



NewsLETTER NouvELLES

ISSN: 0229-2645 Publication Agreement # 40688591

Volume 34 No. 1 Winter 2011

A Happy New Year Message from the President ~ Kathryn Suffoletta

Best wishes for a healthy, happy 2011!

The members of our Association's Executive Committee continue to astound me with their commitment and enthusiasm. We had perfect attendance at our November executive meeting. The Executive has been working hard on your behalf for the betterment of our Association. Here is an update on what they've been doing.

Our Treasurer, Shannon Matthews is a first time Mom to Dylan Michael born October 17th. She is willing to mentor a volunteer who is interested in accepting the Treasurer's position on the 2011 Executive Committee.

Membership Coordinator, Amy Dwyer works closely with Shannon. Currently, Amy is handling the membership renewals both personal and group. It was decided to follow up with members from the past couple of years who, for any number of reasons, let their membership lapse. We are hoping to reinstate them. Now that it is a Constitutional reality, we are hoping also to see an increase in Group Memberships.

Chapter Coordinator, Maria Ripley received 183 responses to the OALT/ABO Professional Development and Social Events survey. Based on the results of the survey, Maria has proposed a plan for

professional development and social events for January to June. Hopefully, there will be an opportunity for you to attend one or more of the events she is planning.

Donna Brown, our External Communication Coordinator, will be looking for volunteers to staff the Library Technicians' booth at the OLA Super Conference Expo in February. The booth is sponsored by the three colleges in Ontario that offer a Library and Information Technician program. Donna is in the process of ordering a banner to enhance the booth and promote our Association and the OALT/ABO website.

Speaking of our website, that's where you will see the results of the great ideas and monumental effort that our Internal Communication Coordinator Lisa Eschli has devoted to developing a website that our Association can be proud of. Log in frequently, especially to the Members Only section, as content is constantly being updated. In November, Lisa had an overwhelming response to her appeal for volunteers to assist with website development. She now has a team to work with who will implement her great plans for improvements and additions to the website.

Lisa also works closely with our Newsletter Editor team, Jessica Goodman and Julie Cristinzo, who are doing a super job and implementing some great ideas. Submit an article for publication and have your name



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.

~ President's message con't...

entered for a chance to win the prize draw.

Conference Coordinator, Maggie Weaver has planned a wonderful series of workshops, tours, and social events for our 38th Annual Conference in our nation's capital. Algonquin College is the setting for the workshops, meals and accommodations. I hope you can join us in Ottawa May 4-7, 2011.

Kate Morrison, Conference Coordinator for last year's very successful conference in Hamilton is now the OALT/ABO representative on the OLA Super Conference program committee and responsible for creating 4 sessions. As a member, you received a copy of the OLA Conference program. The OALT/ABO sessions are listed under program creators on page 74. Hope you get a chance to attend one or more of the sessions and also visit the Library Technicians' booth at Expo in the Exhibit Hall.

Lastly, but certainly not least, is our President-elect Michael Reansbury who does so much more than record and produce minutes for our Executive meetings. Michael contributes so many great ideas at the meetings and on the listserv. He is a strong advocate for the recognition of the value of Library Technicians and is working on establishing an OALT/ABO Advocacy Committee

Each member of the Executive Committees is working hard to give you great value for your membership fee. If you haven't yet sent in your renewal, please do so soon so that we can continue to give you the best bang for your buck.

Unfortunately, not all members of the current Executive will be staying on in their positions following the 2011 AGM in May. Fortunately, that means lots of opportunities for you to volunteer your time and talents on one of the Executive Committees. Speak up soon, or the job you want might be taken.

I hope to see you at a conference, professional development or social event in the coming months. 2011 is shaping up to be a great year for OALT/ABO.



Editor's Note

We hope you are heading into 2011 relaxed and revitalized from the holidays.

We were pleasantly surprised from the amount of content we received not only from our regulars but from many new contributors as well.

For those of you with busy schedules or a bit shy of writing we encourage you to respond to **The Last Word** (see last page) or anything else you want to express. Your thoughts matters to us.

You may have already heard about our editor's draw, but we are excited to announce a prize of a \$100 gift card at Chapters/Indigo thanks to GlaxoSmithKline. Please see the next page for more details.

Once again, we would like to extend a very big thank you to the executive for all their support, suggestions, and ideas.

Yours in writing,

Jessica Goodman and Julie Cristinzo (J & J)

Editors recommendations...

Blogs

<http://vikkivansickle.wordpress.com/>

http://theubiquitouslibrarian.typepad.com/the_ubiquitous_librarian/

Twitter

OALT/ABO

Website

<http://librarianbyday.net/>

Facebook page

<http://www.facebook.com/librariesandtransliteracy>

Highlights in this issue...

- * OALT/ABO Executive positions 2011/2012
- * Chapter activities; past, present, and future
- * 2010 OALT/ABO student award winners
- * Innovation and Presidential Award
- * OALT/ABO @ OLA Superconference
- * Sneak peek: 2011 OALT/ABO conference in Ottawa
- * Salary survey: a discussion
- * OALT/ABO website update
- * Volunteer Spotlights: Hear Maggie and Irène's stories
- * LIT Student Perspectives: here and abroad
- * Advocacy in action: Michael David initiates change
- * Going green with Adriana
- * Life after retirement with founding OALT/ABO member Doug
- * Focus on bullying with Vikki
- * Maggie's book reviews
- * The Last Word



EDITOR'S DRAW!

For every submission we receive, we will enter your name in a random draw for a special prize that will be drawn at the 2011 conference in Ottawa!

We are pleased to announce
our special prize:
\$100 gift card for
Chapters/Indigo

The names entered in the draw will be authors that contributed to the October 2010, January 2011 and April 2011 issue.

While we encourage multiple submissions, your name will only be entered once.

OALT/ABO would like to thank our generous sponsor:

GlaxoSmithKline



OALT/ABO Executive call for nominations!

What do you want from your Association? Do you have an avid interest in issues specific to Library Technicians? Are you looking to get more involved? 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.

For more information on the available positions refer to our website or contact info@oaltabo.on.ca. Take a look at www.oaltabo.on.ca on and after Feb 15, 2011 for our brand new online Executive nomination form. That being said we will still accept your nominations at anytime.

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 2012 Conference

Treasurer – Manage the funds of OALT/ABO from membership & conference, by tracking expenses and prepare quarterly financial statements

Internal Communications Coordinator – Manage the team that puts together the Newsletter, manage the website and internal communications to the members and the listserv

External Communications Coordinator – Manages communication between the association and the colleges

Chapter Coordinator – Manages and supports the Chapters in professional development and events

The Executive positions may require you to travel, expenses paid, to our meetings four times a year. Your OALT/ABO Executive is currently investigating teleconferencing units to reduce travel costs.



A personalized message on the position of President-Elect from Michael David Reansbury:

"If I had to choose one job on the Executive that most closely mirrors that of a Library Technician I would have to say the President-Elect is it. Why, because every time you tell someone you are President-Elect they will say 'you're the vice president.' I never tire of correcting people. All joking aside the President-Elect does a little bit of everything for everyone; I am sure that sounds familiar as well.

The President-Elect's major function is taking minute notes at all executive meetings as well as running the ABM following the conference. Sounds straight forward enough and it is. The President-Elect becomes the point of contact for other Executive members regarding points of action that were discussed at meeting. As for running the ABM, well I have not done it yet, but with my developed LIT skills nothing is beyond me. I guess, too, there is always the chance, though remote, that if the president is unable to fulfill their obligations you step in. And yes I checked but no OALT/ABO President has ever been assassinated nor had any sort of attempt on their lives, much like the Prime Minister."

Taking on the OALT/ABO Conference Challenge

Maggie Weaver, Chair, OALT/ABO Conference 2011

The most immediate part of the OALT/ABO conference is the sessions – just stand outside the door at the end of a session, you’ll notice the noise level rise to the ceiling as people discuss the ideas just presented, share their own experiences, button-hole the speaker to exchange cards and ask questions. The discussions carry on over lunches, as people swap notes on good ideas and good speakers.

But a year later, what stands out from most conference experiences are the social activities. My own highlights include the impromptu table dancing in Thunder Bay, the synchronized swimmers who joined the line dancing lesson in Sudbury, the boat cruise in Kingston, the wine tasting in St. Catharines, the town crier in Barrie. The dates are a little fuzzy now, but I remember how much I enjoyed them, and how much I enjoyed my colleagues’ enjoyment – Tracey in the arms of the DJ, Jill snorting at Sandra Shamus’ jokes, Penni’s antics with an inflated “microphone”, the shy bartender who admitted she was “in the program” at Mohawk College and was so happy to see what real LTs look like...

So now it’s my team’s turn to provide some long-term memories for you to store up in 2011, and relive at future conferences.

We’re having a joint opening reception with the Algonquin alumni, with an address by a very special local star, Jan Harder, who is a City Councillor and also the Chair of the Ottawa Public Library. Jan’s a very funny lady and a fierce advocate of libraries – I know you’ll love her!

In Ottawa we are spoiled for attractions, so you’ll have a choice on Thursday evening, of the past or the future. Culture nuts can go behind the scenes at Bytown Museum; regular nuts can have their future read by a trio of psychics, including our very own Leona Schnellert, whose specialty is runes and tarot. The OALT/ABO banquet on Friday evening is the

social highlight of the conference, as it features our Awards presentations. We have invited Kasturi Mishra, a Khatak dancer from Northern India; her husband Ravi Singh plays the tabla (see <http://www.gharanaarts.com/>). They will demonstrate the dance moves, and explain what they mean – and Ravi says they’ll be happy if we join in. No need to bring your dancing shoes for this one – Khatak is danced barefoot, with bells on. Now that’s my kind of party! You can buy extra tickets for social events, and bring spouses and friends – the more, the merrier.

I’ve got myself all excited remembering and imagining – can’t wait to be there, May 4-7, 2011.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

MAY 4TH– 7TH, 2011

OTTAWA

OALT / ABO

Friendly Reminder

Membership renewal will be due at the end of
January.

Thank you for your continued support!

