more current information than merely with hardcover bound volumes. Later I found that the cost of the updates were substantial.

Serials check in took a lot of time as the library subscribed to many looseleaf books, law reports, and other journals. Recording the issue information was a labour intensive task, but ultimately worthwhile as library staff could pull up detailed information about when a volume was received. Law reports typically are published as paperback parts that become superceded once the hardcover cumulative volume is published.

Fasken used DB/Textworks for its serials database. Occasionally I claimed missed issues or missing pages from updates. Pages went missing or astray more often than one thought. One innovation was the advent of case summaries from law reports moving to PDF format. Librarians everywhere were pleased, when legal publishers pushed out PDFs of law report case summaries. In the bad old days, mountains of paper were generated with routing case summaries and other table of contents.

Now the lawyers were reading summaries on their computer screen reducing the need to print multiple copies. Another advantage was storing PDFs on the library intranet for another access point. I worked with the senior library technician as we developed a web page complete with inline frames.

Invoicing or entering invoice information in the library software was also a major responsibility of mine. In smaller libraries, the library technician might just check the invoice against what was received and send invoices to accounting. In other law libraries, I have prepared monthly reports from invoice data in spreadsheet format. This was not the best process as sometimes it was difficult to sort the information. At Fasken, however, the detailed invoice records meant that the library manager received detailed reports back from accounting in order to track expenses.

As a junior library technician I answered directional reference questions, but occasionally I handled a reference desk shift. Then I would be asked tougher questions like which is the most authoritative textbook on torts. In this case, I deferred the question to the reference librarian who could speak about the differences in how textbooks were organized.

The library at Fasken was fortunate to have major Canadian city telephone directories. They came in handy for finding phone numbers for businesses. Missing phone numbers or confirming addresses were fairly standard questions.

There was never a dull day in a law library. Much of the work is routine, but there was always a curve ball thrown at you. I truly enjoyed my work in law libraries and met some interesting people along the way.

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*Brenda Wong has worked as a library technician for 10 years in Vancouver and Winnipeg. She has worked in law, government and science libraries. Currently she is a member of Special Library Association and the Ontario Association of Library Technicians.*

# Outreach to Those in Need

By Adriana Sgro

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Some library services and programs offered in public libraries are fairly standard – the reference desk, reader's advisory, even children's story-time. But one branch of the library that often gets forgotten or goes unnoticed is outreach services. When it comes to budget cuts, this is the branch of the library that often suffers the most.

And that is a crying shame.

As part of the Library and Information Technician Program at Seneca College, I spent two weeks with the Mobile Library Services Department at the Toronto Public Library, which is located at North York Central Library. Although I admittedly didn't know much about the service until my placement, I learned that the department is responsible for four outreach services: the Bookmobile, Home Library Services, deposit collections and institutional services (Sunnybrook & Women's College Hospital, Bridgepoint Health Centre and Toronto Rehab Institute). Their annual circulation is over 700,000 – roughly the same size as a medium-sized library branch. Home Library Services alone deliver library items to over 1300 patrons each month. With such numbers, it is obvious that the need in the community is there, yet justification of the department's existence is constant.

Most of us take access to the public library for granted. As soon as you finish reading a book, you can go to your neighbourhood library branch and take out another with little hassle. But suppose there is no library branch nearby. Or you are confined to your home for months with an illness or a physical ailment. Does this mean you are cut off from the library?

At the Toronto Public Library, the Bookmobile is designed to service those segments of the city that do not have easy access to a library branch. In addition to the elderly with limited mobility issues, there are a number of others that take advantage of this unique service, including children and newcomers. Eventually, perhaps if the demand in that area is strong enough, then plans to build a branch library may appear on the agenda. Until then, this

mobile unit is the only access to library materials these citizens of the city have. During my two-week tenure, there were a few days when the Bookmobile was cancelled due to inclement weather. This was very difficult for those patrons who rely on the service. I understood that for some, there are very few options and the library service is a life line to the rest of the world.

Along with the Bookmobile, there is Home Library Services. I accompanied the drivers on a number of deliveries. It was exhausting and physically demanding, but very rewarding. It isn't until you visit those who are homebound that you understand how important the service is to them. Many of them are legally blind or with severe visual impairments, and rely on the delivery of talking books. Others can't get around, and look forward to that monthly visit when they receive new materials that will keep them busy until the next visit. A number of these patrons live alone, and it is not unusual for them to ask to change a light bulb or take their garbage out. And the library workers are always willing to oblige, often going beyond their job descriptions to help a patron in need.

As a library technician, I am bound by the ethical duty to service the patron's right to information. For a public library, there is an obligation to serve the needs of the community. In the case of the Mobile Library Services at TPL, that means bringing that access to the patron when the patron can't get to the library. Although the outreach services are often not up there in prominence with other services and programs in the public library, I believe that it holds a valuable position in the overall mandate of any public library system. My time with the Mobile Library Services was a very educational experience – it reminded me of why I decided on library services in the first place.

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*Adriana Sgro is a LIT student at Seneca and a member of OALT/ABO.*

# Halton Peel Chapter Updates

Submitted by Halton Peel Executive

**Super Saturday** was our first event of 2007. In previous years, Super Saturday was always held in mid-January. We decided that for this year we would try holding it a month later in an effort to allow everyone to get over the post-Christmas and pre-OLA Conference frenzy that January always seems to deliver on. By all accounts, Super Saturday 2007 held on February 17<sup>th</sup> was a great success! Over 20 members joined us on a chilly Saturday morning at the Hilton Garden in Mississauga. The room offered at the Hilton Garden was really bright and roomy and comfortable to be in. It must be said, this was the best continental breakfast and coffee service that I have seen in a while. The location was modern, very easy to find and had plenty of parking. After the registration (chat, cheque and a coffee) was complete, we were ready to start the day.

