

NewsLETTER NouvELLES

ISSN: 0229-2645 Publication Agreement # 40688591

Volume 33 No. 2 ISSN: 0229-2645 April 2010



Greetings from Your President ~ *Kathryn Suffoletta*

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

By the time you read this message, Spring will have sprung, the Easter Bunny will have hopped out of sight down the bunny trail and the OALT/ABO Annual Conference will be just a few weeks away. The closing activity at our Conference is the Annual Business Meeting where I should be handing over the role of President to the President-Elect and moving into the position of Past President. That's what should happen, but very likely won't as no member offered to take on the position of President-Elect or accepted it when asked. The rejections were polite but firm. So, at the time of writing this message, it's unclear what my role will be.

As I reflect on the past months – almost a year – since I assumed the position as President, I'm grateful for the support I have received from my Executive. As Past President, **Maria** has remained very active on the Executive. She has been a mentor and tried very hard to find a President-Elect to fill the Executive slate. **Shannon** took on the Treasurer position in which she seems very comfortable and is proving to be more than competent. As Membership Coordinator, **Melissa** led the Association through the

pilot Group Membership Project and has introduced efficiencies in the membership renewal process. Unfortunately, she is unable to remain in the Membership position on the Executive and will need to be replaced. Chapter Coordinator **Maggie** has been the voice of reason and experience and, in the absence of a President-Elect, took minutes at our meetings and prepared them for distribution. As Conference Coordinator, **Kate** has led a talented, hard working committee who has planned an outstanding conference. **Donna** travelled a long way south to attend meetings and has efficiently fulfilled the duties of External Communications Coordinator. As Internal Communications Coordinator, **Lisa** manages the Yahoo Discussion Groups and is the leader of the Web Development Team, **Angela** and **Wendy**. She worked with Newsletter Editor **Jenn** on the content of the Newsletters. Lisa is an advocate of increased use of electronic communication within the membership. Last but not least, **Kathi** took over the position of Archivist, not a high profile position but an important one.

Thank you all, you make my job easy.

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There is still some work to be done before my “year” is up. As a group, the Executive is working on revising our position descriptions to reassign some duties and make other minor changes that will reflect how the positions have changed since the current descriptions were written. We’ll be looking for members to fill the vacant positions on the Executive – President–Elect, Membership Coordinator and Newsletter Editor. The Executive will tour the Conference Site and assist Kate and her Committee in any way we can in the final preparations for the big event.

I expect to have an enjoyable time at our Annual Conference in Hamilton. I should feel right at home since I was born and raised there. I look forward to attending workshops, enjoying the great social events and meeting and speaking with many members and potential members. If, as the Conference theme suggests, effort leads to success, then our 37th Annual Conference will be the most successful one yet!



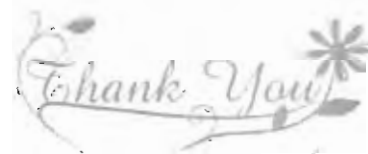
37th Annual Conference/Le 37 jeme conference annuelle
May 6th to 8th, 2010
Mohawk College - Fennell Campus
Hamilton, Ontario



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I have taken over the interim role of newsletter editor as Jenn has moved on from the role for some exciting new things going on in her life. Putting together this newsletter has been an interesting opportunity and I truly appreciate the great work Jenn has done.



Jenn, on the behalf
of the executive and
all the members of
OALT/ABO who

have enjoyed the newsletter,
I would like to thank you for your dedication to the
newsletter since 2007 and wish you the very best on
your future endeavors, including a new book.

Lisa Eschli
Internal Communications Coordinator

Welcome to the 2010 Annual OALT/ABO Conference!

by Kate Morrison

As the Chair of the 2010 OALT/ABO Annual Conference I would like to invite you to Hamilton to the 37th Annual Conference! The whole committee is really excited to have you come and participate in the conference we have planned.

We are going up the Mountain (the Niagara Escarpment in Hamiltonese) to make our Effort => Success/Effort => Succès! We have been planning for a year for this event and certainly hope our effort means your success.

We have an Alumni reception that members can be part of Wednesday night, Ken Roberts as a keynote speaker on Thursday, The Rocky Horror Picture Show on Thursday night (or activities in the Residence if you prefer), tours of a Hamilton Public Library branch that has been open less than a year, Dundurn Castle and the Military Museum on Friday, the Banquet Friday night and the Annual Business Meeting on Saturday. On the learning side there are sessions about topics as diverse as 21st century schools, Ontario 211, how to build a web site, genealogy, library service and First Nation Peoples, personalized learning, technology, career paths for LTs, marketing, one person library, renovations, storytelling, virtual worlds, gaming in libraries, disruption planning, online learning, storytelling, readers advisory, the perennial favourite Philosopher's Café, LT education, self awareness, roundtable on school libraries and school chapter meeting, non profit libraries, and retirement. There's something for everyone! For more information go to the OALT/ABO web site at www.oaltabo.on.ca. On-site registration will be available for full days only.

Mohawk College Residence and Conference Centre is preparing for our stay. The rooms are spacious and there will be both a hospitality suite as well as a movie lounge at our disposal. Chartwells is getting ready to provide for our nourishment needs.

So please join the other members of OALT/ABO to learn, laugh and succeed in Hamilton as we all put our effort into a wonderful 2010 Conference!

I Stepped Up My Passion at OLA Super Conference 2010

by Kathryn Suffoletta

My OLA Conference 2010 began on the preconference day, Wednesday, with a tour of four very different renovated branches of Toronto Public Library. The tour was both interesting and informative, as one of the TPL staff on our bus shared her vast knowledge of the history of the various Toronto neighbourhoods that we passed through, and there were a lot. It was a very long afternoon but so interesting to see innovative products, use of space and trends in display and marketing at each branch.

It was my pleasure again this year to convene a session sponsored by our Association. Pam Casey, President of Information Now and a long time member of OALT/ABO, presented a session entitled "*Do You Have the Skills for Tomorrow's Library Careers?*" It was very well attended and provided a perfect opportunity for me to promote membership in the Library Technician Association and urge the attendees to visit the OALT/ABO display in the Exhibit Hall. Pam spoke about how Library Technician positions are evolving into new specialties and how the terminology of the job titles is changing. Pam showed, through examining some job descriptions, the skills that it would be desirable to obtain in order to perform these new jobs. It was reassuring that skills acquired through the Library Technician course of studies and on the job experience are transferrable and valid for these new types of career positions. If you are feeling sorry that you missed it, I have good news. Pam is offering the session at our Conference in May.

The topic of many of the other sessions that I attended was programming, which for staff in a public library occupies a lot of our time and attention.

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Healthy Baby Tales: A Books for Babies Program With A Healthy Cover was of interest to me since I present the Books for Babies Program at Dorchester Library and we host both a Health Unit clinic and an Ontario Early Years Program, the very partners that are involved in the program discussed in this workshop. It was interesting to hear how the collaboration of the

resources of three partner agencies has led to a very successful program for parents and babies in the Cornwall Public Library.

On Friday afternoon, two delightful young librarians from Oshawa Public Library presented *The Tween Scene: A Year of Programs for 10 – 15 – year – olds*. The twelve programs they spoke about involved a variety of planning time, budget, space and materials preparation and provided some good ideas for the type of programming that appeals to the target age group.

The last session that I attended before lunch on Saturday was *Programming With Older Adults in Mind*. Presenter Allan M. Kleiman outlined the various sub-groups within the category of older adults. The list of suitable topics is almost endless and Allan gave some examples of programs that

work and ones that don't. He was adamant that the programming offered at Senior Centres is not the same as library programs for seniors.