OALT/ABO Holiday Events and What's Coming Up in 2011

Submitted by your Chapter Coordinator: Maria Ripley

OALT/ABO Holiday Social

Your OALT/ABO Executive was pleased to host a Holiday Social Boat Cruise on the Stella Borealis in Toronto on Saturday, November 27th for a number of members and their guests. Although this venture was one that was truly out of our control, the food was delicious, the night perfectly clear for a great view of the city lights, the company and conversations were fantastic (although a bit loud), and the door prizes were a hit! For those of you on the boat, did you notice the fireworks that were happening at Dundas Square? How about the skaters at Harbourfront and the beautifully lit sailboat? Once again, for a third year in a row, the cookies made a comeback (donated by yours truly), so no one left empty handed (unless you left the boat without saying goodbye to me). We look forward to being able to plan another successful holiday event for 2011 and we are wondering what ideas you might have on what members might like to do and where you might like to "Holiday Social" it next year. The tentative date is planned for Saturday, November 26, 2011 – put your thinking caps on. All ideas are welcome!



Attendees enjoying the festivities (above and below)



View of the Toronto skyline from the boat



Maria Ripley's delicious donation

Halton-Peel Chapter Holiday Social

The Halton-Peel Holiday Brunch Social at the Mohawk Inn on December 5th drew a small, but dedicated crowd, eager to catch up on the happenings of fellow members since last year's event while enjoying a wonderful buffet brunch. To hear the annual updates from members is truly amazing and inspiring. Some members have new jobs, while others are studying to obtain their degree, while others are newly retired. Those retired are enjoying working part time, volunteering and traveling to exotic places like Egypt, while some are enjoying being grandparents for the first time. One member has just graduated Grade one and is looking forward to Grade two as she learns to play the harp – amazing – one day we may have her entertain us at one of the Halton-Peel events (smile).



Doug Willford and Michael David Reansbury. The past, present and future of OALT/ABO



What member Stella Clark does in her 'spare' time (above)

On behalf of those present, Doug Willford presents Joanna Zalewa a card in celebration of her retirement." (below)



Ottawa Chapter Holiday Social

Ottawa Chapter had a holiday social at Tucker's Marketplace on December 9th. I hope they had a great turn out and had as much fun catching up as I did at the other two events.

Looking forward into 2011

As planning goes, here is a rough itinerary going forward into 2011 on what events are being investigated and planned. Remember all members are welcome to attend all events at all locations. Further details on each of the events and how to register will be shared as we get closer to each of the dates. It may be that some events are cancelled due to lack of interest.

January 15th 2011 – Super Saturday (full day event) – Ottawa area (hosted by Ottawa Chapter)

February 2011 – OLA Super Conference – 4 sessions have been pulled together by your OALT/ABO representative. OALT/ABO has a booth on the Exhibit floor, be sure to stop by and say hello!

March 2011 – Super Saturday (full-day event) - Burlington Area (hosted by HP and Toronto Chapters)

April 2011 – Bell Light Box Tour (TIFF) followed by a film - Toronto

May 2011 – OALT/ABO Conference in Ottawa

Further ideas for events going into the fall for 2011 will be shared in the April Newsletter.

If you have ideas on events going forward in to 2011, please email me at chaptercoordinator@oaltabo.on.ca

Your Chapter Coordinator's thought this month:

We have members therefore we survey them to determine how to engage them. We then engage them with planning of social events. After putting forth the efforts to plan events only a handful of members register and show up. What should one think about this?

Presidential Award Thoughts

By Linda Landreville, 2010 OALT/ABO Presidential Award Recipient



Using the same approach as my predecessor, I want to begin by paying homage to those who came before me...

2009 Tracy Morgan

2008 Vicky Lynham

2007 Maggie Weaver

2006 Penni Chalk

2005 Jill Anderson

2004 Pam Casey

2003 Nanci Abbondanza

2002 Pat Henry

2001 No recipient

2000 Marian Doucette

1999 Janet Scheibler

1998 Marg Bushell

1997 Susan Bourdeau

1996 Susan Morley

1995 Marsha Hunt

1994 Judy Koenig

1993 No recipient

1992 Linda Davis

1991 Janet Iles

1990 Bette Gore

1989 Pat Graham

1988 LaRae Moody

1987 Paulette Burton

1986 Sue Weaver

1985 Liz Aldrey

1984 Danielle Amat

What a List! Each of these 24 incredible people has made an indelible mark on OALT/ABO. I admire every one of them. Therefore, how can anyone not feel overwhelmed to be included in such prestigious company!

So, why am I "Number 25"? Frankly, I have absolutely no idea? I have spent many years participating in all sorts of projects, committees and activities. I helped out where I could, I met many fantastic individuals and I had an awful lot of fun along the way. My roles have included: go-fer, inventor, advisor, Ottawa representative on the board of directors, Ottawa vice president and secretary, and, for the last 20 years, chapter newsletter editor. As Tracy wrote last year, simply put – *I did what was needed to be done!*

Confident that I was rolling along in blissful anonymity, I could never have predicted that one day someone would approach me to say: "...congratulations, Linda, you have won the Presidential Award!"

I am sure that my fellow recipients can relate to that feeling of disbelief when you read or hear your name attached to such an honour. In my case, I didn't think that I had contributed anything out of the ordinary that would garner me such praise? It seems that I was noticed without realizing it.

You see, truth be told, nobody really appreciates their own accomplishments. Public recognition usually doesn't happen until an objective party finds the uniqueness in another and shares their discovery.

This is why the Presidential Award Selection Committee cannot exist without input from others. Members must come forward to nominate their peers – to effectively drag them out from under their bush. Trust me, when it happens, it is a pretty nice feeling to sit in the sunlight for your "15 minutes of fame!"

All this said, now it is time to pick next year's winner. As I understand it, we already have an assortment of fine candidates all set for me and my Team to review. Yet, we need more names to round out our line up.

OALT/ABO is luckier than many organizations. We have a very special breed of member within our ranks. They just don't know that we know where they live! He or she is:

- a quiet leader disguised as a worker bee
- a consummate professional who is a talented mentor
- an unflagging supporter of their chosen career which, by extension sets them apart as a beacon for our whole association.



Presidential Award Submissions



The purpose of the OALT / ABO Presidential Award is to recognize outstanding contributions or major achievements of an OALT / ABO member in promoting and / or developing the Association.

The award is presented annually to any full member, in good standing, of OALT / ABO excluding the current Provincial President, members of the Award Committee and past recipients. This award recognizes the contributions of Library Technicians from communities across Ontario, whose leadership, commitment and persistent endeavors have contributed significantly to advancing the Association and our profession.

The OALT/ABO Presidential Award Selection Committee consists of the previous award recipient and two additional members, in good standing, of OALT / ABO. The Selection Committee will seek candidates who generally meet the following criteria:

- * Member of OALT/ABO.
- * Evidence that the Association has played a significant role during the individual's professional career.
- * Demonstrated leadership in helping others achieve full participation in the library profession within the Association and / or within the work place.
- * Outstanding contribution in building the Association either regionally or provincially.
- * Advanced recognition of the Library and Information Technician profession through publications, seminars, or workshops.

Two members in good standing, who are not related to the candidate, may sponsor candidates for the OALT / ABO Presidential Award. Confidential nominations must be submitted in writing, by April 1st of each year. The application form may be found by contacting the current committee chairperson:

Linda Landreville - landreville@rogers.com

Confidential submissions sent to us by Canada Post should be addressed to:

Linda Landerville
160 Northwestern Ave.
Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 0MZ

Going Green: Even in the Smallest Way

By Adriana Sgro, Library Technician, University of Toronto Scarborough

These days, there is so much talk about adopting better, greener practices in our work space. Outside of recycling paper, you may think there's not much else you can do. For most, making decisions on buying environment-friendly equipment is not in their job description. Or perhaps a suggestion of carpooling is not a viable option, so you may just give up with the entire notion of being environmentally conscious at work. Don't despair! There are simple things you can do in your library to reduce waste and energy usage, that do not take a lot of time and an entire committee to come up with.

Recently, an interesting YouTube video made its way onto one of my listservs, titled "Greening ILL Practices". The video was based on a report created by OCLC Research, which sponsored a study of the environmental impact of current Interlibrary Loan practices in relation to greenhouse gas emissions levels (<http://www.youtube.com/oclcresearch>). I'm sure many of the practices suggested in the report are already being used by libraries today, including: (1) Re-use packaging materials for shipping; (2) Request materials from lenders that are close by; (3) Aggregate

I have now become the
"Environmental Police" at
my library.

shipments to the same location. Other items to consider: emissions from the production, transport and disposal of mailing bags is much lower than from the production of cardboard boxes, and ground transport is less harmful to the environment than shipping by air (Massie). The report is quick to mention that as library employees, one must use best judgment and if shipping a box by air is what needs to be done, then go ahead and do it. Nonetheless, the



report offers sound advice on other greening practices that any library would no doubt find useful and easy to take on (<http://www.oclc.org/research/publications/library/2010/2010-07.pdf>).

Outside of library procedures, there are other simple ideas that others can be made aware of in your workplace. I have now become the "Environmental Police" at my library (minus the badge and weapon!). The walls have been graced with a few of my signs, promoting more environment friendly practices. This came about with an observation I made one day while in the staff room. As I prepared to boil water for my morning cup of tea, I found an entire pot full of water that had once been boiled but is now too cool to be used. This was becoming a common practice in our library. Many staff members, when boiling water for themselves they decided to be kind and boil extra water for others. Problem was, frequently a lot of water was being boiled for no reason. On this particular day, I remembered something I observed during the Earth Day Concert in the summer of 2007. As each performer took the stage that day, short messages were flashed across the screen. They were little items that we could do to help the environment. One such tip stayed with me – boil only the water you are going to use. So, I put a sign up in the staff lounge,

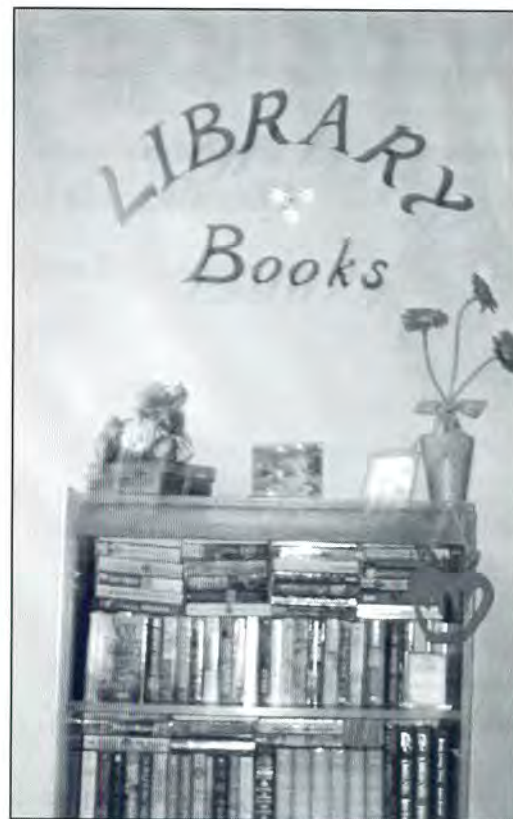
bestowing the virtues of boiling only the water needed. It saves energy, plus studies have shown that re-boiled water not only may have harmful effects to your health, but it makes for a lousy cup of tea! I'm happy to report that many took heed of the advice, and there is rarely a large reservoir of water sitting in the kettle.