H-P chapter president Kate Morrison was the first presenter of the morning and handled the introduction and brief chapter news flash. She presented an interesting overview of popular communication technologies collectively referred to Web2.0. We covered such social tools as Blogs, Instant Messaging clients, social communities, My Space, Second Life, collaboration spaces and the sort. It was really informative and presented in a manner that was very well suited to our audience. Members in attendance were welcome to ask questions and comment throughout the session. There was a fair bit of discussion around topics concerning generation gaps and these new social tools, the potential for misinformation and self-correcting within the Wikipedia community. A bit of discussion surrounding a new era of communication where MSN Messenger-like software will eventually incorporate phone, fax, TV and even e-mail to morph into a new standard of communication available on different types of devices.

Our second session was a pleasant twist on the typical author reading. Jeannie McKay from [www.stories-to-heal-the-heart.com](http://www.stories-to-heal-the-heart.com) is an author of live stories in the oral tradition. Due to her sister's love of reading and development of blindness, Jeannie started to read to her. This developed from writing stories specifically for her sister and reading them to her to committing these stories to cassettes and CDs. Jeannie has a web site that tells her story and gives her an avenue of publishing. Her stories do sound familiar and take premises from some popular themes and traditions. The magic is in the oral tradition and the fact that each story gives insight to the heart and mind of the characters beyond what we would naturally conceive with the former work. It is a really interesting twist and I encourage you all to sample it at her site. Visit it! Jeannie came not only to share a few of her stories, but to get us to think about how these stories impact us personally. We were all presented with a small journal and asked three questions.

1. What associations did you make with the story?
2. What for you is the meaning of the story?
3. What did you learn that you didn't know before?

As unlikely as it may sound, just reflecting on the story and answering those questions in the privacy of your own journal does produce some surprising insight. Who doesn't enjoy having a story read to them? That coupled with Jeannie's unique take on familiar themes, her method of story telling, her wonderful personality and soothing voice made for a wonderful session and a refreshing change.

Photo: L to R:  
Christine and Wendy looking  
at the speaker's tapes

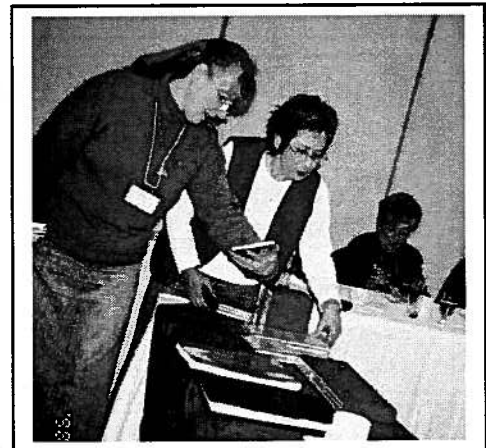


Photo submission by Kate Morrison

# Halton Peel Chapter Updates

Submitted by Halton Peel Executive



The **Halton-Peel Eva Schnurr Award** was presented by Gisela Smithson to our very own Vice-President, Dena Monachino. Gisela commented on Dena's quiet demeanour, but endless service to library service and our own association. Dena is always available to help when needed and we on the H-P Executive want to thank her for your years of service and commitment to the association. Good luck in the coming year Dena!

(photo submission: Kate Morrison)

**June Event:** We would like to invite all members, family and friends to join us at Mohawk Raceway this June 9<sup>th</sup> for our annual June Event. We need numbers, so plan to join us for a fun day at the races! More news will be mailed to Halton-Peel members in April and posted to the website too.

## Final Word

Dear Friends. This evening I attended the Halton-Peel AGM. I am encouraged to announce that HP Vice President Dena Monachino was acclaimed as 2007/08 President. It has been a pleasure serving on the executive for the past two years with Dena and we all wish her much success.

I also must report that Dena presently stands alone. As discussed at tonight's meeting, running HP alone would be impossible in its current form. Unless we name a Treasurer (at least!) by June, the exec will begin dissolving the chapter this summer. Not a pleasant end to what was a great year. Options and possibilities were discussed, but without a functional exec we cannot continue.

We have one more planned event. The VP's June Event will be at Mohawk Raceway June 9th. The JE is always 100% fun. We are already taking reservations and I would love to fill the room. It would be nice to see a lot of the familiar faces and all of Halton-Peel's friends. Look online and RSVP now.

We had some fantastic events and it would be my hope that we could keep something going. Conference is coming and June is just around the corner then. I'm hedging my bets that we can bounce some ideas off each other in between races and figure this out!

Sean Crowe@hotmail.com

## Thinking Outside the Box

Imagine this...

You are driving along in your car on a wild, stormy night. It's raining heavily when suddenly you pass by a bus stop, and you see three people waiting for a bus:

1. An old lady who looks as if she is about to die.
2. An old friend who once saved your life.
3. The perfect partner you have been dreaming about.

Which one would you choose to offer a ride to, knowing very well that there could only be one passenger in your car? Think before you continue reading...

Continued on p. 21

## **Mohawk College Updates**

Submitted by Dolores Harmes Penner

Greetings to OALT/ABO members! This message is to let you know that there are a number of courses being offered in the online library technician program from Mohawk College this summer.

