



NewsLETTER NouvELLES

ISSN: 0229-2645 Publication Agreement # 40688591

Volume ~~35~~³⁴ No. 2 Spring 2011

Message from your President ~ Kathryn Suffoletta

This time last year, with several Executive positions to fill and no one in line to succeed me, I was unsure of how my second year as President of OALT/ABO would unfold. I'm pleased to report that, with a full executive slate of enthusiastic and incredibly hard working members, it has been wrinkle free.

With great confidence, I will be handing over the role of President to President-elect, Michael Reansbury, at the Annual General Meeting following the Conference in Ottawa. Michael's passion for the advocacy of Library Technicians and his great research skills have been an asset to the Executive this year.

Shannon Matthews combined her new position as a first time Mom with her duties as Treasurer. She has provided regular reports and has the ledgers in good shape.

Membership has been in the capable hands of Coordinator, Amy Dwyer. She has handled the transition from Institution to Group Membership with patience and good humour.

Maria Ripley has been implementing her plan to provide professional development opportunities and social events to all members regardless of chapter affiliation. This is a monumental task and made more difficult when her efforts are not supported.

External Communications Coordinator, Donna Brown, maintains the link between OALT/ABO and the three Colleges that offer the LIT program. She was responsible for the

new banner, updating the display board and scheduling members to staff the Library Technician booth in the Exhibit Hall at the OLA Super Conference in February.

Have you visited www.oaltabo.on.ca lately? Isn't our website great? Thanks go to Lisa Eschli, Internal Communications Coordinator, and her team. She has implemented some great ideas. OALT/ABO has an increased presence on the web and she's got us all tweeting!

Under Lisa's tutelage, the dynamic duo, Julie Cristinzo and Jessica Goodman, have done a fantastic job of producing this NewsLETTER/NouvELLES. They have suggested topics for articles and implemented an innovative incentive to encourage submissions.

Are you ready for a "hot" time at our 38th Annual Conference? Maggie Weaver, Conference Coordinator, has developed an appealing program of workshops, tours and social events in our Nation's Capital. She was plotting and planning before last year's conference was finished and has worked tirelessly with Algonquin College and members of the Ottawa Chapter to make this conference the one you don't want to miss.

At the Annual General Meeting, we will be introducing the executive slate that, under the leadership of Michael David, will continue the work of our Association. I encourage you to consider becoming a member of his team. Having a full slate of creative, enthusiastic executive members is like having an EASY button.



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
Bibliotechnicien
s 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.

EDITORS NOTE

In this issue...

Spring – a time for growth and renewal

Greetings and welcome to the Spring issue of NewsLETTER/NouvelLES. We hope that by the time you read this winter has left us for good and you are heading into the season amongst the budding gardens (see page 30) and greening trees ... Speaking of growth, we hope to see you at the **2011 OALT/ABO Conference** in Ottawa – a great opportunity to cultivate your own professional development and networking. Don't forget – we will be holding our **Editors Draw** at the conference. Not joining us? We will contact you via e-mail if your name is drawn.

For the past few issues, Michael David Reansbury has been discussing **advocacy** for Library Technicians, and if you have been following the discussion board recently – so have a lot of you. See how LT's, advocacy, and kitchen cutlery are related on page 4.

A goal for upcoming issues is to reach out to associations across Canada. We have headed West for this issue and found that **B.C. Library Technician** Tamarack Hockin shares our sentiments on the value of associations (see page 6). To help us understand where this love of association came from we have Doug Willford sharing with us a bit of **Canadian Library Technician history** on page 21.

With a shared interest in the ephemeral booklet otherwise known as zines, we are delighted to share with you Marta Chudolinska's comprehensive article on the **subculture of zines**. Learn how this non-traditional collection exists in libraries today on page 24.

Another satisfying read is Maggie Weaver's discussion of **Special Libraries** and what makes them so ...you guessed it, special (see page 8).

We have lots more to share with you so settle in and enjoy - and as always many thanks for all your contributions.