I'm now thinking of topics for programs that will entice the busy seniors in Dorchester to the library.

I managed to fit in a thorough tour of the Exhibit Hall. A couple of signed picture books, posters, a PlayAway in the new packaging, buttons and bookmarks were some of the swag that I picked up along the way.

The key note speakers are always a highlight each day. Romeo Dallaire's inspiring, impassioned speech was a call to action. Waking up early on Saturday morning to hear Susan Aglukark speak and sing was a pleasure.

I'm very lucky that the Middlesex County Library Board supported my attendance at the OLA Conference. I'm grateful for the opportunity for networking, learning and socializing that attendance at the Conference provides.

Kathryn Suffoletta
Supervisor
Dorchester Library (a branch of Middlesex County Library)

Ex Libris News

by Doug Willford

A Mid June wine tour is being planned for Ex Libris members and friends. At the writing of this article the tour is in the planning stages which include the following: Meet at the Niagara-On-The-Lake Public Library for a tour and then head off to tour 3 and possibly 4 wineries. Lunch will also be included at one of the wineries.

If you are interested in joining us please contact Doug Willford @ dwillford@cogeco.ca. Also consider joining Ex Libris. Check out the website at: <http://exlibris.ischool.utoronto.ca/>

Food and Drink – A New Reality

by Adriana Sgro

The coffee counter is bustling with action, as people are lined up to order hot chocolate and choose between a peanut butter or chocolate chip cookie. Others are seated at tables, hammering away at laptops and enjoying a cup of tea. Tucked in an armchair in the corner, someone is reading a book. This is not a scene at Starbucks – this is the neighborhood public library.

Food and drink policies have evolved in public libraries over the past few decades. Challenged by dwindling numbers and shrinking budgets, many public libraries now seek more patron traffic by installing cafes and offering places where folks can meet and converse. This shift in thinking has signaled an end to the entrenched notion that the library is a quiet, staid place where no eatables are allowed. At the public library where I work part-time, some days the main floor resembles more a mall food court than a library.



As public libraries evolve, so too have other types of libraries. My full-time job is at a university library and, in contrast to the public library the university library allows no food on the premise, and beverages must be in non-spill, reusable containers. This policy is obviously in place to

protect our collection from damage and to prevent bugs and other unsightly critters from making the library their home. The problem is most university students have grown up with the new public library model, and are used to being allowed to walk in with their bag of Fritos and a Pepsi can.

Curious to see if my university library's rules of conduct regarding the consumption of food is much different from other university libraries, I recently took a look at 18 random academic libraries across North America and found that only two libraries banned any food and drink. The rest of the libraries, though restrictive as to what kind of food and drink was permitted and in what areas, did allow consumption on the premise.

It has become increasingly problematic to implement the strict food and drink policy at my workplace. Monitoring the library for infractions exponentially increases the chance of coming into conflict with patrons, and I can't think of any working persons – other than Jerry Springer – who seek to engage in battle with their client base. While we have a responsibility to protect our materials, staff members are resentful of being turned into "Library Cops", which never bodes well for morale. Moreover, it is not easy to enforce no eating when there is a Tim Horton's directly across the library's front doors.

If libraries, regardless of what type, want to encourage attendance and create a relaxing and inviting atmosphere, maybe a better solution would be to come up with ways to control where and how patrons could nourish themselves, rather than completely banning patrons from drinking that cappuccino or eating that cruller. There is always a risk of book damage, but isn't the same risk taken every time a book is signed out?



Halton-Peel Super Saturday Review

by Lisa Eschli



From left: Grace Attard and Hellen Buttigieg in front of the e-Spot breakfast bar

As I walked up the steps to e-Spot, the location of Super Saturday in January, I was excited to be attending the 'Power of positive thinking' and 'Organizing' sessions. I appreciate any help I can get on how to be more organized and positive thinking is a topic I could listen to and talk about any day.

e-Spot is beautiful; the hardwood floors, breakfast bar and blackboard wall of people's goals. I felt so welcomed by Grace Attard, creator of e-Spot™. Grace was a dynamic and exciting speaker. Her speech on 'Create the best 2010 ever: 10 tips for 2010' was funny, informative and inspiring. The tip that has stayed in my mind for the last 4 months is "Steer with a clear destination". Her directive to have clarity about where you want to go in life has been part of my inspiration to take the steps towards obtaining my bachelors degree. Thank you Grace for welcoming us into your beautiful and functional space.

I'm sure Hellen Buttigieg, the next Super Saturday speaker, would agree that all space should be both beautiful, functional as well as organized. Her chat about conquering clutter by using your natural learning style was a perfect compliment to Grace's talk. I appreciated Hellen's quick quiz on learning styles; Visual, Auditory and Kinesthetic and how they can be connected to the best organization style for anyone. Until listening to Hellen I did not realize that as a 'Piler' my stacking ways can be translated to organization. Luckily I was able to purchase a copy of Hellen's book "Organizing outside the box" to add to the tips from her presentation.

For lunch we had excellent sandwiches and salads from Artisano Bakery Cafe. Yum!

I went home that afternoon both excited and motivated. I still feel the same way when I think back to that January Super Saturday event. Thanks to Maria Ripley, Tracy Morgan and Vicky Lynham for organizing the Halton-Peel Super Saturday. I can't wait until the next one.



From left: Grace Attard, Doug Willford, Tracy Morgan, Pam Casey enjoying Halton-Peel Super Saturday

Contact your Chapter President, if you want to organize a similar event for your Chapter and would like some support or if you have a great idea for an event in your area.

Conquering Paper Clutter: Piler vs Filer

by Hellen Buttigieg

I was on Steven and Chris yesterday talking about the number one reason clients call me for help: paper clutter. The show airs this Monday, January 25th on CBC, but I thought I would share some of my tips with you in advance.

We are all inundated with paper, now more than ever. And it's no wonder – we get more mail in a week than our grandparents got in a year. But there is an easy solution. The key to conquering your paper clutter once and for all is to use a system that fits your natural way of doing things.

You are either a filer or a piler. Filers prefer to keep their papers upright, while pilers like to stack them. Pilers tend to have messier offices but claim they know exactly where everything is within the piles. On the other hand, filers tend to have neater looking offices but seem to accumulate more paperwork and access it less frequently than pilers. One type is no better than the other. Even though pilers may look messier, it doesn't mean they are less organized or less productive than filers.

If you want your organizing systems to work over the long term, it's important to use the right organizing products for your filer/piler preference.

Here's what I suggest:

Piler:

What's most effective for you are products that keep your papers sorted in categories yet still laying flat. Here are some examples:

- * Stacking letter trays; label them: 'in', 'out' and 'file'; or use for bills to be paid or school forms to be filled out
- * Shallow baskets or bins; label them with each child's name and put school projects/artwork; label one 'articles' and tear the articles you want to read from magazines, store memorabilia (greeting cards/letters)
- * Literature sorter; for personal/household paperwork, one category per slot, label each slot: 'receipts', 'warranties', 'insurance', 'medical', 'taxes', etc.

Filer:

What's most effective for you are products that allow you to keep your papers upright yet easily accessible. Here's what I suggest:

- * Accordion file folder or Desk top file box with hanging files and folders inside; label them: 'bills to pay', 'bills paid', 'articles to read', 'school' (one for each child), 'activities' (extra curricular: hockey schedule/contact phone numbers, birthday party invitations)
- * Step sorter or incline sorter; put a file folder in each slot and label: 'in', 'out', and 'file'; use for bills to pay, school forms
- * Filing crates/bankers boxes or Rolling cart for personal/household paperwork: insurance papers, will, tax forms, medical, etc.
- * Wall files; label: 'in', 'out', 'file'; for paperwork you need to access regularly, stick to one category per wall file

Keep in mind that the papers you use regularly should be stored in convenient places, like the kitchen or other designated 'communication central' place. Keeping your papers sorted and easily accessible will provide peace of mind. Remember to label by category and be very specific (miscellaneous is not a category).