Looking around, my next target was the printer. While on my "David Suzuki" rampage, I noticed that a lot of waste was incurred when printing. The next sign placed up beside every printer in the library had four salient points to consider when printing an item: 1. Ask yourself – do I need to print this?; 2. Print on both sides of a sheet of paper; 3. Manage your emails electronically, without printing a copy of every email; 4. Recycle paper when you can. I haven't conducted any in-depth studies to measure the effectiveness of my signage, but I'm proud to say that I have noticed more employees printing on both sides of the paper.

I am still on the hunt for better, greener alternatives to the way we work. A search on the Internet could yield a number of ways offices could adapt healthier choices, such as purchasing laptops instead of desktops, and investing in more energy-efficient equipment. For most of us, we are not in positions to make such decisions. However, there are other smaller yet still powerful things that we can do around the library to cut down on waste and energy use – it just takes someone to point out something as simple as boiling less water.

◆
Massie, Dennis. "Greening Interlibrary Loan Practices". OCLC Research, May 2010. Web.
29 Nov. 2010.

Has your workplace become greener? Tell us about it! Send us your tips and suggestions to: oaltabonewsletter@gmail.com and we will share them in the next newsletter.



LT's in Action

By Patricia Walsh

I run a business in my spare time known as Curves for Women in Fort Erie, Ontario. I have had a painter come in and do a small point of set-up for me with regards to the library area in the club. When I came to the club it was a smaller shelf. With my background as a Library Tech I know right away what it needed – a larger shelf. It is one shelf that is always full of library books...always. Members are encouraged to take books and brings books. The shelf was empty and before I knew it members were bringing more. The shelf has seen many books, from fiction, to how to skate and I have even seen some on cooking.

The book shelf has been a blessing for all members as members are not only choosing to exercise their bodies but also their minds.

OALT/ABO Student Award Winners

Every year, OALT/ABO awards one student from each of the LIT programs in Ontario. This award is based on grades and an interest in the profession.



Congratulations, in no particular order, to:

Victoria Berkeley - Mohawk College

Sheila Galbraith - Algonquin College

Julie Cristinzo - Seneca College

Victoria Berkeley

Presented by Dolores Harms Penner, Program Manager, L.I.T. Program at Mohawk College

The winner of the OALT/ABO Award from the Fall 2010 graduating class in Mohawk College's Library and Information Technician diploma program is Victoria Berkeley. This annual award is presented to the graduate with the highest standing in library technical courses.

In fall of 2005, Vicki took the Intro to Libraries course, just to see how it would go. Luckily it went very well and Vicki continued with the program. Originally encouraged by the library technician who ran the school library where she volunteered, Vicki hoped to complete the program and run a school library of her own. However, as she was told at the beginning of the program, many graduates finish the LT program with different goals from when they began, and now Vicki finds herself happy to be employed at the Hamilton Public Library.

She enjoys the diversity of the public library where she can work with both children and adults, performing circulation duties as well as answering reference questions. Two of her favourite aspects of working at the Hamilton Public Library so far are performing story times and facilitating a teen book club.

Her fondness of the teens in the book club may have something to do with the fact that she has two teens at home in Burlington, Ontario. In her spare time, Vicki

enjoys singing, being an active member of her church choir and often soloing at weddings and funerals. And of course, she enjoys reading, particularly teen fiction!

Vicki can honestly say she enjoyed all of the courses that she took in the Library Technician program, although her favourites were the information work courses and those related to children and teens. Another benefit of the Library Technician program that Vicki enjoyed was gaining experience at an academic library and a special library through her field work terms. Vicki graduated from the program in fall of 2010 and is very appreciative that the OALT/ABO has recognized her achievement of having the highest academic average in this year's graduating class with this award.



*Mohawk OALT/ABO student award winner
Victoria Berkeley*

Sheila Galbraith

Presented by Helena Merriam, Program Coordinator,
L.I.T. Program at Algonquin College

Sheila Galbraith has consistently maintained excellent grades throughout the two year Library and Information Technician Program at Algonquin College. She was actively involved in the classroom and volunteered to assist students in their studies. She also took the lead on involving her classmates in other projects or events outside the classroom. She helped build a congenial network amongst the students. She volunteered to be a Peer tutor, to assist students in first year to achieve academic success. She willingly assisted her professors in events such as the annual networking Meet and Greet event.

In addition to her classroom studies, Sheila served as the LIT Student Representative on the executive of the CLA-CASLIS Ottawa Chapter for the 2009-2010 term. She also served on the first ever Algonquin Reads committee, and developed and maintained the Algonquin Reads web site. She volunteered to assist with the Algonquin Reads event, from the launch at the President's breakfast, the Used book sale and more.

In addition to winning the OALT award, Sheila Galbraith was selected to win the School of Health and Community Studies Award of Excellence. This is an award that is given to one student throughout the entire school of health and community studies (of over 25 programs) and is awarded by the Executive Dean at the Convocation ceremonies in June.

Julie Cristinzo

Presented by Deborah Kay, Program Coordinator,
L.I.T. Program at Seneca College

From the class of 2010 and the 62 graduating student, Julie Cristinzo was chosen as the recipient of the 2010 student award presented by the Ontario Association of Library Technicians.

It is always a difficult task selecting the recipient of the student award. We always feel that Seneca and the profession are extremely lucky to have so many excellent graduates.

Given our choices, what made Julie Cristinzo the recipient of the student award? By obtaining a GPA of 4.0 in each of her four semesters and a place on the President's Honours Roll List, Julie certainly met our first criteria of grades. However, it wasn't just her grades; it also was Julie's great interest in her subjects, her questions and her enthusiasm for her chosen profession.

Julie's grades were one strong factor in our choice, but Julie's accomplishments and strengths at Seneca didn't stop with her grades. She has also shared her knowledge, her enthusiasm and her time with others through her work in Seneca's Student Mentoring program. She still continues to assist present LIT students through her tutoring, despite her very busy schedule.

Given Julie's characteristics, the faculty of Seneca also thought it was quite likely that Julie would get involved in the profession, outside of the workplace and she has not disappointed. You now know her as one of the editors of the association's newsletter!



A Library Technician Is Born

By Philip Wasley, Seneca LIT program May 2011

It seems to me that most Library Technicians have stumbled across this unique calling by an epiphany. As a soon to be graduate of a library technician program, there are many young people right out of high school deciding to go down this road, but a great many are, for lack of a better word, older. I consider myself in this latter category. There's something equalizing about post-secondary education though, a wide diversity of backgrounds and work experience have somehow brought us together in this moment in time, and come this May we shall part and go our separate ways once again.

Library workers are a unique breed I've discovered. For some of us graduating, it feels like we have finally found out what we were born to do, it feels that way for me anyway. I'm sure there's no shortage of library technicians who scoff at the very notion and have resigned themselves to the hum-drum life of

“Every human wants knowledge and as LT's we get to sift through it and help people find it.”

their library job and find little to crow about each morning. Perhaps I will become jaded as well in time, but I'm determined not to. I tell a lot of people that for the first time in my life I have had the opportunity to choose what I want to do and I have discovered something that feels right all the way down to my toes. I can't tell you how much pleasure I get from subject analysis, or even shelf reading.



Philip Wasley, catching up on his Essential Dewey

With a wife and children, I'm eager and anxious to get work of course. I can't afford the luxury of a year (or even a season) of job hunting. Ever since beginning the program I've searched for and reviewed all potential employment. By this time, you can imagine my appetite for work is whet. I've had two work placements thus far and I have not been disappointed in terms of the possible promise that lies ahead. For the most part, it's everything I've expected and more. I had no idea that this vocation even existed two years ago and it's as if I chipped away at the stone around my forgotten and buried passions, and out it has poured, this love of a work I never knew existed.

I admit, it sounds maudlin and a tad melodramatic, but it's true, I'm excited. I think that most LT's out there do not do this job for the money. We all need to pay the bills of course, but there's a fair degree of horny lust for information in all of us. I think that's what makes this a fantastic profession; the work is so closely connected to the very private loves of reading, writing, collecting and knowledge. Every human wants knowledge and as LT's we get to sift through it and help people find it. I couldn't ask for a more rewarding career.

Dear Devil RE: Attention to Detail by Michael David Reansbury, Circulation Desk Administrator, Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine

I am not a gambling man. When a casino first opened in my home town I thought it my civic duty to go once and see what it was all about. I took with me twenty dollars and set off for the slot machines. To my complete and utter disappointment, but to the vast amusement of the older women to my right and left who thought me just a young pup, slot machines no longer came with handles to pull. I put my tokens in, pushed the button, and in less than five minutes was out of cash. That is the extent of my gambling. I will, however, break with tradition this once and gamble with you. I wager that every position that has been or ever will be posted for a library technician will state 'attention to detail' as a necessary skill. In our work attention to detail is paramount. Yet for some odd reason, in the professional life of library technicians, the mantra of 'don't sweat the details' is adhered to. I wish to advocate instead for the use of another popular adage for our professional, as well as personal lives: 'the devil is in the details.'