Yours in writing,

Jessica Goodman and Julie Cristinzo

- * Feedback to the Future
- * We are Sporks One and All
- * Speaking of Association
- * What Makes a Special Library Special?
- * LT's @ OLA Super Conference
- * My Super Conference
- * LIT Program News
- * Volunteer Spotlight
- * The London Library
- * Beginnings: The History of the Canadian Library Association for Library Technicians
- * Zine Libraries and Collections
- * Get Growing
- * Virtual Book Club
- * OALT/ABO Website Update



CORRECTION: On pages 26 and 36 of the previous issue, Gislaine Hamelin has been incorrectly identified as Gislaine Harris. Gislaine Hamelin has joined OALT/ABO's Web Development Team.

Feedback to the Future

By Maggie Weaver

OALT/ABO Conference 2011 Coordinator

To every thing there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven. This is the season for OALT/ABO conference. And like most seasonal things, the conference is the result of all sorts of activities that have happened below the surface, which those who see the sudden blooming may not be aware of.

But a different picture is actually more relevant – the seaside. While we race laughing into a big wave, there are others building behind it, just waiting to splash down on us and make us laugh some more.

So it is with all the activities that OALT/ABO delivers for its members. The big “seventh wave” of the annual conference is building before the current one reaches the shore. And the smaller waves of regional activities, chapter events, newsletters, networking socials and Super Saturdays all have their own forces working to build and deliver them to our feet.

The forces that build – those members who work tirelessly on the executive, on planning teams, on

tirelessly on the executive, on planning teams, on chapter executives, and sometimes on their own – derive their energy from you, the members who participate in events, read the newsletter, and come to conference. They harness your needs, your experiences, your stories, your knowledge... and with hard work and imagination turn them into something that we all can enjoy.

Your input is essential, whether it's completing a feedback form from an event, writing a letter to the newsletter editors, thanking a planning team member, requesting a workshop topic or recommending a speaker.

Take the conference feedback forms, for instance. We have used the forms you completed last year to identify highly-rated speakers, to keep the innovations that you liked, to find volunteers, and to select the topics. This year we're going to ask more from you – we're going to ask you to write a couple of sentences about your favourite sessions; to suggest where the next conference should be held; to alert us to the half-day workshop topics that you need, and where they could be held; to tell us “more like this”.

Throughout the year, expect – no, demand! – feedback forms at events, online surveys, polls on the website and the Listserve, and a peppering of in-

“The big ‘seventh wave’ of the annual conference is building before the current one reaches the shore.”

person questions, so that OALT/ABO can continue to deliver tangible benefits to members.

You see, you are probably the most important part of the teams that deliver OALT/ABO member benefits. And the more that you provide feedback to the wave-builders, the bigger, better, and splashier the waves of the future will be. ◇

We are Sporks One and All

By Michael David Reansbury, Circulation Desk Administrator
Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine

An appreciation has grown in me over the past three years for children's authors. Unlike certain British writers, he-who-must-not-be-named, I have great respect for the talents of those who write for children as well as illustrators, those who take words and turn them into pictorial essays, for this is not an easy audience to please. I am further in awe of those authors and illustrators that can create a story that ensnares both child and adult alike. As a frequent reader to a two year old one word can strike fear in me or can lift me out of time and space: again. If asked by my two year old godson with eyes akin to those of puppies, whose head lulls as he fights the inevitable call of sleep, to read a book again the task before me could be a tiresome burden, if it were not for the admiration of said godson, or an escape for me as much as him. Spork by Kyo Maclear and illustrated by Isabella Arsenault is one of those stories that no matter how many times I am asked to read it again, or as is more often the case I take it upon myself to read again, inspires me anew.