Whether you are a piler or a filer, having a system that fits your natural style will go a long way in helping you keep your papers organized and within easy reach. If you've tried any of these, let me know how they are working for you.

adapted with permission from: <http://weorganizeu.com/blog/?p=221>

Hellen Buttigieg, CPO®, is a Certified Professional Organizer®, life coach, TV Host and owner of We Organize U. She is the author of the award winning book, Organizing Outside the Box: Conquer Clutter Using Your Natural Learning Style. For more tips on organizing your home, your office and your life, visit www.WeOrganizeU.com and sign up for Hellen's free e-newsletter. Hellen is available for speaking engagements and can be reached at 905-829-2219 or info@WeOrganizeU.com



The Library and Information Technician Program at Algonquin College has gone through a Program Quality Review process this past year. This process involved collecting a variety of input and feedback about our program, from employment statistics, key performance indicators, focus group with external stakeholders, survey of students and faculty. We are in the process of finalizing the report and reviewing the recommendations. We have already been working on improving our program, through better alignment with the School of Part Time studies, incorporating open source software to provide students with more hands-on experience with integrated library systems, and adding French language instruction to our program. In addition, we have added a course in Marketing and a Special Collections course, which is co-taught by the Applied Museum Studies faculty.

For the first year ever, we have introduced a College book program called Algonquin Reads. We chose the book, *Anthem of a Reluctant Prophet*, written by Joanne Proulx, an Ottawa author, as our first book. This program is to encourage the college community to come together to read, talk about ideas and attend events. Some of the Algonquin Reads activities include a virtual book club on a blog, fundraising activities such as used book sale, an author reading, a bookbinding workshop and a student writing contest.

In our Continuing Education program, we will be offering the following courses in May 2010:

- LIB2001 – Descriptive Cataloguing I
- LIB2002 – Reference I
- LIB2023 – Database Searching I
- LIB2044 – Marketing

For more information, visit our web site at www.algonquincollege.com or contact Helena Merriam, Coordinator, Library and Information Technician Program at 613-727-4723 x5338 or merriah@algonquincollege.com.



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
- LIBRLT420 Information Work II
- 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
- LIBRLT351 Serials
- LIBRLT350 Acquisitions
- MGMT10041 Library Financial Management and Budgeting
- LIBRLT375 School Libraries
- OADM100 Records and Information Management Fundamentals
- LIBRRM103 Archives

Courses begin on May 14 and end on August 20/10. Registration for these courses is open until May 20, where there is still space available.

Those who have graduated 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://disted.mohawkcollege.ca/librec/library.html> under "next semester", or feel free to email me at dolores.harmspinner@mohawkcollege.ca

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Stepping out of the comfort zone

by Maggie Weaver

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At Mohawk our convocation is held annually in October. This past October we were very pleased to recognize 38 graduates from the library technician diploma program and 15 graduates from the records management certificate program. It was a wonderful celebratory evening. We have honoured five of our graduates in particular with awards based on their academic achievement: Linda Clarkstone, Lyne Desforges and Stephanie Webster with the Geraldine Hughes Cataloguing Award, Claire Gear and Deanna Refling with our Library Technician Award, and Melissa Poremba with the OALT/ABO Award. All of our graduates can be proud of their hard work in achieving their goal of completing our program.

Respectfully submitted,

Dolores Harms Penner

Program Manager, Library Technician
Program
Mohawk College



Education is the process in which we discover that learning adds quality to our lives. Learning must be experienced."

~ William Glasser

.....
You must meet Miles. He's the sleek black adolescent cat, with long legs and big ears and feet, who owns our house. Miles' comfort zone is a ridiculously small rectangle on top of the box beside the TV, the box with the green lights that the cable guys put there. I never knew what it was for until Miles claimed it for a heat pad.

Miles is a risk-taker.

He hurls himself down the stairs, s-k-i-i-i-d-s- - on the hall rug smASH!!! into the front door. That's adrenaline. It's the same kind of risk-taking that takes human teenagers to midways and motorbikes. A recent study of finance MBAs attributes this type of behaviour to testosterone – watch out if your daughter has long ring fingers, it's a sign! Once you've experienced the adrenaline rush of a successful presentation or completing a half-marathon, you won't hesitate to do it again.

Miles balances on the newel post, three flights up; he wobbles along the top of a chair; he leaps to reach the window top. His risk is the first step in attaining a goal: the shoulder of the human stepping half-clothed from the bathroom, the huge moth fluttering around the dining-room chandelier, and that dang spider taunting him from under the eaves. Humans want things too, but somehow we seem to give up goals that entail stepping out of our comfort zones. Our reasons seem valid – we wait too long and the goal fades; we deem the goal too small compared to the risk; we might not succeed so why try? That doesn't deter Miles, even though the human waits in the bathroom till the ambush gets bored, the moth turns out to be a fruit fly, and the spider is safe behind double glazing.

Miles takes risks motivated by curiosity. There is evidence he has fallen in the toilet bowl and investigated the gas stove – puddles on the powder-room floor and a bad case of singed whiskers. Sometimes we humans avoid risk by widening our comfort zones so there's nothing left to be curious about – we stay in the same job, we go to the cottage on vacation, and we re-read our favourite authors or genre over and over. An un-risky

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way to indulge curiosity is through conferences – go to a session that has nothing to do with your current field or focus, talk to another attendee about her job, or pitch in as a volunteer in a new role such as registration. For young people (or new to our profession), there’s a lot to be said taking on several contract positions early in your career, in different library types and different functional areas, to determine your best spot.

Miles takes risks because he lacks imagination. That is, his imagination is a void that needs to be filled by experiencing what is beyond the window-ledge of the third-floor bathroom, and what are those railway tracks across the road. If anything, humans have too much imagination. We can imagine failure, even disaster, much more readily than success – one reason why bad news sells newspapers. Successful athletes and performers picture success, and keep that in mind as they leap from high diving boards and step onto a stage. (Gamblers do this, too.) Write down your goal as a motivation to taking that first step. Not “I will learn to love this job”, but “by September I will have completed one project that will make me proud to be in this job”. Notice the goal is tangible, has a time line, and is in your control. Shy? Write down “I will tell my peers about my project”, then take the first step by introducing yourself to someone new at the next staff meeting. Once the first step is taken, the next will be easier, and soon you’ll be submitting a journal article or even a conference paper.

In two areas of risk, humans have the edge over Miles.

Miles doesn’t step out of his comfort zone to help others, but humans do all the time. From mothers to by-standers, humans put themselves at enormous risk to help loved ones and complete strangers. In much less news-worthy ways, you too can take a small risk to be a big help to a friend or colleague, by offering your association some practical support, or your boss some feedback. The reward isn’t your name in the paper, but a stronger bond with your team, and probably a new skill in your portfolio.

Miles doesn’t plan, but we can. We can mitigate perceived risks by using our imagination, research and advice from colleagues to work out what might happen, identify how to work around a risk, or train to meet the risk, and develop a Plan B for occurrences outside our plan. This need not be formal, and we can take practice runs. I had read widely about entrepreneurship, and “run a business” as a corporate librarian and within the public library, before I stepped out into my own business.