They are as follows:

LIBRLT110 Introduction to Libraries and the Information Industry  
INFOLT390 Personal Computer Support  
INFOLT402 Electronic Publishing  
LIBRLT220 Information Work I  
LIBRLT425 Information Work III  
LIBRLT435 Client Services  
LIBRLT302 Descriptive and Access Cataloguing I  
LIBRLT305 Descriptive and Access Cataloguing II  
INFOLT340 Database Design for Information Workers  
LIBRLT350 Acquisitions  
MGMT10041 Library Financial Management and Budgeting  
LIBRLT375 School Libraries  
LIBRRM103 Archives

Courses begin on May 11 and end on August 17, 2007. Registration for these courses opened in early March.

Those who have graduate from a library technician program are considered to have met the prerequisite course requirements for any of these courses. These courses work well as professional development for those who would like to update their skills or explore a new topic.

More detailed information is on our web site <http://www.mohawkcollege.ca/cecat/library.html> under "next semester", or feel free to email me at [dolores.harmspenner@mohawkcollege.ca](mailto:dolores.harmspenner@mohawkcollege.ca)

Respectfully submitted,

Dolores Harms Penner  
Program Manager  
Library Technician Program  
Mohawk College

## **Thinking Outside the Box (con't )**

This is a moral/ethical dilemma that was once actually used as part of a job application.

You could pick up the old lady because she is going to die, and thus you should save her first; or you could take the old friend because he once saved your life, and this would be the perfect chance to pay him back.

However, you may never be able to find your perfect mate again.

The candidate who was hired (out of 200 applicants) had no trouble coming up with his answer.

Want to know what his answer was?  
Turn to page 30.

## **\$250 Bursary Established at North Bay Public Library**

The North Bay Public Library Board is pleased to announce the establishment of a \$250.00 bursary available to students enrolling in the Library Technician Diploma Program at a provincially certified community college.

A bursary will be available to one student from each of the six city high schools. The schools eligible to participate are: Chippewa Secondary, West Ferris Secondary, Widdifield Secondary, Algonquin Secondary, St. Joseph-Scollard Hall and Ecole Secondaire Publique Odyssee.

The Public Library welcomes this opportunity to promote the Library Technicians program as a positive career choice and to offer support for North Bay students moving on to post secondary education.

For further information, please contact:  
Paul Walker, C.E.O.  
North Bay Public Library  
[paul.walker@cityofnorthbay.ca](mailto:paul.walker@cityofnorthbay.ca)

Success will not lower its standard to us.  
We must raise our standard to success.

*- Randall R. McBride, Jr.*

## Thunder Bay Chapter

# The Play's the Thing (but More Happens than What Meets the Eye!)

## Tour of Magnus Theatre

By Linda Bukovy

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The smell of the greasepaint, the roar of the crowd." These words transport the reader to the image of live theatre where actors portray lives on a stage for audiences to view and marvel. Written words on a script become live action, lights dim and flare, and costumes and makeup transform an actor of the twenty-first century into a hardened veteran of deadly cold winters, a wide-eyed youth, head full of light sabres and Obi-wan Kenobi, or a rosy-cheeked woman of Slavic origin, proud to wear her multi-coloured babuskas and sing her joy to the world.

Welcome to the world of Magnus Theatre, Thunder Bay's own theatre company that is recognized across Canada. It's housed in a theatre attached to the historic Central Park School, an integral part of the Waverley Park Heritage Conservation District.

On January 31, 2007, OALT/ABO members toured the facility. Led by Magnus Theatre representatives John Cameron, Publicity and Marketing Director, and Ryan Newman, Head Technician, the group went on an engrossing walk through the innards of the theatre, upstairs and down.

Downstairs we viewed dressing rooms, the Green Room and the property area, more familiarly known as the props where everything under the sun is stored. A narrow dark corridor leads to a dead end, right below center stage. Above us, braces and bolts could be removed to let the trap door open, allowing actors on stage to make quick "now you see them, now you don't" exits. Prior to shows, a platform is set up under the trapdoor, preventing the descending actors from hurting themselves. On stage the trap door is nearly indistinguishable from its surroundings.

Up the stairs to the main floor, through the carpentry shop where sets are constructed and then into the wings separated by huge black curtains that seem to stretch at least 25 feet upwards; above this is the fly section where about 25-30 long pipes are suspended 45 feet above stage level.

These support the curtains, lights, scrim screen and backgrounds and is operated by the fly system comprising of an arrangement of pulleys, weights and counterweights that allow a person to raise and lower up to 400 pounds hanging on one pipe without much problem.

What looks real to the audience reveals to be false from behind: brick walls made from boards and plywood and unopenable doors. As we walked through onto the stage it was astonishing to see how close it was to the audience. Two strides out from the stage and the actor steps into the first row. As John said, "There isn't a bad seat in the house!"

Behind and above the audience seating is the booth where magic with lighting and sound is created. A lighting console programs and stores cues needed for the whole show. Sound production is done through computer; like the lighting cues, each cue has a different number and is programmed, then recorded for the show. They can be stored and saved on floppies or CDs.

Off to wardrobe where costumes for each character in each show are developed. Rods holding clothes leap-frog up the walls, while myriad boxes and bins clearly labelled by their contents stack on shelves. Whatever isn't there is sometimes created right from scratch or else the Costumer goes to local thrift stores to scour for finds and then alters them to fit.

Magnus Theatre has a theatre school for budding thespians plus rehearsal rooms for actors to practice and block out their positions upstairs while the main stage is being readied for the performances.

Down a series of stairs back to where we had started. As someone once said, "The play is the thing" but without the actors, set designers and directors, costumers, lighting and sound technicians, and all the talented people in the wings, a play is words. Many kudos to Magnus Theatre for revealing some of the magic of live performance.