While researching Our Ontario, a division of Knowledge Ontario, as a potential platform for the digitization of historical documents related to genealogy for the Uxbridge Public Library I came across an ad for askON. I realize you who read the listserv know how this story ends but I ask you to indulge me. The accompanying blurb with the askON icon read, "If you have a specific research question, we encourage you to use askON, a virtual reference service staffed by LIBRARIANS¹ in Ontario.' Stop the gravy train! As far as I know, and I know I was and am not wrong, librarians AND library technicians staff askON. If I had adhered to the mantra 'don't sweat the details' I would have quietly laughed at the glaring mistake and continued on with my research. However, in my career as well as in my professional life I adhere to the strict policy that details are important. I quickly searched for a point of contact², fired off an email which politely stated that I felt the

blurb was not correct and in ten minutes it was changed. The blurb now reads: "If you have a specific research question, we encourage you to use askON, to chat live with experienced research and reference staff from Ontario libraries³." Some may consider the change to be a small one; I contend the change was an important one.

Another small detail I fear most library technicians overlook is correcting a patron, or fellow employee, when they call us librarians. In the Spring of 2008, when I was actively researching a future career in libraries, I often had the same conversation with family and friends and it went something like this:



Me: "I want to work in a library."

Them: "So you're going to be a librarian."

Me: "Not necessarily. Librarians are not the only people that work in libraries."

Them: "Who else works in libraries?"

Me: "Clerks, administrative assistants, pages, library technicians and custodial staff⁴."

There are two main culprits who are responsible for the maintenance of the incorrect notion that the only people working in libraries are librarians. The first is the definition of librarian. I think it worth pointing out that in all the resources I have consulted for a definition of library not one of them mentions librarians.

In contrast all definition of librarians explicitly state the major purview of librarians is the library.

1. My emphasis.
2. I must acknowledge that Jess Posgate, my point of contact at Our Ontario, quickly remedied the situation amidst her tireless efforts to bring Ontario's history to life digitally.
3. The blurb can be found on the About Us page of the Our Ontario site: <http://search.ourontario.ca/about>
4. This conversation should be read aloud with proper sarcastic emphasis added to both the role of Me and Them.

Continued on next page


Herein lies another, arguably small, but again I think important detail: librarians work in libraries; libraries do not necessarily work because of librarians.

It would be easy to point the finger and leave it at that.

However, the guiltier culprit in the widely held belief that libraries are the sole domain of librarians is other library staff. I am not completely sure if library staff choose not to correct people who call everyone that work in a library librarians because they enjoy the prestige that is associated, rightly or wrongly, with the title Librarian. Or perhaps library staff allow themselves to be incorrectly identified simply as a path of least resistances. As time consuming and perhaps even fruitless as a discussion library staff initiate to explain the different types of staff that work in a library maybe it is a discussion worth having. I stated in my article "Advocacy: What's in a Name,"⁵ if libraries are to continue to be relevant to the widest possible clientele, then every library should ideally be staffed by a spectrum of employees. All staff within a library have the right to be proud of their position. If a patron incorrectly identifies your position within a library all one needs to do is simply correct them and if they let you explain what it is you do with in the library. Just think: at the very least you can always put a check mark in the statistics next to reference questions.

I am not impervious to the reality that often it is the small things that cause the greatest amount of conflict. Yes, the devil is in the details. There is the real possibility that some feathers might get ruffled, and some buns may be loosened but credit must be given where credit is due. Day in and day out library technicians scour Marc coding, purchase orders, and electronic resources always paying a great deal of attention to the details: why would the realm of our professional life be any different? I therefore end this article in the sincere hope that all who read it will pay greater attention to the details of what is not only their own but also all library technician's professional life: as my grandfather was apt to say far better the devil you know.

5. Reansbury, Michael David. "Advocacy: What's in a Name." Newsletter/Nouvelles. 33.3 (2010):12-13.



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Knowledge Ontario

The issue of advocacy and the implications of advocacy for our Association was raised at the General Meeting following the 2010 Conference at Mohawk. In response to the dialogue that occurred at the AGM the Executive is establishing a committee to examine the issue of advocacy given the Association mandate. It is the Executives desire that the committee will be made up of individuals representing all regions within Ontario as well as all types of libraries. If you wish to join such a committee please email your intention to info@oaltabo.on.ca with "Advocacy Committee" in the subject line.

Life After Retirement

By Doug Wilford, Humber College 1972-2003

Any and all encouragement to submit this article must be directed to our editors whose comments were the inspiration I needed.

For those who do not know me, my name is Douglas Willford, a 1972 graduate of the Library Technician Program at Niagara College in Welland. Upon graduation I was employed at the North Campus Library at Humber

College and after 31 years of what I can honestly say was a most enjoyable experience I opted for the 85 factor and happily retired in June of 2003.

Prior to my retirement I had consulted with fellow staff who were also planning to retire or had retired and the overwhelming message that came back to me was "HAVE A PLAN". In other words do not retire for the sake of wanting to retire!!! With this in mind I set about planning what I might like to do after retirement and if I wanted to remain in Brampton, Ontario or move back to the Niagara Peninsula where I was raised and still have a number of family members and close friends.

After much thought and planning I decided to move back to my roots and at the same time wanted to remain as active as possible. Shortly after my move back to Welland, Ontario I contacted the local school board and was immediately hired as a call in to fill any vacancies in the school libraries. At first I did enjoy this but after almost two years discovered that this was just not "my thing".

During a retirees' meeting at Humber College I met a colleague who also retired the same time as I did and she asked me how I was enjoying retirement. I told her how much I was enjoying it but was not all that

happy as a call in for the school boards and was going to look at something else. She told me to check with the local car rental agencies who often hire retirees to drive their cars. Now, I do love driving so one day I visited the local Enterprise Rent A Car office and asked if they were hiring. They said they were and to go to their website and complete the online application form. So, without hesitation I did this and one month later I was called in for an interview where I was hired.



The job is varied and interesting and is something I am truly enjoying. There are different scenarios:

1. Working at an office where I pick up customers and bring them into the office or drive customers home when they return their vehicles. I love meeting people and have met some very interesting ones including a retired NHL hockey player.
2. A branch may not have enough vehicles to rent out so they check on the computer and see what other branches have a surplus of cars which can be released to the branch who is in need. The head driver will then contact drivers and we meet at the branch, load into a shuttle van and go for the cars. Sometimes the reverse happens where the branch in our area releases vehicles to another branch and the drivers are picked up by the shuttle van which takes us back home. Of course all this leads to a nice coffee break!!!!
3. When a vehicle reaches between 45,000 and 65,000 kilometres it is withdrawn from the fleet and these vehicles are driven to a holding lot in Woodstock, Ontario where they are taken off the books and the majority sold to car auction(s). Of course, when you delete vehicles you must also replace these vehicles and often we get the opportunity to drive back new cars to the branch. If we do not take back new cars the shuttle van comes and picks us up. Again, all of

this leads to a nice coffee break!!!!

Above and beyond this 15 to 20 hour part time job I am involved with the following:

1. I am very involved with my church (Wesley United in Welland) where I am chair of the Church Council and have taken a leadership role in the development of our new Library.
2. I am co-chair for the Humber College Retirees' Association and help them plan a number of social events.
3. Belong to the Alumni Council at Niagara College here in Welland and assist with numerous alumni events.
4. Assist at a seniors' residence.
5. Help at a local historical society.
6. Travel as much as possible. In Oct 2010 I will be attending the DND Schoolies Reunion in Winnipeg and on Oct 23rd I leave for a nine day tour of Egypt. In February 2011 I am off to Palm Springs, California to visit some close friends.

Whew!! Who said you get bored when you are retired. I know I'm not and am enjoying everyday of it. I am so busy I think I will have to **retire all over again**. LOL



Transliteracy: Have you heard?

Working Definition: "The ability to read, write and interact across a range of platforms, tools and media from signing and orality through handwriting, print, TV, radio and film, to digital social networks."

For info on Transliteracy and libraries check out these links:

- * YouTube **Video by Bobbi L. Newman** :
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sk4Cw8vrDuM>
- * **Introducing transliteracy : What does it mean to academic libraries?**
by Tom Ipri
<http://crln.acrl.org/content/71/10/532.full>



How We Celebrated Ontario Public Library Week

At Dorchester Library, a branch of Middlesex County Library, the staff celebrated Ontario Public Library Week in October with an Open House on Tuesday that week. The Dorchester Staff had just completed webinar training on the Services to Business portal on the Service Ontario website so we wanted to highlight business in our community. We invited owners of local businesses to be our guest staff behind the circulation desk. Four small business owners accepted our invitation and each spent about an hour checking materials in and out, issuing new patron cards, collecting fines and chatting with library users. All our guests said that they enjoyed their experience on the other side of the circ desk.

Kathryn Suffoletta, Supervisor Dorchester Library



What Do Library Technicians Do?: Results of the Latest Salary Survey

By Donna Brown

W

ell, it's official. Results of the latest biennial OALT/ABO Salary & Library Profile Survey are in!

The OALT/ABO questionnaire covers type of library, membership status, education and experience, job responsibilities, types of library systems, and of course, salaries. It's helpful to members in making comparisons and job choices, and also to the association in planning. For example, more OALT/ABO conference sessions were tailored to school libraries after large numbers of non-member technicians in schools responded to the survey in 2007. This year, respondents were evenly spread across types of libraries: special, academic, government, school and public.

For complete results, the survey is available free of charge to all respondents and to OALT/ABO members on the members-only side of the website: www.oaltabo.on.ca; it is available for non-member at a cost of \$10, contact info@oaltabo.on.ca

"Some beneficiaries of the OALT/ABO salary survey are new professionals, who from it learn what actual jobs look like for technicians."

Nearly one-third of survey respondents belong to more than one library association, with the OLA being the most common "second" membership of OALT/ABO members, and the most common membership reported by non-members.

The survey confirms what LTs know but the library world is hardly aware of: 46% have a degree or diploma in addition to the Library Technician qualification, up from 41% in the 2007 survey and

Some beneficiaries of the OALT/ABO salary survey are new professionals, who from it learn what actual jobs look like for technicians. To them, it may come as a surprise that not all LT graduates have "library technician" as a job title. 42% of our latest respondents gave "Library Technician" as their title; another 21% have "technician" in their job title; another 12% have "assistant" in their title. But 14% have a title signifying management: head, coordinator, supervisor, manager, administrator, team leader, etc. Earlier OALT/ABO surveys have shown that LTs in special libraries are most likely, and in school libraries least likely, to have management-type job titles. In all, 76 unique job titles were recorded.