Some people take risks through inspiration. Mother Teresa awes someone who then braves tropical disease to serve humanity; recent research shows young entrepreneurs often “inherit” entrepreneurship; and numerous individuals follow a loved one to a new city or country. My first professional inspiration was a librarian for whom I worked in Vienna, Harriet Zais, whose doctorate was on the economics of information. My latest inspiration is Miles. Who inspires you? ■

OALT/ABO by the numbers

485 people on our oaltabodiscussion list serve powered by Yahoo! Groups

2009 Conference attendants in Barrie

Whole conference:	38 members + 6 non-members
Two days:	14 members + 9 non-members
1 day & social events only:	29 members
Students:	3
Total attendees:	99



Your Internal Communication Coordinator, Lisa Eschli, and Web Development Team of Angela Carito-Walmsley and Wendy Witzak have been working hard on keeping the website current and adding improvements where ever we can. As always we accept suggestions for improvements and content for promotion of OALT/ABO events, job postings, etc.

Update on the members only section

A big accomplishment for 2010 is the completion of Members only area content and access for our members. The Members only section of the website is to be launched at the May ABM.

Thank you Maria Ripley for your hard work establishing the content. Thank you also goes to the Web Development team for taking the Members only area and content to the next level of greatness.

Passwords and log-ins will be emailed to every member with an email address on file in mid-May. Please ensure that your information is up to date with our membership coordinator so that there is no delay in receiving your exclusive access to our Members only area.

If you do not have an email on file then we will ensure your log-in information gets to you.

Members only area sneak peek

- * Newsletter archives
- * Salary Survey 2009 results and archives of past Salary Surveys
- * Membership directory



- * Access to information about our past award winners
- * Professional development information
- * Proceedings from past conference, when available

And more...

Voting Polls

Voting Polls are being added to the OALT/ABO website. The results will be posted both on the web and recapped in the September Newsletter.

May/June Poll Question

'What do you do to stay current in the library tech world?'

July/Aug Poll Question

'What is your favourite OALT/ABO event?'

Contact Internal Communications Coordinator leschli@gmail.com if you have website comments or suggestions for future Poll topics.

We are seeking:

francophone members to translate key components of the website.

members to review the current website both public and members only area when it is launched and suggest changes, additions, deletions, etc.

Feedback is important to keep content updated.

“Constructive Bragging” - a fine art deserving more attention

by Ulla de Stricker

When information professionals perform "miracles" for their clients, they sometimes modestly refrain from touting the accomplishment. That's a pity - for the organization in question, for the information professional in question, and for the profession overall. Good news stories - how the investment in the expertise and content in the information center or library paid off in helping the organization move toward its goals or addressing its challenges - deserve to become well known, and it is our job to make that happen. But fear not - we can raise awareness without any 'cringe factor'. I know of one special library whose bulletin is eagerly read by constituents because it regularly brings stories about how a specific situation was addressed by the staff or by the tools made available. The "you can, too" value is high and the factual nature of the stories secures credibility. So let's not be modest and think "well, it's all in day's work" ... instead let's think "how can we tell others about this success in such a way as to add to the overall awareness of what is available in that mysterious entity called the library." Go ahead, brag away.

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The Power of Association: Volunteer

by Ulla de Stricker

Superbly created by Jocelyn Sheppard (redhouseconsulting.com) and her many volunteers, the recent annual meeting of the Association of Independent Information Professionals (aiip.org) gave AIIP members a powerful opportunity to connect and learn from each other. I was privileged to speak there - see http://www.destricker.com/en/past_presentations.html for the March 27 slides.

The conference was so worthwhile, reinforcing my conviction that information professionals have everything to gain from participating actively in their chosen association. Throughout - in the meeting rooms and at the conference events - I saw new professional relationships being formed. **That is what an association is all about.** I encourage every information professional not already active in a professional association to step up and volunteer.

Together, we accomplish what we cannot achieve alone.

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Ulla de Stricker

Website: <http://www.destricker.com>

Blog: http://www.destrickerblog.com/de_stricker/

Biography: Ulla established her consulting practice in 1992 and leverages her extensive expertise in knowledge and information management to assist a wide range of clients in strategic planning projects.

An accomplished public speaker, Ulla is a frequent contributor to the professional literature and to conferences. An active member of SLA, she is the Careers Chair for its Toronto Chapter and Chair-Elect of its Leadership and Management Division. Ulla was a speaker at OALT/ABO conference 2009 in Barrie.

Goodreads: Looking for a Good Read?

by Angela Carito-Walmsley

Take a look at the Goodreads website @ <http://www.goodreads.com>

Launched in December 2006, Goodreads is a social network for book lovers, and has become immensely popular over the past year. Goodreads 3.2 million members have added more than 84,000,000 books to their shelves. Goodreads includes recommendations, and lets you keep track of books you've read, and books you want to read.

Goodread's mission "is to get people excited about reading. Along the way, we plan to improve the process of reading and learning throughout the world."

I've been a Goodreads member since January. At the time, I was looking for a place to keep track of my books, as part of my goal to read more in 2010. As a new owner of a Sony Touch ebook reader, I found the Goodreads site had a large number of ebook editions for titles that I could add to my virtual bookshelf.

Numerous authors have Facebook-eque fan pages on Goodreads, and you can follow them as you would on other social networks. If you are interested in a particular genre, you can join Goodreads Groups <http://www.goodreads.com/group>. Setting your location to Canada in your profile also filters Canadian groups on your group page.

Members who have 50+ books on their shelves can apply for Goodreads Librarian status. Goodreads librarians have the ability to edit book and author data, add book covers, and combine different editions of books. Restricting membership to librarian status helps to keep the Goodreads' catalogue tidy. Get the low-down on being a Goodreads Librarian here <http://www.goodreads.com/help/librarian>.

Goodreads also has Facebook and Twitter integration, that allows you to share your updates with friends on those social networks. The Goodreads iPhone app also synchs up with my online account, so I can access it on the go. If you're a blogger, you can also add a widget or Goodreads shelf badge to your site, to show off what you are reading.

Has Goodreads contributed to my goal to read more in 2010? Absolutely!

Join me there <http://www.goodreads.com/user/show/3099859>

Angela Carito-Walmsley
<http://angelacw.wordpress.com>

If you want to share your Goodreads account in the next newsletter send a quick email to : oaltabonewsletter@gmail.com

Join the Michelle Penta Memorial Canucks Run Amok - 2010 Challenge!

Gather your team, hook up your pedometers and GO! It's a virtual race across Canada, from St. John's to Vancouver: an opportunity to work off any extra flab through a little "healthy" competition with other library folks.

Registration deadline: Friday, May 7, 2010

For more information:
<http://canucksrnamok.blogspot.com/>

The Mississauga Public Library, Frank McKechnie branch is throwing out the challenge to OALT/ ABO members. Get your walking shoes ready!

Charles Sturt University Experience

by Bettina Wiechert



Brief Bio

I acquired my Library Technician's Honour Diploma from Seneca College of Applied Arts and Technology, Newnham Campus in 1985.

Straight out of Library school, I was employed at the Canadian Forces

Command and Staff College Library from 1985 – 1990 as Head of Interlibrary Loan and Acquisitions, but also engaged in both copy and original cataloguing. I then acquired a Management position as Manager, School Library Support Services (Library Automation Manager) for the Peel Board of Education where I spent 2 years, from 1990 – 1992, automating over 40 plus school libraries within Peel Region. Then the opportunity to start and create a new area within a vendor environment presented itself. I became the Manager of Shelfready Services for Coutts North America in 1993 and am still at Coutts Information Services today.