**Thunder Bay Chapter**  
**CLICKS**  
**By Donald M. Henderson**

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After a hard weeks work what is more fun than an OALT/ABO workshop first thing Saturday morning? Nothing you say! Well then, you should have been with Thunder Bay Chapter on March 3 2007 when they spent the morning learning the finer points of digital camera usage from Don Pearl. About a dozen of us awoke quickly, camera in hand, when the lecture began and many even remained late in order to pick up a few more pointers. It was a worthy adventure.

Don Pearl grew up with a camera welded to his hand. He began photography at a very early age and eventually was able to profit from his passion. He spent a few years as a photographer and then came to Thunder Bay to manage Black's stores where he witnessed and participated in the change of age from Film to Digital photography. The photography has not changed much. A bad picture is bad no matter what equipment is used. The storage and manipulation of the product is what has changed. However, according to Don we are going full circle, and many people are getting digital prints done at a photo shop rather than using their own computer. Don is now out of the retail business and teaches courses on photography and digital print making at Confederation Collage. We thank him for giving us this workshop at our place and time.

Don began by explaining the differences between film and digital photography. Not unlike libraries the medium is not the message but the content is what matters. As in libraries how you manage the information is not nearly important as preserving the best data in whatever form you find it. We learned that a good picture is produced at the shutter click in very similar ways with both cameras. We also learned the pro's and con's of each version and how each has advantages pertaining to the raw files that are created for processing and printing.

Most of us just want to point and click without messing up the dials and buttons on our camera, but some want to do good deeper work. Don explained about pixels, dots per inch, and resolution so we would be able to

adjust the camera to suit our purpose for each shot. He went on to explain different saving formats, like JPEG and TIFF so that we could also adjust for how we wanted to share each photo. One tip was always to save files with as much data as possible because you can downscale to use a photo for email but you can never go up if you save in down. He recommended high definition or even what are called raw files if possible. You can store a lot of large files for not much money these days.

After a break Don began to explain about the extra features on most camera's and what the little symbols meant that you will find are the same on most makes of cameras. Some have buttons, some have wheel type controls but the red eye fix has a little eye adjacent to some tick mark on all models. Don recommended not to use the red eye setting because most shops and computer programs will delete red eye automatically.

Then Don looked at some of our cameras and it was found that most of the members had the same brand. I don't know what that says about Library Technicians but at this hour in the morning I will choose not to say what is jerking at the tip of my tongue. [I work all midnight shift] Don then showed us some local photography done with digital and there is some wonderful talent around. He finished off with good photo tips and options now available for storage. Full of wonder we thanked Don and then went home for lunch.

### **Bits and Bites:**

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#### **[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)**

Connect with friends from grade school, high school, college or university; family and friends and friends of friends! Don't forget to join the Library Technicians of Canada group set up by Angela.

Do you have a favourite website or tid-bit to share. Send it to the newsletter editor for submission in to the September Newsletter.

# **Insight from a Conference Coordinator**

**By: Melissa Hall, 2007 OALT/ABO Conference Chair**

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Spring is here and that means it is just about time for the 2007 Conference. I know that I am certainly looking forward to it. This will be my third conference, but I knew from the first one that I wanted to continue to attend.

Conference is a great time to meet up with colleagues and meet new friends. It is also a good time to learn something! Many of us like to focus on continuing our education or brush up on the library skills that we already know and this is a wonderful opportunity for that. This year we have included a well-rounded collection of speakers to cover the work aspects as well as some interesting topics to allow us to work on our work-life balance.

The exciting part of planning this conference for me was the fact that I was able to do it almost completely virtually. When I volunteered to be the Conference Chair last May, I was a little apprehensive about the travelling to Toronto once a month, but with a great team in and around Toronto, and with email, I have found that we progressed almost completely on schedule without me having to travel once a month.

Volunteering to be the Conference Chair has been an excellent decision. First of all, it looks really good on my résumé. My employer sees it as a wonderful opportunity to work on my

leadership and teamwork skills and they have been very supportive. I have met some great people, people who I probably would not have had the opportunity work with otherwise.

Since I am a solo library employee, contact with the "outside world" is a must and this has offered that to me.

As Conference Chair, there are a lot of responsibilities but mostly you just have to keep everyone organized and make sure that the Conference gets planned. With a supportive and hard-working committee, the planning gets done, without you even noticing sometimes. And after months of working on the sessions, you get to see the finished product. My major job was to make sure that the programs/registration packages were sent out. Getting positive feedback from the programs has been a great thing and makes you feel like you really accomplished something.

Being Conference Chair is a one-year commitment but it is not a hard year. If you think that you might be interested in volunteering but think that it might be a little daunting, please contact me. I am willing to talk about my experience as Chair.

Hope to see you all at Conference 2007!!!

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## **Library of Parliament project snaps-up City Architectural Award / Le projet de la Bibliothèque du Parlement obtient le prix d'architecture de la ville**

The conservation, rehabilitation and upgrade work on the Library of Parliament by PWGSC has received a top honour from the City of Ottawa. The Ottawa Architectural Conservation Awards recognize excellence in the preservation of the city's architectural heritage. This year, the Library of Parliament received the Award for Excellence in the category of Restoration/Adaptive Use. The fields are defined as "returning a heritage resource to its original form, material and integrity" and also "modification of a heritage resource to contemporary functional standards while retaining its heritage character."

La ville d'Ottawa a décerné un prix prestigieux à TPSGC pour les travaux de conservation, de réhabilitation et de rénovation de la Bibliothèque du Parlement. Les Prix de la conservation de l'architecture d'Ottawa visent à souligner l'excellence dans la préservation du patrimoine architectural de la ville. Cette année, le Prix d'excellence dans la catégorie de la restauration et de l'adaptation a été attribué à la Bibliothèque du Parlement. Par restauration et adaptation, on entend "l'opération consistant à redonner à un édifice à valeur patrimoniale sa forme, ses matériaux et son intégrité initiales" et "l'opération consistant à modifier une ressource patrimoniale en fonction des normes contemporaines, tout en conservant le caractère historique", respectivement.