Another beneficiary group are LT educators, who learn what actual tasks are being undertaken by LTs in the workplace. The survey asks about main activities in three areas: technical services, public services, and management responsibilities, which we hope helps to guide the development of LT curriculum, for both technical and soft skills.

In technical services, circulation, cataloguing, book processing and acquisitions have for several years been the most often noted. This year, "internet / web design and maintenance" showed a surge. In public services, ready reference and general public enquiry has been the leading activity for several years (80% of respondents this year), with internet research second, although this latter has slipped a bit recently (to 50%), perhaps as our clients become better at web searching themselves. The interesting surge this year was "brochure / sign design".

I contacted a few of the individuals who shared their job titles and main responsibilities with me:

Web Architect – Marion Doucette of the County of Huron, Information Technology Division reported she is responsible for: "Planning, coordination, accessibility and maintenance of the County's full web portfolio; selecting Web applications' software platforms; creating original web content where required; ongoing site analysis on system volume and

traffic patterns; and developing and delivering training to end-users on software applications”.

Circulation Coordinator – Jeff Corbett of Ralph M. Besse Library, Ursuline College listed his major duties as: “Coordinating the circulation of items including check in and out; manage student volunteers; reconcile the weekly money intake from fines payments, photocopiers, etc.; handle movement of items to/from our consortium libraries”.

Coordinator of Technical Services – Marcia Jackson-Friginette of Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library reported her major responsibilities as: “Ensuring proper function of our ILS (Polaris); coordinating the technical services operation of the library; cataloguing; information desk.”

Document Analyst – Millie Yip from Imperial Oil noted she “Issues technical documents as per engineers requests; ensuring they are delivered via Document Manager and FileNet.”

Library Officer, Collection Management – Kathleen Dahl from Beryl Ivey Library, Brescia University College indicated a variety of duties including ordering and receiving new materials; cataloguing and processing; serials and claims.

“It is evident that the role of the Library Technician has evolved, and is wider and more varied than many of us imagine.”

In management responsibilities, noted by more than 45% of respondents, purchasing has been a lead activity for some years, with training / mentoring surging to second place this year.

As expected the respondents with the most experience are the most likely to have management

responsibilities, but many individuals with less than 5 years experience have some management duties, particularly training. Over half of the respondents (53%) have supervisory responsibilities, a factor of both experience and type of library: respondents in school and public libraries are more likely to have supervisory responsibilities, whereas respondents in special and government are least likely to be supervisors.

It is evident that the role of the Library Technician has evolved, and is wider and more varied than many of us imagine.



Donna Brown is the External Communications Coordinator of the Ontario Association of Library Technicians/L'Association des biblio-techniciens de l'Ontario (OALT/ABO). She is a Library Technician at the Health Sciences Library at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine- West Campus (donna.brown@nosm.ca)

twitter

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To create a Twitter account

- 1 Go to <http://twitter.com/> click on 'sign up'
2. Fill in the registration details and click on 'create my account'

After creating your account the next page allows you to type "oaltabo" and click on 'search'. If you already have an account, sign in and search for "oaltabo".

OALT/ABO twitter account details will pop up with a Follow button:



Click on '+Follow' and you will be able to see OALT/ABO's regular tweets on Association and Library Technician news.

If you have any questions please contact info@oaltabo.on.ca

Volunteer Spotlight

A Royal Affair

By Maggie Weaver

Every fall I volunteer in the "International Business Centre" at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, in Exhibition Place, Toronto.

About 80 years ago, the Royal started a volunteer group of ladies who formed the welcoming committee to the "Visitors to Canada", providing tea and translations for the farmers who visit the Royal from overseas. The ladies comprised diplomatic wives with poise and a smattering of foreign languages, and new Canadian wives looking forward to telling folks from back home how wonderful farming in Canada is.

About ten years ago a business centre was added to the social aspects, and the "International Business Centre" was formed. The ladies still dispense tea, coffee and cookies, but now the visitors can check their email, fax contracts requiring signatures, research the breeding of a prospective purchase, and hold earnest discussions on international judging standards and the weakness of the dollar.

Someone was needed to fix the photocopier, explain how the computers worked and look up hotel rates (sound familiar?), not to mention figure out a wiring diagram so that they didn't regularly fuse the lights when the oversize milk cooler started up. That someone was me.

It has been a wonderful experience -- I have met so many people from overseas, learned a lot about farming practices and the international trade in

agricultural products. Every year, "Jummy" talks interminably in broad Scots about Clydesdales. There's always a matched set of Welsh rugby players with broad shoulders and insatiable appetites for cookies and chocolate milk. There are young Belgians and younger Frenchmen. The Pakistanis didn't get their visas in time, but the Colombians came in droves. There are polite Japanese and this year even a Chinese delegation, as well as buyers from Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

My volunteer friends are delightful -- they tell stories about crashing debutante parties in the 1940s, ranching in Alberta in the 50s, helping husbands start

and then run multi-million dollar companies in the 60s, and terrorizing the Parole Board in the 70s. They are 80-year-olds who have never stopped being horse crazy. They are 90-year-olds who totter in on walkers to make sure we are still serving the tea strong enough. They accept philosophically that occasionally one passes away and won't be volunteering with us again. They are the aunts and great-aunts that I

don't have any more.

My "ladies" are the very best part of my volunteer experience at the Royal.



We are hoping to make 'Volunteer Spotlight' a regular feature, so please send us your own or someone you know volunteer experiences to:

oaltabonewsletter@gmail.com

Volunteer Spotlight

Q and A with Irène Kumar

Irène Kumar has been retired from the library profession since 2009, and is committed to volunteering for organizations such as OALT/ABO and Ecology Ottawa (EO). We asked her a few questions to gain insight into how volunteering has affected her life. Read on as we spotlight a Library Technician making a difference in her community.

Editors: Tell our readers about yourself.

Irène: I graduated from the Programme de bibliotechnique of the Algonquin College in May 1975. I held many positions but in 1982, I became the Map Library Clerk in the Dept. of Energy Mines and Resources, which was later renamed Natural Resources Canada. Later, I was promoted to Map Library Coordinator. I retired from the Natural Resources Canada Library in October 2009.

Editors: How did you learn about these volunteer opportunities?

Irène: I have always been interested in volunteer work. Even as a teenager, I was a Brownie leader with *Les Guides catholiques du Canada*. As a member of OALT/ABO, I have served on the Ottawa Chapter executive for the last 8-9 years where I currently serve as the Translation Coordinator. I have been providing translations for more than 10 years now to the Ottawa Chapter. Since my retirement, I have been involved with Ecology Ottawa (EO). This volunteer-driven organization is trying to make Ottawa the green capital of Canada.

Editors: What drew you to these volunteer opportunities?

Irène: After retirement, I felt that I needed to expand my horizons and go toward my community at large. Since I care about the environment, I thought Ecology Ottawa was a perfect fit for me. It allows me to learn about environmental issues and sustainable technologies as well. Although I am still volunteering with the Ottawa Chapter/Section d'Ottawa of OALT/

ABO, I feel that new graduates and working LTs should get involved more as they know what workshops or other events are required for their professional development.

Editors: What skills as an LT (Library Technician) do you bring to your volunteer commitment?

Irène: The LT skills I bring to EO are my client services skills as I manned the EO Booth at various community events. Of course, the technological skills are also required, i.e. ability to use the Internet, MS Word, Excel, Google Docs, etc.

Editors: Are you developing new skills? Do they help you in your life outside volunteering?

Irène: Well, I have to learn Google Docs, Doodle for scheduling meetings, but more importantly, it helps me maintain the technological skills I already have. As for the environmental aspect, I already knew quite a bit but I am learning so much about all the implications and about the green technologies. They do help me in my home life as I can become more green myself and I can share the knowledge with my family and friends.

Editors: Describe a typical workday at your volunteer commitment

Irène: I don't really have a typical workday as 90% of my volunteer work can be done from home. I usually check my emails in the morning to see if I have received translation requests, since a lot of my contributions are in that department, or if they require assistance in manning booths, etc.

Editors: What are some challenges, if any?

Irène: During the last municipal elections, I volunteered on the Candidate Outreach Committee of EO. As such, I had to contact the candidates in the wards I was responsible for, inform them about EO and its environmental proposals, attend debates in my wards and ask questions about the candidates' environmental platform and my biggest challenge, was to translate the Candidate Survey. It was very

technical at times and I had to research the proper translation using various translation tools and the Internet. The LT research skills really came in handy for this task!

Editors: What is the most rewarding thing about your volunteer work?

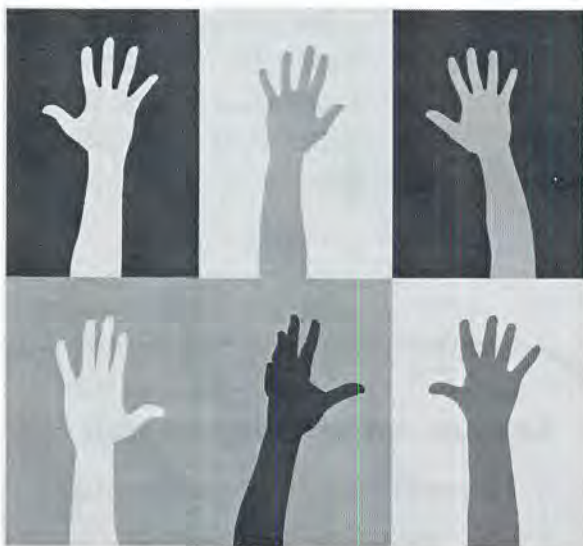
Irène: So many things, knowing that I am giving back to my community, good for the self-esteem, ensuring that I keep on learning and meeting new and interesting people. I guess these are some of the rewards.

Editors: Why is volunteering important to you?

Irène: Volunteering with EO is important to me because I feel that I must do my bit to take care of our environment and participate in improving the quality of life for all our fellow citizens.

Editors: What advice/words of encouragement would you give to people thinking of volunteering?

Irène: People should start slowly and increase their involvement rather than starting big and realizing that they have too much on their plate. Do something that matches their interest so that their initial enthusiasm is sustained. Learn to say no. If you feel a specific task is not for you or that it requires too much of your time, don't be afraid to say no. It is better than saying yes to everything and feeling overwhelmed and discouraged. If your volunteering is planned properly, you will reap many personal rewards.