The Journey

Throughout my career as a Library Technician I have been indebted to my Supervisors, Managers, and Directors who have provided me with the opportunity for professional development. Notably, Library Technicians often hold very responsible positions and yearn to acquire their Master's Degree in order to move forward in their careers. I was one of those individuals. At Coutts, I spent many years working with and managing both Librarians and Library Technicians and felt that it was time to move forward. Robert Gray – Operations Manager, investor in people, and excellent mentor – recognized my desire to move

forward and increased my budget to allow me to start my journey. This meant acquiring both my Bachelor's and Master's Degrees through Charles Sturt University (CSU), and making a commitment to stay with Coutts for an undisclosed amount of time.

I choose CSU as it had the only Distance Education program that allowed me to work towards my degree according to my own schedule without worrying about having to attend classes. This was important as I was working full time and raising a family.

It was a big step and required a lot of thought in terms of time management however, CSU made it very easy to access information relative to everything that would be involved moving forward.

First steps

When you make the decision to apply, it is important to have all of your educational transcripts in order, and if applicable, your resume should be up to date since professional experience can also aid in the process. I had taken a few undergraduate university courses in Classical Studies through the University of Waterloo, and so I made sure that the transcripts for these were sent in along with my Library Technician's transcript and my resume.

Being accepted

Be prepared for the elation of being accepted into CSUs BIS / MIS studies program. As a Library Technician who longed for the opportunity to become a full-fledged Librarian without having to figure out how I was going to get to classes, I was entranced. In fact, when my course material arrived my husband insists that I went through it and started dancing around the kitchen – I'll never admit to that, but I will admit to being very, very happy.

Receiving your material

When the reality of buckling down and working towards this goal finally hit, I will admit to feeling slightly apprehensive but it did not last long, and as I made my way through the material, I was not disappointed. All course outlines are very thorough and requirements are precise. What you need in terms of reading material is laid out clearly for you as are the assignments and expectations. As you go through your material you will discover that yes, you can actually do this.

Working through your first subject

I believe that most of the study material is now on-line, however, when I was enrolled, it was sent to me via post. Depending on the subject taken, I

would normally receive a Subject Outline, and various Reading Modules. I would always try and order any required textbooks as soon as I had decided which subjects I was going to take for that session. Corresponding required textbooks can be determined and acquired electronically through the CSU Bookshop.

Subject outline

Your subject outline will contain information relative to the subject. It generally contains an overview of the subject, details about your subject coordinator and contact procedures. It will provide a study schedule and information relative to student surveys (how did you like the subject?), resources, and assessments (assignments).

*Sample Study Schedule

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Assessment</u>
1	21 Feb.	Read Module 1	Read all three assignment topics
2	28 Feb.	Read Module 1	
3	7 Mar.	Read Module 1	
4	14 Mar.	Read Module 2	Forum assignment: Seminar paper To be posted to forum 28-30 March
5	21 Mar.	Prepare forum posting	
6	28 Mar.	Read Module 2	
7	4 Apr.	Read Module 2	Assignment 2 due 20 April
8	11 Apr.	Prepare Portfolio 1	
9	18 Apr.	Read Module 3	Assignment 3 due 31 May
10	25 Apr.	Read Module 3	
11	2 May	Read Module 3	No exam for this subject
12	9 May	Read Module 4	
13	16 May	Read Module 4	
14	23 May	Write Portfolio 2	
15	30 May		
16	6 June		
	14-24 June	Examination period	

*This suggested study schedule was taken from my subject outline for the subject Information Management in Organisations (coordinated by Mr. Stuart Ferguson)

(Continued from page 15)

Details on resources include what the prescribed text is (texts are), required reading, recommended reading, and what is on electronic reserve at CSU Library. Additionally, bibliographies relative to full-text articles, serials and other useful web sites are also normally incorporated here. You will also find information regarding CSU Library services, and electronic communication (your own personal CSU in-box).

Components regarding assessments (assignments) generally cover assessment policy, feedback, and regulations, variations to assessment, grades, and academic learning skills assistance. Items relative to plagiarism and collusion, due dates, submission of assignments, special consideration, and academic conduct, are also covered. Guidelines for preparing and requirements for presenting assignments, specifics regarding citations and bibliography, and pass/fail requirements will also be found here.

All assignment details for the subject are found in the subject outline. Assignments may take the form of essays, reports, portfolios, case studies or forum postings (just to name a few!)

You are not alone

If you have any questions or require any clarification on assignments, the subject coordinator is very good at returning queries as soon as possible. Where the subject coordinator is not available, someone will have been assigned to take these queries on the subject coordinator's behalf. I often found that since Australia is hours ahead of us, any questions I emailed the evening before, would be answered by the next morning in Canada.

Initially, I used to wonder about studying alone and the lack of interaction with others. This turned out to be a non-issue. There are forums specific to

the subject you are enrolled in, and I was pleased to meet people from all over the world who were studying through CSU. You will be surprised – some may not live not too far away from you!

Assignment return and feedback

I'll admit that for me, waiting for my assignment to come back with grades and feedback was a little nerve wracking. So just a gentle note: it can be a bit of a roller coaster ride: first comes the elation of finishing the assignment and sending it in; secondly, the waiting period and preparing for your next assignment; thirdly, getting the graded and annotated assignment back in the mail, taking it out of your mailbox and staring at the envelope as if it were going to open itself. There were times when I had no trouble, just opening it up, looking at the grade and reading the feedback. Other times, I would wait and wait and wait to open it, as if waiting would somehow change the grade. I must say that all of the waiting was for naught, and all feedback presented in a very positive way and when necessary, with helpful suggestions for the next time around.

Exams

During my first few years of study, CSU exams were held at universities and other academic institutions within Ontario – the closest one to where you were studying from. My first exams were written at Brock University in St. Catharines. The advent of CSUs teaching program in Burlington meant a change of venue, and any subsequent exams I had, were written there. Further details can be found through the web links provided below.

When you are done

Each step you take, every piece of research, each assignment, subject and session that you finish will bring with it a sense of achievement. I will say,

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from page 16)

though, that studying this way is far from the fallacy and rumor that "online" or "distance" education is an easy way of acquiring one's degree. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication, but with that will come the greatest sense of accomplishment and fulfillment.

Best wishes

I would like to conclude this article by wishing each and every one of you who decides to pursue this method of acquiring your Bachelor's/Master's Degree the best of luck and success in your studies. Speaking from personal experience, I can tell you that you will not be disappointed. The experience has followed me and will follow me for years to come.

Further information

CSU's online website provides excellent information on both Bachelor's (http://www.csu.edu.au/courses/undergraduate/information_studies/index.html) and Master's degrees (http://www.csu.edu.au/courses/postgraduate/information_studies_master/index.html). Following these links will provide you with information on the course, course structure, distance education, admission requirements, cost of study, how to apply, about the school, and CSU contacts.



Melissa,

Thank you
Merci



Thank you for all the work you have done for the OALT/ABO since taking on the Membership Coordinator role in Sept 2007. You have done a great job and your suggestion of group membership was brilliant. You have provided a good foundation for someone to take over the membership responsibilities.

On behalf of the membership and the Executive, I thank you for your contribution to OALT/ABO.