## **Seneca College Faculty of Continuing Education: LIT Courses**

Submitted by Ann Hersch

The following Seneca College subjects in the Library and Information Technician Diploma Program will be offered in the coming Spring/Summer semester through the Faculty of Continuing Education:

LIT150 - Introducing Libraries  
LIT152 - Library Catalogues and bibliographies  
LIT154 - Basic Library Skills  
LIT164 - Computers in Libraries  
LIT250 - Placement and Work Skills  
LIT254 - Acquisitions  
LIT354 - Subject Collections  
LIT400 - Professional Issues in Libraries and  
LIT462 - Subject Cataloguing and Classification

Other workshops and additional topics being offered are:

LIA225 - Archives - via online access and a new workshop on privacy which is just being created and can be viewed online at our website:

[http://www.senecac.on.ca/parttime/cr-library\\_information\\_systems.html](http://www.senecac.on.ca/parttime/cr-library_information_systems.html)

Registration opens March 26th with classes beginning the week of May 7th.

**Welcome** to the following individuals and institutions that have recently joined or rejoined OALT/ABO. These memberships were received from January 1, 2007 to March 10, 2007.

Rachel Auclair	Maria Buisman
Cathy Dobbs	Sharon Filiatrault
Rosanne giancola	Anne Hogg
Karen Infantino	Amanda Kaldeway
Elizabeth Katz	Jason T. Lambert
Lucy Landolfi	Denise LeBlanc
Shann Leighton	Qionghui Liu
Szu-jung Liu	Suzanne Nelson
Dianne Nickerson	Diana Primucci
Janice Shard	Cyndi Smith
Brian Williams	Brenda Wong

## **Nova Scotia Forms Library Technician Association**

The Nova Scotia Association of Library Technicians is pleased to announce the formation of a new library association for Library Technicians. The purpose of the association is as follows:

- a) To promote a wider understanding, acceptance and advancement of the professional role of the Library Technician in Nova Scotia.
- b) To collaborate with other library associations and other organizations in response to issues that relate to the entire library community.
- c) To encourage and provide continuing education in the field of library technology.
- d) To act as a provincial forum, with effective communication across Nova Scotia, for the exchange of concerns, ideas and activities of library technicians.
- e) To coordinate activities in order to facilitate this exchange of concerns and ideas.

The first executive was elected on March 12th, 2007. The members of the new executive are:

- \* President - Erica Smith
- \* Vice-President - Erin Purcell
- \* Treasurer - Jo-Ann Johnston
- \* Secretary - Patricia Madden

"Today is a historical and exciting day for Library Technicians in Nova Scotia. NSALT intends to advance our profession through active membership, promotion and marketing and partnerships." says Erica Smith, NSALT President.

Nova Scotia Association of Library Technicians  
5 Lakehead Court  
Lower Sackville, NS  
B4C 3V6

# From Library Technician to Librarian: My Story

By: Jennifer Peters-Lise, Metadata & Digital Services Librarian, Seneca College

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I was asked to write this article after presenting this story to a group of, mostly, librarians at a conference this past Fall. At that time I felt like I was preaching to the choir. Now, I am happy to be offering this to a group of, mostly, library technicians. I hope to peak your interest and maybe tempt you a little too.

My journey began as a youth who had no idea what career to pursue after high school. Guidance counselors thought my love of writing would translate well into journalism. Little did they know I was far too laid back to ever be successful in that type of career. After a couple of years, I was in search of a new path.

I took my love of writing to university for an undergraduate degree in English literature. Finally I found the perfect fit for my constitution. I enjoyed this time in my life very much but what to do after graduation? Unfortunately there is little one can do with a Bachelor of Arts these days.

One day I decided to approach a librarian I had befriended at the university library. I asked her about her career: what was it like? what tasks did she do? what skills were required? how much did the position pay?

I was interested in what she told me but was not interested in the required graduate degree. I wanted to get out into the workforce quickly having already been in school for six years post-secondary. I was hoping to marry my fiancé, buy a house and start living a non-student life!

She then told me about the accelerated Library and Information Technician (LIT) program at Seneca College. This sounded better at half the time and half the tuition. The high job placement rates for technicians at that time cemented my decision.

Choosing Seneca turned out to be a very good decision indeed. While in the LIT program, Seneca hired me to cover the reference desk almost every night of the week. Shortly after graduation I was hired full-time at Seneca. Finally I had been granted my wish; I was a member of the workforce! Soon after I was married and bought that house.

Three years into working as a technician, although I thoroughly enjoyed my job, I was looking to go back to school to pursue another career option.

In 2003 I went back to school part-time in the Faculty of Information Studies at the University of Toronto. Three years later I graduated with my Master of Information Studies degree. Four months after graduation I was hired as a librarian at Seneca College.

Although everything worked out well in the end it was definitely no picnic through the process. To complete the degree I attended night classes after working full-time during the day. I hurried through the degree taking some courses I was not interested in so that I could fulfill my degree requirements faster. I knew there was a potential position waiting for me at Seneca so I did not want to dally.

I often compare the process of completing my degree to Kubler-Ross's five stages of grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. The denial came before I started the degree because I thought it would be easy as it was only a couple of nights per week. I was completely fooling myself.