Pleins Feux Sur Les Bénévoles

Irène Kumar a pris sa retraite du monde des bibliothèques en 2009 et s'est engagée à faire du bénévolat pour quelques organisations telles l'OALT/ABO et Écologie Ottawa (EO). Nous lui avons posé quelques questions pour savoir comment le bénévolat a changé sa vie. Voyez comment cette bibliotechnicienne essaie de faire une différence dans sa communauté.

Rédacteurs : Parlez-nous de vous.

Irène: J'ai obtenu mon diplôme du Programme de bibliotechnique du Collège Algonquin en mai 1975. J'ai occupé plusieurs postes, mais en 1982, je suis devenue Commis préposée à la cartothèque au sein du Ministère de l'Énergie, mines et ressources, renommé Ressources naturelles Canada par la suite. Quelques années plus tard, grâce à une promotion, je suis devenue Coordinatrice à la cartothèque. En octobre 2009, je quitte la Bibliothèque de Ressources naturelles Canada pour prendre ma retraite.

Rédacteurs : Comment avez-vous pris connaissance de ces possibilités de bénévolat?

Irène: J'ai toujours été porté vers le bénévolat. Même adolescente, j'étais animatrice chez les Jeannettes avec les Guides catholiques du Canada. En tant que membre de l'OALT/ABO, je suis sur le conseil exécutif de la Section d'Ottawa depuis les dernières 8 ou 9 années. Présentement, je suis la Coordinatrice aux traductions. Je traduit pour la Section d'Ottawa depuis plus de 10 ans maintenant. Depuis ma retraite, j'offre mes services à Écologie Ottawa. Cette organisation essaie de faire d'Ottawa, la capitale verte du Canada. .

Rédacteurs : Qu'est-ce qui vous a attiré vers ces possibilités de bénévolat?

Irène: Après ma retraite, je voulais élargir mes horizons et contribuer à la communauté où je réside. Comme je me préoccupe de l'environnement, EO semble être idéal pour moi. Cela me permet

d'approfondir mes connaissances sur les questions environnementales et sur les technologies du développement durable. Bien que je sois toujours bénévole pour l'OALT/ABO, je crois que c'est aux nouveaux diplômés et aux bibliothécaires sur le marché du travail de s'impliquer davantage, puisqu'ils sont en meilleure position de savoir ce qu'ils ont besoin comme ateliers ou autres activités pour leur perfectionnement professionnel.

Rédacteurs : Quelles compétences en bibliothécaire apportez-vous à votre engagement bénévole?

Irène: Le service à la clientèle puisque je dois m'occuper du kiosque d'EO à divers événements communautaires. Évidemment, les compétences technologiques sont aussi nécessaires, i.e. habiletés à utiliser Internet, MS Word, Excel, Google Docs, etc.

Rédacteurs : Est-ce que vous développez de nouvelles compétences? Est-ce qu'ils vous fournissent de l'aide en dehors du bénévolat?

Irène: Bien, j'ai dû apprendre Google Docs, Doodle pour la planification de réunions, mais surtout, ça m'aide à conserver les habiletés technologiques que je possède déjà. En ce qui concerne l'aspect environnemental, j'étais au courant de plusieurs choses, mais j'apprends tellement au sujet des implications écologiques et des technologies vertes. Ils m'aident dans ma vie personnelle car en devenant plus écologique, je peux partager mes connaissances avec ma famille et mes amis.

Rédacteurs : Décrivez une journée typique comme bénévole.

Irène: Je n'ai pas vraiment de journée typique puisque 90% de mon travail se fait de la maison. D'habitude, je vérifie mes courriels le matin pour voir si j'ai reçu des demandes de traduction ou des requêtes pour travailler au kiosque, etc.

Rédacteurs : Quels sont les défis auxquels vous avez dû faire face?

Irène: Durant les dernières élections municipales, je faisais partie du comité des relations avec les candidats d'EO. Je devais communiquer avec les candidats des quartiers qui m'étaient assignés, les informer des propositions environnementales d'EO, assister aux débats dans mes quartiers et poser des questions aux candidats sur leur programme environnemental et mon plus grand défi est sans

contredit, de traduire le sondage destiné aux candidats. Il y avait beaucoup de termes techniques et je devais effectuer des recherches pour trouver la traduction précise en utilisant divers outils de traduction ainsi qu'Internet. Les compétences en recherche acquises comme bibliothécaire m'ont été bien précieuses pour cette tâche!

Rédacteurs : Quelles récompenses est-ce que votre travail de bénévole vous apporte?

Irène: Tellement de choses, savoir que je redonne à ma communauté, que c'est bon pour l'estime de soi, m'assurer que je continue d'apprendre et rencontrer de nouvelles personnes intéressantes sont je pense, quelques unes des récompenses.

Rédacteurs : Pourquoi est-ce que le bénévolat est important pour vous?

Irène: Faire du bénévolat avec EO est important pour moi car je crois que nous devons faire notre part pour prendre soin de notre environnement et participer à l'amélioration de la qualité de vie pour tous nos concitoyens et concitoyennes.

Rédacteurs : Quels conseils ou mots d'encouragement aimeriez-vous donner aux gens qui pensent à faire du bénévolat?

Irène: Engagez-vous lentement et augmentez votre implication plutôt que de commencer gros et vous rendre compte que votre fardeau est trop lourd. Faites quelque chose qui vous intéresse pour soutenir votre enthousiasme. Apprenez à dire non. Si vous croyez qu'une tâche ne vous convient pas, n'ayez pas peur de dire non. Cela est préférable que de dire oui à tout et vous sentir accablés et découragés. Si votre bénévolat est bien planifié, vous en recueillerez plusieurs récompenses. ◆

**Les articles en français sont les
bienvenus / We welcome
articles in French**

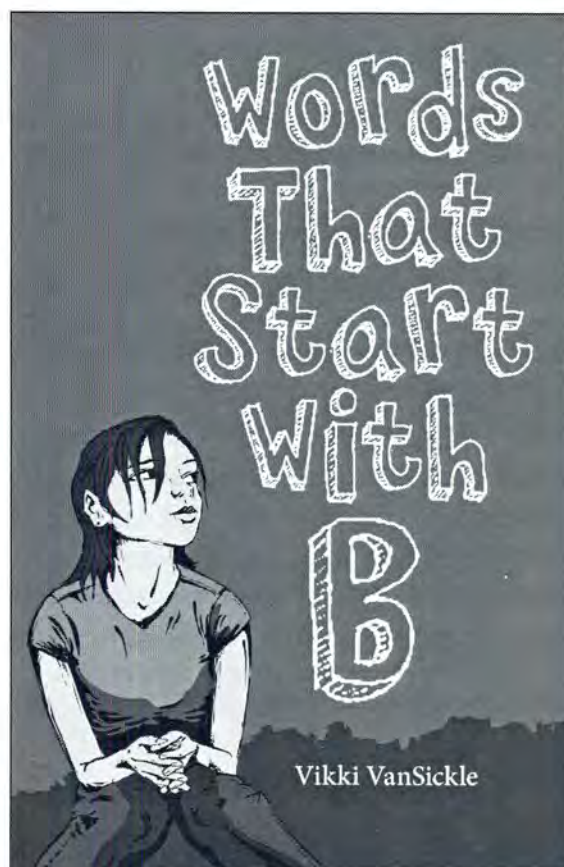
B is for Bullying

By Vikki VanSickle

The number one question I get asked in presentations and school visits is why did I choose to write about bullying. The truth is, I never set out to talk about it; what I wanted to do was write a contemporary friendship story that kids could relate to. Unfortunately, one of the things that everyone can relate to is bullying. As the story developed, the bullying element escalated and refused to be ignored. I'm sure this is due in part to my own strong feelings on the subject, in addition to my experiences and those of my friends and kids that I have known. Whether they have been the bully, bullied, or bystander, the fact is that all kids will be touched by bullying.

Recently, *The School Library Journal*, my go-to Kids Lit Bible, came out with an article in which bullying is identified as the number one fear parents have regarding their children's lives. We all know bullying is bad, we're warned about it and in many cases taught how to deal with it, and yet we are caught off guard when it occurs. How we react is unpredictable, much like how one can never know how one will react in the midst of an earthquake or similar crisis. We'd like to think we'd walk away, stand up for the little guy, and do what's right. The truth is, it's never that simple.

Recently, many people have been pointing a finger at technology, claiming it makes bullying and social exclusion simpler, more anonymous, and seemingly without consequences. I don't believe the internet has created more victims or is solely responsible for a culture of cruelty; the internet is just one more arena for bullying to occur. Bullying has always existed and will probably always continue to exist regardless of access to Facebook or Twitter. There may be many instances of online bullying, but there are just as many sources of support online via websites and blogs such as [Bullying.org](#), [Bulling Canada](#) and [KidsHelpPhone](#) (now with an online component) among many others.



Given the recent media storm about bullying leading to death, particularly in cases of children who identify as gay or lesbian, there is no better time to talk about this universal fear. Initiatives like Dan Savage's wonderful *It Gets Better Project* are taking the online community by storm, and the message is one that all kids can take to heart, regardless of gender or sexual orientation.

Many of these programs and initiatives are aimed at teens; I think we are missing the mark. Often it's in middle school that bullying begins to escalate. It's when kids feel the most pressure to fit in, which can lead to bystander syndrome, if not active bullying itself. Not surprisingly, bullying turns up in a lot of children's fiction. Here are some well written, thought-provoking middle grade titles that contain an element of bullying:

Blubber (by personal hero and Kids Lit Icon Judy Blume)

The Hundred Dresses (from the deft hand of Eleanor Estes)

OALT/ABO Website Update

www.oaltabo.on.ca

Crash as well as *Stargirl* (from the prolific Jerry Spinelli)
Words of Stone (by the inimitable Kevin Henkes)
The Lottery (by Canadian Beth Goobie)
Word Nerd (by my fave Susin Nielsen)
Stitches (an important and award winning novel by Glen Huser)
The Truth About Truman School (with direct online bullying references by Dori Hillestad Butler)

I am wary of describing *Words That Start With B* as a book 'about' bullying. It is about friendship and dealing with the curve balls life will inevitably throw at you. As a writer, I don't like the idea of a "central theme." Life doesn't have a central theme, why should a book? A great book has all sorts of themes baked into it that compliment each other and hopefully leave readers feeling enriched and satisfied. All this being said, there is some capital B bullying in *B Words*. I don't believe in ignoring the issue, and sugar-coating the topic would be disrespectful of my audience, for whom bullying is an every day part of their lives.