Kathryn

Welcome to Our New Members

-
- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Amanda Elliott | Lesley Mooring |
| Becky Godwin | Lina Fontana |
| Bella Nay | Lisa Chaney |
| Carol Campbell | Madeleine Crew |
| Carolyn Brooks | Majid Bastami |
| Carolyn McGrath | Megan Callaway |
| Cecile Sune | Michael Myatt |
| Cecilia L. Vizcaino | Michelle Fitzgerald |
| Corinne Symons | Patti Li |
| Deanna Reffling | Philip Wasley |
| Denise Tuazon | Phuong Le |
| Diana Weisser | Raymond Robinson |
| Dubravka Trickovic | Sheila Johnson |
| Elisa Rice | Sheri Witte |
| Elizabeth Adema | Stacey Stevens |
| Fariba Pour-Kashani | Sue Kennedy |
| Gillian Young | Susan Bottiglia |
| Greg Eatherley | Tegan Hindle |
| Inez Rost | Vanessa Olley |
| Jackie Cudney | Vincent Elit |
| Jeff Kirby | Yvonne Coutts-Martignago |
| Kara Freeman-Bechard | |
| Laura McKnight | |
| Leona Schnellert | |
- 

Why your Executive Members Chose to Volunteer



I decided to volunteer with the Association as a relatively recent graduate from the Library Technician program at Seneca College because I thought it would be a great opportunity to meet people in the library field and put my skills to good use. This is OUR Association, speaking to issues specific to library technicians, and it is up to us to remain active and use the voice, legitimacy and opportunities the Association provides.

Shannon Matthews

OALT/ABO Treasurer, 2009-2010



When I was asked to volunteer for the Executive at the 2009 OALT/ABO conference my initial response was 'sorry I'm too busy'. Working both full time and part time I knew I did not have the extra time, but before the end of the day I agreed to take the role. I have not regretted it for a moment.

I love getting together with my executive and working to achieve our goals for our members.

Managing the website members only area project, the newsletter and a constitutional change in one year is a handful, but the challenge is a rewarding one.

Lisa Eschli

Internal Communications Coordinator, 2009-2010



I volunteer because I enjoy meeting people, sharing ideas and I am passionate about my profession. I also think it is important to the association to have active member volunteers. We have over 300+ members but a minimum number come forward to volunteer. We all must make an effort to actively participate in our organization if we don't we will no longer exist and we will have no one to blame but ourselves. What difference will you make? Take a step and volunteer - you won't regret it!

Maria Ripley

OALT/ABO President 2008; Internal Communications Coordinator 2003 to 2008; Conference planning team 2007 through 2010.



I find that volunteering with OALT/ABO has helped me develop and be proud of my many skills. The most important to me are my organizing skills (I have now openly acknowledged how much I love to organize!); my networking skills; my social skills and my job skills through the sessions I attend.

I have found the managers I work with are impressed by the fact that I am self motivated to come to this and other conferences (especially if I have to pay for it myself :)) and really respect my commitment to my profession that is shown in this way. It is refreshing and rejuvenating for me personally and professionally. I highly recommend you think about coming to conferences for 1 day or the whole conference. It is money well spent!

Kate Morrison

OALT/ABO Conference Coordinator 2010 in Hamilton



I hold the position of External Communications Coordinator and am truly happy that I have volunteered for this position. This opportunity came at a perfect time - my boys were older and needed me less and I had just started a new job where I didn't have to travel any longer. So when I was approached for this position, I couldn't pass it up.

Being on the executive allows you a wonderful opportunity to meet new people, share ideas, be challenged, and just basically be heard. It also looks good on a Resume and most employers (mine does) encourage and recognize executive memberships in professional organizations.

Donna Brown

External Communications Coordinator, 2008-2010



OALT/ABO executive is looking for volunteers!

What do you want from your Association? Maybe you live in Ottawa, the location of our 2011 Conference? Is there a skill you want to learn? Maybe committee experience would be useful in your job? Do you need a line on your resume that sets you apart from the colleagues competing for the next promotion? One way to have any or all of those benefits is to join the Executive of OALT/ABO.

We have two executive positions and two support roles vacant. For the executive positions it would require expenses paid travel to our meetings four times a year. The support roles require no travel.

Executive Positions

President-Elect (2 year commitment, stepping up to President) - main function is to learn the ropes by keeping the minutes of the executive meetings

Conference Coordinator - main function is to steer the committee that will put on the 2011 Conference in Ottawa

Support Positions

Membership Coordinator (one year commitment, we have a volunteer for 2011) - keep track of who belongs to OALT/ABO.

Newsletter Editor - lay out the newsletter issue and encourage the membership to submit articles



We need you!

Contact Kathryn Suffoletta
ksuffoletta@county.middlesex.on.ca to
discuss where your particular needs can be
met, and talents can be applied! ■

2009 – 2010 Executive Contact List

President: Kathryn Suffoletta
koc21ca@yahoo.ca
ksuffoletta@county.middlesex.on.ca

President-Elect: Vacant

Treasurer: Shannon Matthews
matthews.shan@gmail.com
smatthews@conestogac.on.ca

Membership: Vacant * **Note Change**

Chapter Coordinator: Maggie Weaver
kweaver5478@rogers.com

Conference Coordinator: Kate Morrison
kfmorrison25@gmail.com

External Communications Coordinator: Donna Brown
tjbrown@tbaytel.net

Internal Communications Coordinator: Lisa Eschli
leschli@gmail.com * **Note Change**

Newsletter Editor: Vacant * **Note Change**
oaltabonewsletter@gmail.com

Web Development: Angela Carito-Walmsley
acaritowalmsley@yahoo.ca

Web Development: Wendy Witzak
wwitzak@georgianc.on.ca

Archivist: Kathi Vandenheuvel
kathivandenheuvel@ymail.com
kathiv@lambton.on.ca

Past President: Maria Ripley
mariaripley5261@hotmail.com

Library Technicians in Canada group on Facebook

Are you new to Facebook? Looking to network with library technicians across Canada?

The "Library Technicians in Canada" group on Facebook provides a great opportunity to meet others and keep in touch. The group is open to all library technicians across Canada. Recent graduates or soon to be graduates of a Library and Information Techniques Program are welcome to join. The group has 460+ members and growing!

To join the group, visit <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2295803362> or search for "Library Technicians in Canada".

When you join, be sure to introduce yourself on the wall.

Angela Carito-Walmsley
Group Admin, Library Technicians in Canada

Constitutional Changes Overview

Constitutional changes were sent out to all our members on April 11, 2010.

After a successful two year group membership pilot we are looking to officially change the constitution to remove institutional membership and to replace it with group membership.

We are also looking for your votes to change the constitution to include the allowance to vote for constitutional changes by both electronic and traditional paper means.

Constitutional vote results will be announced at ABM on May 8th, 2010 in Hamilton, Ontario



This newsletter is your window of opportunity, to which YOU can send articles, photographs, and updates about yourself, your work, interesting facts, job developments, announcements and training. Professional development and education matters to us, so please send your experiences! Book reviews are a fantastic ice breaker if you are nervous about writing. Everyone can benefit from a review.

The deadline for the next newsletter will be **August 15th, 2010**. Saying this, I will accept submissions at any point prior to the date. Thank you to all those members who continue to write and share their articles with us.

Please submit your articles to:

oaltabonewsletter@gmail.com

Submission guideline:

- * 1000–1500 words.
- * I will accept longer submissions if room permits.
- * Microsoft Word Documents
- * Photos can be submitted in black and white or colour. Please send as a ".jpg" file.
- * Indicate the names of the people in photos you submit

"Believe it can be done. When you believe something can be done, really believe, your mind will find the ways to do it. Believing a solution paves the way to solution."