My first year I experienced anger and depression. I suddenly had no life and was not having any fun. All my free time was consumed by research, reading and writing. I would spend eight to nine hours a day on weekends doing nothing but homework. Commuting downtown from north of Richmond Hill did nothing to improve my state-of-mind. I bargained with myself promising shopping trips or dinners out if I finished an assignment.

It was during my second and third year that I started to experience acceptance of my situation and truly started to enjoy myself. I realized that I was wasting this opportunity of being downtown with all these great shops and restaurants by wallowing in my own self-pity. Many of the part-time students in the program started to form a support network which gave me great comfort. I also started to attend some day classes which did wonders for my mental health.

Continued on p. 27

# Mr. Antanas Sileika: Guest Author at "Equi-Libra"

By: Annette Desrosiers

The book club chapter is pleased to have as its guest author for the OALT/ABO 2007 Annual Conference, Mr. Antanas Sileika.

Antanas Sileika's lifelong love of books has led him to write a novel while working as a parking lot attendant in his youth, co-editing the Canadian literary journal, *Descant*, for nine years, and reviewing books for radio, television, and newspapers. He was a freelance writer of newspaper and magazine articles, for one hour the translator for Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, and a political commentator during the collapse of the Soviet Union, for which the Lithuanian government awarded him a Knight's Cross, the equivalent of the Order of Canada. At Humber College since 1979, he has been a teacher of ESL, English, and Creative Writing, and is now the Director of the Humber School for Writers.

Antanas Sileika's first book was *Dinner at the End of the World* (1994), this was followed by a collection of linked stories about the ethnic suburbs of the fifties, called *Buying on Time* (1997), which was nominated for the Leacock Medal for Humour and the City of Toronto Book Award. His most recent novel, *Woman in Bronze*, deals with artists in Paris in the twenties. It was a Globe Best book of 2004. He is currently working on a novel about anti-Soviet partisans in Eastern Europe after WW2, tentatively called *Underground*.

"*Woman in Bronze*" is the Book Club Chapter's May reading selection. In this novel the Ontario-raised author turns to his Lithuanian roots. The novel tells the story of Tomas Stumbras a Lithuanian carver during World War I. He is caught between the destruction around him and his creativity. He leaves Lithuania for Paris and along the way meets some interesting characters.

Volunteers are not paid not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.

- Anonymous

Here are some reviews about "*Woman in Bronze*":

The novel, written in a deceptively easy prose, is superbly told, and Sileika is a keen dramatist."

—*The Globe and Mail*

"Fuses rich storytelling with a palate of mixed historical and fictional characters that results in a book dripping in both its sights and sounds as well as the intricacies between the character's relationships. Antanas Sileika carves a superb tale of one man's drive through continuous obstacles of heartbreaking struggles and emotional triumphs, taking the reader along for the memorable ride." —*Calgary Herald*

"A jazz-age *La Bohème* with a plot featuring the usual operatic subjects: illicit passions, jealous rages, tumultuous crowd scenes, tormented artists, dramatic reversals of fortune and lots of dead bodies. The lights, the promise, the debauchery and the virile young talent so essential to Paris in the '20s are all on display... Its evocation of a bygone era, the story's tragic sweep, and the kind of high romanticism that sees the hero turn away from his moment of triumph — have a grandiosity and pathos any verismo composer would love."

—*The Vancouver Sun*

I hope you can join us for this session that should prove to be both entertaining and enlightening.

Annette Desrosiers

Book Club Chapter Convener

## From Library Technician to Librarian: My Story By: Jennifer Peters-Lise (con't)

What advice would I give technicians thinking of a Master's degree? Do some exploring of the MLS program, and ask for advice from the librarians you work with or know to see if this is something you truly would be interested in. The roles of a technician and librarian are very different and one may suit you better than the other.

# Book Club Chapter: 2007-2008 Book Titles

Submitted by: Annette Desrosiers, Chair, Book Club Chapter

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Want to have some fun online? Join the Book Club Chapter and get blogging! Here's the list of next year's books:

**1. Burden of Desire**  
**by Robert MacNeil**

The whirlwind of World War I and the Halifax explosion provides the canvas on which a vivid love triangle is played out in the first novel by the bestselling author of "The Story of English" and former half of the MacNeil Lehrer Report. When a clergyman discovers the sexually explicit diary of a young woman, he and a friend are swept into a vortex of conflicting emotions as they try to discover her identity.

**2. The Girl at the Lion d'Or**  
**by Sebastian Faulks**

A beautifully controlled and powerful story of love and conscience, will and desire which begins when a mysterious young girl arrives to take up the post at the seedy Hotel du Lion d'Or in a small French town in the mid 1930s.

**3. Bombay time**  
**by Thrity Umrigar**

The middle-class denizens of a Bombay apartment complex come to life in Umrigar's engaging debut, which tells the story of a half-dozen protagonists through the prism of a wedding hosted by respected lawyer Jimmy Kanga. Kanga's rise to glory is just one of several intriguing subplots. The novel begins with the story of Rusi and Coomi Bilimoria, a couple whose marriage becomes frayed when Rusi's business plans don't match his expectations and Coomi's mother-in-law turns out to be a live-in nightmare. The neighborhood drunk, Adi Patel, also has a tale to tell involving a tragic interlude with the daughter of a labourer that effectively ruins his life, and the widow Tehmi Engineer takes an analogous road to ruin when her handsome husband, Cyrus, is killed in an explosion at a chemical plant.

**4. The Poisonwood Bible**  
**by Barbara Kingsolver**

An evangelical Baptist Minister takes his wife, four daughters and his mission from a small town in Georgia to the Belgian Congo in 1959, where he discovers that everything from garden seeds to Scripture is transformed on African soil. This is a tale of one family's tragic undoing and remarkable reconstruction over the course of three decades in post-colonial Africa.