One of the beautiful things about writing for a young audience is that I have the opportunity to show readers that they are not alone. Books provide a safe distance for kids to connect to or relate with characters and situations emotionally. Questions like, "Am I weird? Am I the only one? Will things get better?" can be explored, if not always answered, via fiction. Kids get angry, lash out, pick on each other, feel regret, and hopefully, learn from all these experiences and grow into thoughtful, confident and adjusted adults. If reading my book helps even one person through a dark time or makes them feel like they are not alone, then my work here is done. And for those gentle readers out there who are struggling with bullying, I urge you to tell someone and remember the words of a very wise man: it gets better.

Vikki VanSickle is the author of the novel *Words That Start With B*, released this fall from Scholastic Canada. She has degrees in Drama and Children's Literature. In addition to writing, Vikki is a camp director, playwright, and a reviewer of children's literature for a number of publications. Visit her online at: <http://vikkivansickle.wordpress.com>



Thank you

Angela Carito-Walmsley has left the Web Development Team and the OALT/ABO executive was sad to bid her farewell. Angela's strong technical skills were an asset to the oaltabo.on.ca site and we wish her the very best in the future.
Thank you Angela!

Web Development Team

In November your Internal Communication Coordinator, Lisa Eschli, put out a call for volunteers for the Web Development Team. In a very short time period we received so many volunteers that a follow up message was sent out to stop the wonderful flood of volunteers.

We would like to welcome and present our brand new Web Development Team:



Judith Banville
Beverley Clark
Cristina Gulshani
Gislaine Harris
Lori Ann Pettey
Philip Wasley

We even had a few non-members send in their registration so that they could be a part of the team.
Thank you to all who expressed their interest.

Upcoming Projects

Your Executive recently reviewed the website content to make some adjustments to the flow and readability.

In 2011 we plan on keeping the News and Events page constantly updated, so check back regularly.

Short list of the 2011 Projects:

Nomination forms online for Executive positions

2011 Conference presentations

Online bookclub

And we have a few other ideas...

Do you have any suggestions for improvements? We accept content for promotion of OALT/ABO events, job postings, etc send your ideas and comments to: info@oaltabo.on.ca

Going Paperless

The OALT/ABO Executive has decided to go paperless. As an initial step the draft ABM minutes and related reports normally included in our Newsletter/Nouvelles will be available on the Members Only area of the website under Publications > ABM Minutes.

Participants at the 2011 conference/2011 ABM will receive electronic copies of the minutes along with their conference material.

Nomination forms and ballots occasionally included in the January issue of the newsletter will be developed into an online form available through the website starting in March 2011.



If you require a paper copy of any specific content please contact :

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

Abbey Market, P.O. Box 76010,
1500 Upper Middle Road West
Oakville, ON

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or by email: info@oaltabo.on.ca

Seeking

Francophone members to translate key components of the website

OALT/ABO at the OLA Super Conference 2011

Kate Morrison, OALT/ABO Super Conference 2011 Program Planner



OALT / ABO

You should have received a copy of "The Power of C: Collaboration", the program for the OLA Super Conference 2011 in the mail. This Ontario Library Association conference is happening February 2 – 5, 2011 in Toronto. OALT/ABO is part of the planning team for this conference so our members receive a copy of the program and can attend at OLA rates. Hopefully you have had a chance to examine the program and find sessions that will be of particular interest to you.

I would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to the four sessions that are being provided by our association.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Maria Ripley for finding our wonderful speakers for the 2011 conference. I hope we make you proud!

I look forward to seeing many of you there. Please make sure you say "Hi!" as you run between sessions!

Friday, February 4th at 9:05 am – Session 1014

Numeracy + Information Literacy = Success

Speaker: Melissa Poremba, Grand Erie District School Board

We expertly use our libraries to support literacy skills development. Now let's use our same assets to support numeracy education! The library is the perfect place to curb "math anxiety" as we can show students that math is useful, interesting, relevant and even fun. Learn how to utilize your library's collections and services to integrate numeracy skills development in information literacy programming.

Friday, February 4th at 2:10 pm – Session 1213

I've Got the Education, What Do I Do Now?

Speaker: Kate Morrison, Library Technician, Hamilton Public Library

Many jobs within the library and information field are traditional, but others are not! Think outside the box to find new possibilities to pursue with traditional training programs.

Friday, February 4th at 3:45 pm – Session 1313

Simple & Free Technologies for Professional Development

Speaker: Marian Doucette, Web Architect, County of Huron

Web 2.0 tools are increasing daily. Discover new applications and different ways to use familiar ones. Find free tools and learn ways to evaluate and implement them to create or enhance your personal professional connections.

Saturday, February 5th at 9:15 am – Session 1710

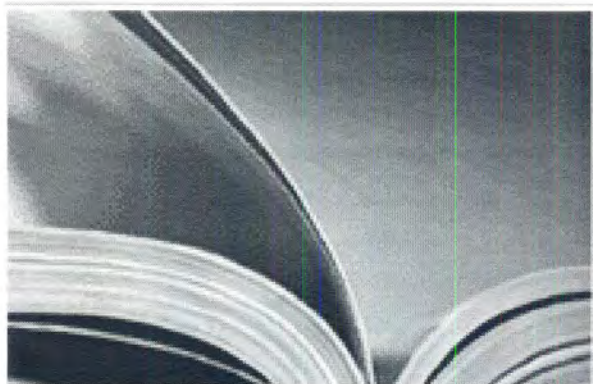
What Makes a Special Library "Special"?

Speaker: Maggie Weaver, Editor, Canadian Association of Importers & Exporters

Working in a special library offers challenges and rewards that are quite different from other libraries. Hear from a "CASLIS Special Librarian of the Year", about the ups and down of this library field, and the role of library technicians within it.

Thank you to all those who have stepped forward to volunteer!

FYI: Another program to take advantage of if you are starting out in your career or are thinking about a change is the **Career Centre** that will be happening again this year at OLA. The new event they are adding is **Professional Coaching**.



Freedom to Read

Semaine de la liberté d'expression

Celebrate your Freedom to Read!

Feb. 20th – 26th 2011

“All persons in Canada have the fundamental right...to have access to all expressions of knowledge, creativity and intellectual activity...”

- excerpt from CLA's Statement on Intellectual Freedom

Read a
challenged
book!

Tell us how you celebrated
Freedom to Read Week:

oaltabonewsletter@gmail.com

Visit
www.freedomtoread.ca
for ideas on how to
celebrate Freedom to
Read Week

Going the Distance: A LIT Student's Experience Studying in Brazil

Cássia Czerlau's Q & A with the editors

A lot of people choose to take LIT courses online; but when we heard that Cássia Czerlau was taking LIT courses via Humber College while residing in Brazil we were curious to find out more.

We interviewed Cássia about her experience with program and her plans for the future.

Tell us a little about yourself.

I am from Brazil. In 1990, I moved to Canada where I lived for 20 years. Most of my schooling was done in Brazil. I didn't speak English when I first arrived in Canada. I started working in areas where I could get by without mastering the language. After awhile I decided it was about time to improve my education and enrolled in a college. The program of my choice was Hotel and Motel Management. I really didn't enjoy working in the field. Then I started in the health care industry and worked for almost 10 years in Health Care agencies as a Client Service Coordinator. I have also done some volunteering. The one I enjoyed the most was at the Independent Living Centre's library doing some clipping and also cataloguing. About two years ago I moved back to Brazil.

What led you to taking an interest in the library profession?

I love books! My husband calls me a book worm. I always believed that working in a library is the best job in the world. Libraries are magic and have such a nice atmosphere. At a library one can get any question answered, regardless of its nature.

How did you find out about the program?

I had already considered taking the Library Technician program when I was in Canada but never had the time due to my busy schedule at work.

Moving back to Brazil wasn't an easy task. I really had, and still have, a hard readjusting to the culture and life style so I started to look for something that kept me



Cássia Czerlau

connected to Canada. Then I learned the program that I always wanted to attend was now available online.

Also if I ever decide to go back to Canada I want make sure I have the skills and knowledge required to work in a library.

How do you find taking online courses?

What are some benefits? challenges?

I really appreciate the opportunity that online programs offer. It amazes me that I am so far away from Canada and again so close to meeting my goals and objectives through technology. Also I am glad I can take the program and still be able to make a living. There are some challenges. For example, although it is a distance program, I sometimes am required to pay visits to libraries, to conduct interviews in person. It wouldn't be a problem if I lived in big city with well structured libraries. The one and only public library has been under renovation for the past 3 years and it has been deactivated. I am glad that, after explaining the situation with libraries in my hometown, my instructor was kind enough to allow me to do some of my assignments by interviewing library technicians through emails [FYI: OALT/ABO's President-Elect Michael David Reansbury was the subject of an interview, and later told us of her story]

What are your plans after completing the program?

It will take at least 20 months for me to finish this program. I am still not sure when I am going to go

back to Canada. But for sure, once there, I will start doing some volunteering to get hands on experience, and after that it would be great to get a full time position at a public library.

Are there many opportunities for Library Technicians in Brazil? What are typical places of employment?

The lack of university trained personnel to meet the growing market is creating more opportunities for library technicians. In the absence of graduates in sufficient numbers to assume the roles available, employers end up resorting to mid-level specialists. The market conditions require changes in rules governing the profession so the market could be supplied. Therefore, the Federal Council of Librarianship is studying the creation of standards that will address the professional level of the technician. There are, according to FGL, 8000 technicians working in libraries across the country. They are employed by public, academic, school, and special libraries.

Describe the role of a Library Technicians in Brazil.

The Library Technician program is only offered in Sao Paulo, a major city in Brazil and enables trainees to work in all types of libraries. The library technicians usually work under the supervision of a librarian, although sometimes they work independently. In small libraries, they perform a wide range of functions such as checking in and out material, shelving, acquisitions, preparing and organizing material, helping users to locate material and information, etc. The duties of a technician are expanding and evolving due to the increasing number of libraries using the Internet and other technologies to share information. They are responsible for different functions within the library daily and depending on where they work, these workers may have other titles such as assistant technical library, media advisor, media library assistant, library assistant etc.