- David Joseph Schwartz



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

**Draft copy - 36th Annual Business Meeting /
Brouillon - 36^e Réunion d'affaires annuelle
Georgian College, Barrie, Ontario
May 9, 2009 / le 9 mai, 2009**

Minutes / Compte rendu

1. Call to order / Rappel à l'ordre

President Maria Ripley called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm, 39 members of the association being present. She introduced the Parliamentarian, Penni Chalk, the recording secretary, Maggie Weaver, and the members of the 2008/2009 Executive: herself, Kathryn Suffoletta – President-Elect, Claudia Persaud – Treasurer (not present), Melissa Hall – Membership Coordinator, Donna Brown – External Communications Coordinator, Cyndi Smith – Conference Coordinator, Maggie Weaver – Chapter Coordinator and Penni Chalk – Archivist. The Internal Communications Coordinator position was vacant this year.

2. Adoption of the agenda / Adoption de l'ordre du jour

Moved to accept the agenda: Susan Morley; seconded: Kerry McCauley. Carried.

3. Adoption of the minutes of the 35th Annual Business Meeting / Adoption du compte rendu de la 35^e réunion d'affaires annuelle

Moved to accept the minutes, with typographical errors corrected: Stella Clark; seconded: Kate Morrison. Carried.

4. Reports / Rapports

4a President / Présidente

The President read her report, which is Appendix A of these minutes.

Her main points were

- We were responsible for 4 sessions at OLA Super Conference, which entitled OALT/ABO members to member rates at that conference;
- We also exhibited at OLA Super Conference;
- College connections were maintained, and they sponsored our conference;
- We have a regular column in OLA's Access magazine;
- The pilot of group membership has 5 institutions, representing 92 individuals.

- Our financial year now coincides with the membership year;
- Members received the Membership Directory, and 35th Anniversary bookmark;
- We held a successful Anniversary Holiday Gala at the Old Mill;
- Three issues of the newsletter were published;
- The webpage now has a Web development team.

4b Treasurer / Trésorière

In the absence of the Treasurer, Maggie Weaver presented the Treasurer's annual financial statement and notes, which are Appendix B of these minutes.

4c Conference Coordinator / Coordinatrice de conference

Cyndi Smith, Conference Coordinator for the 2009 conference in Barrie, gave her report, which is Appendix C of these minutes.

Motion to accept the Executive reports: Liz Aldrey; seconded Traceyann Crawford. Carried

5. Committees / Comités

5a Presidential Award / Prix du Président

The previous year's recipient, Vicky Lynham reported that Tracy Morgan was the 2009 recipient of the OALT/ABO Presidential Award.

5b Award for Innovation / Prix pour l'innovation

The winner of the Award for Innovation was Stella Clark.

5c Nominating Committee / Comité des candidatures

President Maria Ripley read the report of the nominating committee.
The position of President-Elect is still unfilled.

Motion to accept the committee reports: Kate Morrison; seconded, Helen Hereema. Carried.

6. Unfinished business

6a. Group Membership Update

A number of questions were raised, for example whether all the Ontario Government libraries could form a Group, the difference between institutional and group membership, and the additional chapter fee(s). The trial of Group Membership continues for one additional year, so that such issues can be resolved.

Karen Infantino reported that that the Group Membership for Niagara School Board was working well, all members were receiving their newsletter, and the Supervisor was a champion.

7. New Business

7a. Ratification of the Executive

Susan Morley moved: That all acts, contracts, proceedings, appointments, payments made, enacted, done and taken by the Executive since the last Annual Business Meeting be approved, ratified and confirmed; seconded Kate Morrison. Carried.

7b. Translation of reports

Barbara Cope asked if the Executive reports would be translated into French. They will be translated in the official ABM minutes, once approved at the next ABM. Ottawa is starting a translation committee, since professional translation can be expensive. Liz Aldrey asked for recognition in the newsletter of Irene Kumar's translations on behalf of the association.

7c. School Libraries Round Table

Karen Infantino reported on that the discussion of the School Libraries Round Table, at this conference, will be submitted to several individuals responsible for education. She is also looking for promotional materials to help engage individuals within the school libraries network.

It was agreed that a similar report needs to be made to OALT/ABO membership, to help them understand the issues. The final submission to political entities outside of the association must be first approved by the OALT/ABO executive

8. New Business

President Maria Ripley thanked the 2008-2009 Executive for their work, and presented gifts.

9. Thank you to the Conference Committee

President Maria Ripley thanked Cyndi Smith and her conference committee for producing a very successful conference.

10. Welcome to 2009-2010 Executive Members

Kathryn Suffoletta, the new President, said that her employer values her participation in OALT/ABO, and she has full support of both her family and her CEO

She announced the 2009-2010 Executive:

President: Kathryn Suffoletta, and team includes Archivist Kathi Vandenheuvel

President-Elect: not yet determined

Treasurer: Shannon Matthews, & team includes Membership Coordinator Melissa Hall

Conference Coordinator: Kate Morrison

Internal Communications Coordinator: Lisa Eschli, and team includes Jenn Clarke, Angela Carito-Walmsley and Wendy Witzak
External Communications Coordinator: Donna Brown
Chapter Coordinator: Maggie Weaver

11. Future Conferences

Conference Coordinator Kate Morrison announced that the 2010 conference would be in Hamilton, at Mohawk College, May 6-8, 2010.

12. Adjournment

President Kathryn Suffoletta thanked Past-President Maria Ripley for her hard work as President in 2008-2009, and presented her with a gavel.

She adjourned the annual business meeting at 2:10pm.

Appendix A: 2008-2009 Presidential Report

Meetings of the Executive took place five times this past year starting with a hand-over meeting on August 8th in Toronto at Maggie's; an October meeting in Toronto at the OLA offices; a December meeting at the Old Mill preceding the Holiday Gala; a January 30th meeting during OLA Super Conference and an April 18th meeting in Barrie prior to the Conference Committee meeting.

Your OALT/ABO 2008-2009 Executive Team has for another year worked hard on your behalf. We are very pleased to share that officially OALT/ABO is part of the OLA Super Conference planning team and is committed to planning four sessions during OLA Super Conference geared towards library technicians. This official partnership allows OALT/ABO members to attend Super Conference at member rates and allows us to have recognition in the conference program as part of the planning team page.

OALT/ABO once again partnered with Algonquin, Mohawk and Seneca College Library and Information technician (LIT) programs to participate as an exhibitor at the 2009 OLA Super Conference. We were pleased to be able to meet members and potential members during the two days on the exhibit floor. Representing your association at the booth were Donna Brown, External Communications Coordinator, Maggie Weaver Chapter Coordinator and Melissa Hall, Membership Coordinator.

Donna Brown, External Communications Coordinator has been working in keeping connected with the LIT program Coordinators at Algonquin, Mohawk and Seneca. All three coordinators have been very supportive of OALT/ABO over the years and continue to provide content for our newsletters and support for our conference. This year we were pleased to have all three colleges support our conference financially. As well, I wish to acknowledge the OALT/ABO LIT award winners for this year – Mohawk College, Patricia Marin; Seneca College, Nicolle McKinnon; and Algonquin College, Lindsay Richards.

OALT/ABO has had the opportunity to be a regular contributor to OLA's Access Magazine. Thank you to Maggie Weaver and Donna Brown for keeping our association at the forefront by writing on our behalf. It is my understanding that we are on our fourth article submission.

The official group membership program was launched as a pilot this past year and has been a success. We are pleased with the feedback we have received on this program and hope to have this continue. Melissa Hall has provided us with a Membership report that shows we have a total of 309 members – 178 are individual, 39 institutional and 5 group members. Group membership is currently being piloted with five institutions totaling 92 members. Total new membership for 2009 is 131. Please see her report attached.