**5. White Oleander**  
**by Janet Fitch**

When Astrid's mother, a beautiful, headstrong poet, murders a former lover and is imprisoned for life, Astrid becomes one of the thousands of foster children in Los Angeles. As she navigates this new reality, Astrid finds strength in her unshakable certainty of her own worth and her unfettered sense of the absurd.

**6. Deafening**  
**by Frances Itani**

At the age of five, Grania from smalltown Ontario emerges from a bout of scarlet fever profoundly deaf and is suddenly sealed off from the world that was just beginning to open for her. Grania's saving grace is her grandmother Mamo, who tries to teach Grania to read and speak again. When it becomes clear that she can no longer thrive in the world of the hearing, her family sends her to live at the Ontario School for the Deaf in Belleville, where, she learns sign language and speech." After graduation Grania stays on to work at the school, and it is there that she meets Jim Lloyd, and marries him. Two weeks after their wedding, Jim leaves to serve as a stretcher bearer during World War I.

**7. Stanley Park**  
**by Timothy Taylor**

Jeremy Papier, a Vancouver chef divides chefs into two types: the transnational Crips, who mix, say, Chilean farm-bred salmon and kimchi, without compunction; and Bloods, who are purists, stubbornly local in their food choices. Along with his friend Jules Capelli, another Blood, Jeremy runs the Monkey's Paw Bistro, making meals from mostly local ingredients for local foodies. Turning for solace to his father, an anthropologist whose major project is living with the homeless in Stanley Park, Jeremy is reluctantly drawn into his father's work and the investigation of a decades-old mystery involving two children killed in the park.

**8. Guest author at 2008 conference** - Author and work to be determined at a later time. Suggestions are welcome. Please submit to Annette Desrosiers.

# 33 Reasons Libraries and Librarians are Still Extremely Important

(Article reprinted with permission from the author Will Sherman)

Many predict that the digital age will wipe public bookshelves clean, and permanently end the centuries-old era of libraries. Technology's baffling prowess and progress even has one librarian predicting the institution's demise.

He could be right.

But if he is, then the loss will be irreplaceable. As libraries' relevance comes into question, they face an existential crisis at a time they are perhaps needed the most. Despite their perceived obsolescence in the digital age both libraries – and librarians – are irreplaceable for many reasons. 33, in fact. We've listed them here:

1. Not everything is available on the internet
2. Digital libraries are not the internet
3. The internet isn't free
4. The internet complements libraries, but it doesn't replace them
5. School Libraries and Librarians Improve Student Test Scores
6. Digitization Doesn't Mean Destruction
7. In fact, digitization means survival
8. Digitization is going to take a while. A long while.
9. Libraries aren't just books
10. Mobile devices aren't the end of books, or libraries
11. The hype might really just be hype
12. Library attendance isn't falling – it's just more virtual now
13. Like businesses, digital libraries still need human staffing
14. We just can't count on physical libraries disappearing
15. Google Book Search "don't work"
16. Physical libraries can adapt to cultural change
17. Physical libraries are adapting to cultural change
18. Eliminating libraries would cut short an important process of cultural evolution
19. The internet isn't DIY
20. Wisdom of crowds is untrustworthy, because of the tipping point
21. Librarians are the irreplaceable counterparts to web moderators Librarians are the irreplaceable counterparts to web moderators
22. Unlike moderators, librarians must straddle the line between libraries and the internet
23. The internet is a mess
24. The internet is subject to manipulation
25. Libraries' collections employ a well-formulated system of citation
25. It can be hard to isolate concise information on the internet
26. Libraries can preserve the book experience
27. Libraries are stable while the web is transient
28. Libraries can be surprisingly helpful for news collections and archives
29. Not everyone has access to the internet
30. Not everyone can afford books
31. Libraries are a stopgap to anti-intellectualism
32. Old books are valuable

## Conclusion

Society is not ready to abandon the library, and it probably won't ever be. Libraries can adapt to social and technological changes, but they can't be replaced. While libraries are distinct from the internet, librarians are the most suited professionals to guide scholars and citizens toward a better understanding of how to find valuable information online. Indeed, a lot of information is online. But a lot is still on paper. Instead of regarding libraries as obsolete, state and federal governments should increase funding for improved staffing and technology. Rather than lope blindly through the digital age, guided only by the corporate interests of web economics, society should foster a culture of guides and guideposts. Today, more than ever, libraries and librarians are extremely important for the preservation and improvement of our culture.

The full article with explanation for each point can be found at:

<http://www.degreetutor.com/library/adult-continued-education/librarians-needed>



## In Memory:

**Lanah Geraldine Hughes (1918 – 2007)**

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Died peacefully at Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital in the morning of March 19, 2007. Predeceased by her parents, Edith and Raymond Hughes, and her brother Don (Viola). Geraldine is survived by her sisters Kay (Derek, deceased), Doris (Doug), nephews and nieces Jim (Maryanne), Ken (Kathryn), Debbie (Michael), Judy (Brian), Susan, Lisa, Keith (Beverly), Brenda, Colleen (Bill), great-nieces and nephews and great-great-nieces and nephews. Friends will miss her at Knox Presbyterian Church and those around the world, who work with the Initiatives of Change organization. Geraldine grew up in London, Ontario where she taught for a period of time. She then worked as a full-time volunteer for 20 years with the Oxford Group/Moral Re-Armament, now known as Initiatives of Change. She graduated with a Master of Library Science degree from the University of Michigan and was a librarian at Mackinaw College Library. In 1971 she returned to Canada to create and lead a two year diploma in library techniques at the newly opened Sheridan College, Oakville. On her retirement, her students honoured her with an award presented annually in her name. Geraldine was ever curious and engaged with national and international current affairs. She lived a long and full life, rich with friendships carefully tended, summers at her cottage near Goderich, and travelled around the world, including two trips to China. A passionate preserver of family history and story, Gerry pursued genealogical research and assisted in organizing two popular family reunions. Her family is especially grateful to cousins Judy Brown and Grant and Karen Hughes for their loving support of Geraldine in recent years. And we thank Dr. Morris and the dedicated staff at Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital for their care. Family and friends will be received at Knox Presbyterian Church, 89 Dunn Street, Oakville, on Saturday, March 31, 2007 from 10 a.m., followed by a Celebration of Life at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations in Geraldine's memory can be made either to Knox Presbyterian Church, 89 Dunn Street, Oakville, Ontario L6J 3C8 or to Initiatives of Change Canada, 2227-1010 Arbour Lake Road NW, Calgary, Alberta T3G 4Y8

## Condolences:

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*OALT/ABO is saddened to share news of the passing of another valued colleague, a life-time member of Halton-Peel and former Coordinator of the Sheridan College LIT programme.*

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Thank you, Tracy, for passing on this message regarding the passing of Geraldine Hughes. When Sheridan's library technician program closed a few years ago, with Geraldine's permission they arranged to transfer the award to our library technician program at Mohawk College. Since that time we have been awarding it annually to the student with the highest marks in our cataloguing courses. Coincidentally, the award presentation for this year is to be made at a luncheon next Saturday, Mar. 31, at almost the exact same time of the memorial service.

The library world has lost one of its pioneers. Our condolences to the family and friends of Geraldine.

Dolores Harms Penner,  
Program Manager,  
Library & Information Technician Program  
Mohawk College

### Thinking Outside the Box (con't from page 21 )

He simply answered: "I would give the car keys to my old friend and let him take the lady to the hospital. I would stay behind and wait for the bus with the partner of my dreams."

Sometimes, we gain more if we are able to give up our stubborn thought limitations. Never forget to "Think Outside of the Box."

**Pam Casey, CTT+**

## Turning the Page

This new adventure of mine was not totally unexpected but what I did not think was that it would happen in these terms. On March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007 my company announced another restructuring but this time it included me and all of my colleagues at our location. It gave me the push I needed. I did not want to fly out of the nest on my own since I was very comfortable but this time I got kicked out.

I am writing this article on the very first day of my new life. I am now self-employed and an entrepreneur, a President, VP, CFO, etc. of a company. My firm is Information Now. It is still new and I am working out the growing pains but my premise is to provide library services to associations, corporations, and individuals etc that do not have a library or a librarian but require the resources and / or training. As more and more special libraries are closing or are downsized, firms are being caught in the void and need this service. I have decided to use all of my skills and put them to work for me.

So if your firm needs some assistance, please do not hesitate to call.  
My contact information is as follows:

Pam Casey, CTT+  
President, Information Now  
539 Cumberland Avenue  
Burlington ON L7N 2X3  
Information\_Now@canada.com  
905-467-3763

### **Maggie Weaver:**

Maggie has a "new baby"! After 34 years of marriage, Maggie has acquired a "son"! Her nephew George is now living with her and Keith, while he gains real-life experience in his chosen field, international hospitality. At the moment he is working at the CN Tower (going up in the world – and down!), while Maggie is adjusting to the strange time zones that young males operate in, and the vast calorific intake. George arrived just in time to cat-sit while Maggie and Keith had a flying visit to New Zealand for a wedding. They marvelled at the adrenalin junkies bunging-jumping, jet-surfing and para-gliding, but kept their own feet firmly on the ground while viewing fantastic scenery in the area where The Lord of The Rings was filmed, and drinking the mellow pinto noir produced in the tiny Central Otago wineries.

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### **2007-2008 Newsletters**

**will go to print on the following dates:**

September 15 2007  
January 12 2008  
April 15 2008

**Please consider contributing to YOUR newsletter! If we don't talk about what we do, who will?**

**(Deadline for submissions is 15 days prior to the print date – a.k.a. the 1<sup>st</sup> of September, January and April.)**

**"Knowledge is of two kinds. We know a subject ourselves, or we know where we can find information upon it."**

**- Samuel Johnson**

## 2007 Conference Registration

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Some firewalls are preventing people from using the online registration system past the page where you put your contact details.

If this happens to you, you have a couple of options.

1) You can call me at 416-925-5478 and walk me through registering you -- simply my hands on my keyboard instead of yours.

OR

2) you can pull out the relevant pages from the conference package (or download them from the OALT/ABO website [www.oaltabo.on.ca](http://www.oaltabo.on.ca) if you prefer), mark what you want to attend and stuff like accommodation, and fax or mail this "registration form" to Pat Tait, Humber Conference Services, Humber Conference Services - Lakeshore Campus, 3199 Lake Shore Blvd, Toronto, ON M8V 1K8 -- Fax: 416-252-3474

### OALT/ABO'S NEWS ALERTS:

Our Discussion List is hosted with Yahoo! Groups. Please be sure to get yourself signed on so you are kept up-to-date with shared job postings, questions from fellow LTs and recent issues that need immediate action.

**New OALT/ABO Web Site  
soon to be revealed!!**

**Stay tuned as all members  
will be asked for their input  
for content!**

We are lucky to have Conference online registration, but like all technology it has some glitches. But good old-fashioned phone will solve any problems!

So, don't hesitate to call!  
Maggie Weaver 416-925-5478

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