STEAMPUNK:

A GENRE THAT REALLY TURNS OUR GEARS!

According to School Library Journal, steampunk is “both speculative fiction that imagines technology evolved from steam-powered cogs and gears – instead of from electricity and computers – and a movement that fosters a do-it-yourself attitude and a love of beautifully crafted, yet functional, objects.” (Campbell)

While authors like Jules Verne and H.G. Wells have influenced the concept, with Victorian England as a typical setting, steam punk has expanded to include other countries, the future, and other fantastical settings – all that which embrace the “rebellious ethos of steampunk” (Campbell)

Curious? Check out some of these titles:

Grade 3-6 *Jack Black and the Ship of Thieves* by Carol Hughes

Grade 6 and up *Fever Crumb** by Philip Reeve

Grade 8 and up *Foundling* by D.M. Cornish

Highschool/Adult *Steampunk Prime: A Vintage Steampunk Reader* edited by Mike Ashley

*editor’s pick

Campbell, Heather M. “Steampunk: Full Steam Ahead.” *School Library Journal*. December 2010. Web. Dec. 10th 2010.

Read the full article at:

http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/slj/printissuecurrentissue/887469-427/steampunk_full_steam_ahead.html.csp

The OALT/ABO Award for Innovation

By Maggie Weaver



The OALT/ABO Award for Innovation was established in the memory of Judy Koenig, to recognize the “can do, let’s do” approach that she epitomized, and that is demonstrated in many members of our association. Recipients have done something innovative in the workplace, for the association, or for professional development.

The Association invites *you* to nominate an innovative colleague for this year’s award.

Award winners who introduced innovative programs in their workplaces include Susan Morley, who spearheaded a complex but extremely effective website for her not-for-profit employer, and Stella Clark, who devised a creative pen-pals program in her public library. You probably know members like them, and have heard about their innovations at conferences, or read of them in the newsletter – allow us to honour their achievements by nominating them. Award winners who introduced innovations in the association include Conference organizers Melissa Hall and Theresa Ziebell, who changed forever the

way fantastic OALT/ABO conferences are delivered around the province, and also the team who introduced the Constitutional changes that brought financial stability to the Association. If you have benefited from something new that the association does, nominate them so that we can all thank them for their innovation.

Perhaps you have had a great mentor who has contributed to your professional development? Or there’s a presenter who changed your professional life with a great educational program? If so, nominate them, so that we too can thank them for their contribution.

It only takes one signature, and the nomination form is on the OALT/ABO website under “Who We Are”. Or simply drop me an email with the name of your nominee and a brief outline of their innovation, and together we’ll submit the nomination.

mweaver@iecanada.com

Winter Reads : Reviews of “Library” Books

By Maggie Weaver

My favourite serial detective is Marcus Didius Falco, an “informer” to the Emperor Vespasian. He takes his family on holiday to Alexandria, and shortly after their arrival the Librarian is found dead in a locked room in the great library. I always learn lots of stuff in Lindsey Davis’ books, and this, titled simply “**Alexandria**”, is no exception. Great descriptions of the library, the students (layabouts), one of the patrons (dead), the academic library staff (squabbling), the other parts of the Museion such as the Zoo, the branch library at Serapeion and the Pharos lighthouse. Even descriptions of the weather are good – Marcus is always moaning about the sandy wind, and just this week I read at work that the Egyptian ports are currently inaccessible because of sandstorms. I won’t tell you whodunit, just that you will feel you know the Alexandria library well, and will be glad not to be working there.

So then I had to re-read the only non-fiction book that I have on the library, Luciano Canfora’s “**The Vanished Library**”. It gives a proper history of the library, but you don’t get the feel of it in quite the same way.

You’d think Inspector Morse would have managed to find a body in the Bodleian Library, but that luck falls to Inspector Lewis of the TV series. My favourite reading on that famous Oxford library is “**Most Noble Bodley**” edited by Ursula Aylmer, an anthology of material about and from the Bodleian Library, culled from detective stories, history books, letters by patrons, and even staff newsletters: one extract describes what happened when an underground book stack overbalanced, and set off a chain of collapsing stacks – “approximately 10 tons of books were dislodged...”. The weeding procedure in 1868 is described disparagingly – and that reminds me that Alexandria’s weeding criteria turn out to be crucial to Falco’s detecting.

From ancient history and long-established libraries, to modern and electronic times, I recommend “**In the Library with the Lead Pipe**”. This is not a whodunit, but a blog with occasional well-researched articles (<http://www.inthelibrarywiththeleadpipe.org>). For example, in September 2010 there was a long article about quantifying value in special collections.

Moving to the future, my all-time fictional account of a library is found in “**The Well of Lost Plots**”, by Jasper Fforde. The Great Library is bigger than the Bodleian, bigger than the Library of Congress – it’s where the all published fiction is stored “live”, in 26 floors, one for each letter of the alphabet. “Beneath the Great Library are twenty-six floors of dingy yet industrious subbasements known as the Well of Lost Plots. This is where books are constructed, honed and polished in readiness for a place in the library above – if they make it that far.” Extracts from the Guide to the Great Library, by the librarian, the Cat Formerly Known as Cheshire, give more details. The serial detective is Thursday Next, a “prose resource operative”, who decides to hide out from the villains by taking advantage of the Character Exchange Program, and becoming part of an unpublished book of dubious quality. More of a romp than a thriller, be prepared for numerous puns, and unusual references to many classics, from Dickens to nursery rhymes.



Are you subscribed to the OALT/ABO discussion list?

How to subscribe to the discussion list:

1. Go to the oaltabo website www.oaltabo.on.ca
2. Click on Discussion List under the left side Navigation menu
3. Enter your email address in the box in the middle of the page and click on Yahoo! Groups Join Now!
4. You see a page showing "Confirmation Message Sent"
 - a) Check for a confirmation email at the address you entered
 - b) Follow the link they provide in the email
 - c) At the request to join oaltabodiscussion list click on Join the group
 - d) At this point you will either need to register for a Yahoo! ID or sign in with your Yahoo! email address
 - e) After signing in, set your membership preferences. You can choose a profile you would like to display to the group, select the email address at which you prefer to receive group messages, add a comment to the owner, choose the method by which you receive group messages, and more.
 - f) Click Join and then start to enjoy the listserv benefits.

If someone sent you an email invitation to join a group, click on the link provided to join via the Yahoo! Groups web site.

The purpose of the listserv is to communicate electronically with members regarding OALT/ABO and other library organizations events and activities, and to provide a forum for our members to discuss career related issues. All members are encouraged to post job opportunities, meeting notices, professional development activities, and to discuss issues which are relevant to Library Technicians and libraries.



Why people have joined the discussion list:

"I am the new Digitization Facilitator for the Our Ontario's Community Digitization Project in West Nipissing. I also have two job offers that can be of interest for your group members."

"I have recently become a full time tech after many years of part time and would like to know what others are experiencing in their jobs."

"Student at Algonquin - curious about the real world."

"I am interested in becoming a Library technician and plan on enrolling in that course. I am currently looking to see what my prospects are. I do have experience in libraries."

"I'm a library technician working in ILL at Trent U. I moved to Ontario from Vancouver a while ago and would like to become more in touch with the libtech community here."

"I am currently enrolled in the Library and Information Technicians program through Mohawk College. I would like to access all information concerning LIT's for assignments and readings."

"I am a Library and Information Technician and I would like to be more in touch with others in my field."

The Last Word

In the last issue we asked: **What do you think of extending library services to such things as book vending machines?** Here's what you said:

I think the vending machine library in communities that cannot expand or afford to build a full public library is a great thing. Congratulations to Ottawa for starting the trend in Canada. Toronto Public Library is currently investigating the possibility of installing a similar system in Union station to "create a visible presence in a busy hub" (Lu, 2010). I love the fact that the vending machines can potentially be open 24/7 if they are put in an appropriate spot. The article stresses the point; "kiosks shouldn't be considered a replacement for full service libraries", which I fully agree with. Anyone who has worked in or visited the public library knows of the multitude of services that are available in a library that a standalone box could not provide. But that box does provide access and for that I love it. As described by my favorite line of the article "It's been such a hit, says Councillor Maria McRae, that she once saw a little boy hugging the machine", the customers love it too.

~ Lisa

Lu, Vanessa. City library considering book-dispensing kiosk at Union Station URL: <http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/article/845357--city-library-considering-book-dispensing-kiosk-at-union-station> (Aug 9, 2010) (Accessed: Dec 3, 2010)

I think it's a great idea that matches our run & go lifestyle. It's one way to service our customers and hopefully get them in our doors in the future. ~ Kate

2010 – 2011 Executive Contact List

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Past President: Maria Ripley
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Welcome / Bienvenue

A very special welcome to all our new members:

Harry Ta

Amrita Maharaj

Julie Bell

Angela Sullivan

Kelly Morgan

The Last Word

Food for Fines is a popular program with Ontario public libraries. Branches accept non-perishable food items in place of cash for overdue fines.

Initiatives like this are another way libraries can benefit the community. **Share with us similar ideas that you have heard about or participated in.**



Please submit your thoughts/comments to the editors. Responses will be featured in the Spring issue.

Have an idea for the 'Last Word' column? Please send to the editors for consideration.:

oaltabonewsletter@gmail.com

Call for Submissions

We would love to hear from you, all and any (even a quote) contributions are appreciated. Our goal for the next issue is to hear from as many of our members as possible. This newsletter is your window of opportunity, to which YOU can send :

- * Professional development and education matter to us, so please send us your experiences
- * Upcoming events/workshops/training etc...
- * Updates about yourself, your work, job developments etc... How about telling us about a day in the life of your workplace?
- * Volunteer Work; tell us about your experiences volunteering including projects, accomplishments etc...
- * New technologies/tools/database
- * Book reviews are a fantastic ice breaker if you are nervous about writing
- * Library related anecdotes, humour, interesting facts and quotes
- * Your blogs or blogs you enjoy, websites, your social cataloguing profiles; GoodReads, Shelfari, Library-Thing
- * Photographs

**Please submit your articles to:
oaltabonewsletter@gmail.com**

Submission guidelines:

- * 1000—1500 words. We 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
- * With your submission please include your name and a line or two about yourself
- * We welcome articles in French

The deadline is March 8th, 2011. Thank you!