It is with regret that we received notice from our Thunder Bay Chapter that they have decided to close. We have brainstormed ideas on how to keep chapters viable and our thoughts are that perhaps we need to rethink the Chapter Coordinator position and have that be a position that plans programs and events around the province. Although it was reported last year that "travelling programs" could be the answer the Executive felt that it would be best to survey members rather than spend the time and resources planning programs that perhaps may not even be of interest. Currently we are at the surveying stage to seek program ideas as well as distances members might have to travel to attend them. Maggie is in the process of drafting the survey and will be sharing it with members in the next month and hopes to have a report for the Executive at their first meeting in September/October.

I am pleased to report that our financial situation is in excellent shape with a bank balance of approximately \$33,112.45 and a GIC of \$5,157.24. I use the term approximately because we still need to incorporate some of the 2009 conference expenses into that. Thank you to Claudia Persaud for keeping us on track. This past year was the first financial statement that matches our membership year – January 1st to December 31st. Her financial report has been shared with you. I would like to mention that our plan is to keep us sustainable and as such we will be contributing annually to a GIC on your behalf. I am proud of Claudia's dedication and commitment to the association and am sad to share that she has decided to step down from the position. She will be missed.

This year was the year you received your 2007 annual Directory along with a commemorative bookmark celebrating our 35th Anniversary. I hope you enjoyed both. I would like to go on record to thank Carr McLean and the Ontario Genealogical Society for their advertising support. This was the first year we put a call out for advertising and to receive such support was really exciting.

The 35th Anniversary Holiday Gala at the Old Mill was a success with 38 people attending (regardless of the blizzard-like weather we had). It was great to see so many of us there and to celebrate the season in style.

Your newsletters continue to be a tangible membership benefit. Thank you Jenn Clarke for continuing to encourage members to submit articles and for spending countless hours on layout for each of the three issues – September, January and April. There have been requests for an online newsletter but until we hear from the majority of our members that this is what they want we will continue to print and mail. We must remember that our newsletter is also an advertising opportunity. If your co-worker or employer sees an issue sitting on your desk it is a reminder that we exist and as a professional organization we are important.

Our webpage continues to be a work in progress and I thank you all for your patience. With the Internal Communications Coordinator position vacant this past year the doubled-duties of being President made it impossible for me to focus on it. That said, I am pleased to share that Angela Carito-Walmsley and Wendy Witczak have joined the Internal team as Web Developers and with their help it is hope that the "members-only" side of the webpage will be complete by next conference.

In closing I wish to thank all of you for your encouragement and support over the past year and especially the Executive team for 2008-2009 for all their hard work, commitment and dedication. All the best to you all, see you at next year's conference.

Respectfully submitted, Maria Ripley

Appendix B: OALT/ABO Financial Statement
December 31, 2008

Cash on hand September 30, 2008 33,421.63

Revenue	Current Oct1-08 to Dec 31-08	Year-to-date Apr 1-07 to Dec 31-08
1 Membership fees	4,696.00	22,166.00
2 Miscellaneous	1,761.27	4,492.14
3 Salary survey		
4 Corp sponsorship	500.00	3,175.00
Conference		54,464.98
Total	6,957.27	84,298.12

Expenses

5 Conference	113.85	39,139.99
Chapter expenses		
6 regional remittance		4,020.00
7 membership refunds/ret cheques		36.00
Meeting expenses		
8 lunch, room rental etc		365.90
9 travel	421.60	3,132.55
10 accommodation	152.55	1,208.99
Marketing/Advocacy		
Newsletter		
11 printing, copies	1,166.37	7,143.50
12 postage	176.72	1,076.77
Other		
13 printing, copies	111.18	3,839.10
14 postage	193.35	1,524.68
15 fax, phone, internet	16.93	2,060.50
16 postal box rental		464.68
17 professional fees		3,664.00
18 awards, presidential gifts	4,914.20	5,339.66
19 bank fees		147.97
Total	7,266.75	73,164.29

Cash on hand December 31, 2008 33,112.15
GIC 5,157.24
Total cash on hand 38,269.39

Treasurer's Report

This is the first annual financial statement since OALT/ABO members voted to adapt the fiscal year to the calendar year. This change is reflected in the fact that this statement includes 7 quarters from April 1, 2007 to December 31, 2008 rather than the regular 4 quarters. Therefore numbers are much higher than usual and I chose not to compare this year's figures with last year. However, in order to give members an idea about recent financial transaction, this statement also includes the last quarter from October 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008.

Here is a line-by-line breakdown of the financial statement for greater clarity:

- Line 1 The year-to-date numbers include 2 years of membership fees.
- Line 2 Miscellaneous includes the amount of \$1,757.00 that members paid for the Holiday Gala at the Old Mill.
- Line 4 Corporate sponsorships have been very successful.
For the membership directory:
Ontario Genealogical Society: \$275; Carr McLean: \$400.
For conferences in 2007 and 2008:
Carr McLean: \$900; St. Lawrence College: \$300; OLA \$400; Saunders Book Company: \$100; CASLIS Ottawa Chapter \$100; ESAO: \$200; Algonquin College \$500.
- Line 5 This includes expenses for the conferences in 2007 and 2008. Expenses for the 2009 conference are not included.
- Line 6 Membership fees forwarded to chapters.
- Line 7 Refunds for members who mistakenly pay for more than their membership fees, Eg is a student accidentally pays the chapter fee for a full member.
- Line 8 Includes Halton-Peel Christmas Party
- Line 9 Travel expense for out of town executive members to attend meetings
- Line 10 Accommodation for out of town executive members when attending meetings
- Line 13 Includes printing of membership directory, conference packages
- Line 14 Includes mailing of membership directory, conference packages
- Line 15 Creation and maintenance of OALT/ABO website
- Line 16 Association's postal box rental in Oakville plus fee for forwarding mail to the membership coordinator.
- Line 17 Includes fees for two audits.
- Line 18 Includes cost for Holiday gala at the Old Mill: \$3,340 and cost for bookmarks (gift to members for 35th anniversary): \$1,474; a surplus from the 2008 conference allowed the executive to make this purchase.
- Line 19 Includes fee for new cheques.

I would like to highlight that the OALT/ABO continues to be financially very healthy, as the comparison to the end of the last fiscal year shows: At March 31, 2007 the association had \$26,786.32 in the operating account plus an investment (GIC) in the amount of \$2,634.32. as of December 31, 2008 OALT/ABO closed off with \$33,112.15 in the operating account and an investment (GIC) in the amount of \$5,157.24.

This is my last year as treasurer of OALT/ABO. I have enjoyed working with the other members of the executive and would like to thank all OALT/ABO members for their cooperation.

Respectfully submitted, Claudia Persaud

Appendix C: 2009 Conference Coordinator's Report

Financial overview

Conference expenses			
Conference rooms	\$3896		
Speakers	\$1880		travel expenses, fees
Tours	<u>\$ 315</u>	\$6,901	
Reception/hospitality	\$ 567		
Catering	<u>\$4221</u>	\$4788	lunches, coffee breaks
Registration	\$3800		bags, online registration system
Marketing	<u>\$2851</u>	\$6651	
Social event costs			
Town crier	\$ 282		
Pub night – Last Class	\$1422		
Banquet – R.Simpson	<u>\$2832</u>	\$4536	
Accommodation	\$ 341		
		<u>\$22,407</u>	
Income			
Registration	\$19899		
Sponsorship	\$ 2200		
Event tickets	<u>\$ 4330</u>	\$26,429	NET \$4,022
		<u>\$26,429</u>	

Attendance

Whole conference: 38 members + 6 non-members

Two days: 14 members + 9 non-members

1 day & social events only: 29 members

Students: 3

Total attendees: 100