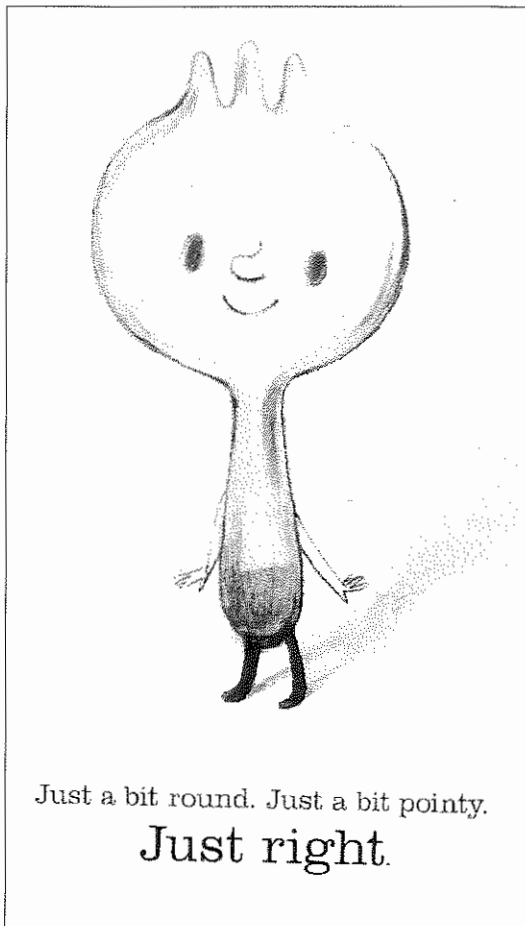
The word spork has become a particular colloquialism that I use frequently without much recognition that my audience will not appreciate the deeper meaning I infuse the word with. A spork, for those that are unfamiliar with these unique but very useful culinary device, is a hybrid of a spoon and fork. While its face is round like that of a spoon the terminal end has tines like that of a fork. I was personal introduced to a spork while on a road trip. A spork is not simply a spoon that is not completely a spoon or a fork that is not 100% a fork: it is its own

utensil. A spork does not masquerade as a spoon sometimes and a fork the rest of the time. Sporks should therefore not be chosen from the array of available or non-available, depending on the status of washing in a household, cutlery when a spoon or fork cannot be found. Sporks were created to fill their own niche in the utensil needs of the modern world. Though they appear to be an oddity, sporks are in fact no such thing. They are instead one of those items that once you have one, one wonders how they ever got along without it. I personally use the term spork, as a noun, to refer to both people and other items. Thus if in conversation someone mentions to me the fact that so-and-so or such-and-such is indispensable but undervalued, I chime in 'they are a spork.'

I am here to tell you all that every one of you, every library technicians this county over is a spork. All library technicians were trained to fill a specific role within libraries. Library technicians were not trained to be part clerk and part librarian; we like sporks are hybrids. The positions we fill are unique to the information profession and unique to us. Whether we work in the technical or public service side of the business, library technicians are tasked with the marriage of what in an ideal world would be, with the reality of what our clients require and therefore what is to be. Ours are not positions that librarians or clerks could fill: our training was created to compliment these jobs and therefore we are the sole proprietors of them. When we advocate for library technicians we do not advocate against other library staff: for the positions we fill are meant for library technicians and thus if other library staff are to fill them they are trained to be library technicians. This should make our job easier when advocating for if the positions we fill only we can fill

Advocacy

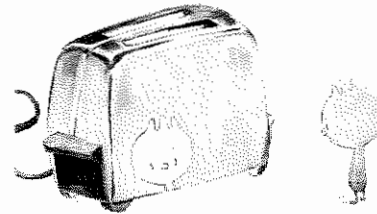
how any budget committee could think otherwise is a mystery. Yet, stories abound of how positions and people have come and gone and the role of library technician was demoted or eliminated. Therefore our first role in advocating for library technicians is to define clearly and concisely what LTs are. Our definition should not be based on what we are not; we know we are not clerks or librarians, but what we are: library technicians. Likewise when thinking about positions LTs fill we should never think in terms of what we don't do but what we do do. It is time we embrace the fact we are sporks and are ...



Material from Spork is used by permission of KidsCan Press Ltd., Toronto. Text © 2010 Kyo Maclear. Illustrations © 2010 Isabelle Arsenault.

Make room for Spork at your table

SPORK



Kyo Maclear / Isabelle Arsenault

Spork, Written by Kyo Maclear

Illustrated by Isabelle Arsenault

HC 978-1-55337-736-8 \$18.95 Ages 3-7 Kirkus

Kids Can Press, A Corus Entertainment Company

CLA Announces 2011 Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Award Shortlist

(In order alphabetically by title)

Book of Big Brothers / Illustrated by Luc Melanson
(Groundwood Books)

Counting On Snow / Illustrated by Maxwell Newhouse
(Tundra Books)

Fishing With Gubby / Illustrated by Kim La Fave (Harbour
Publishing)

The Good Garden / Illustrated by Sylvie Daigneault (Kids
Can Press)

I Know Here / Illustrated by Matt James (Groundwood
Books)

Owls See Clearly At Night: A Michif Alphabet / Illustrated by
Julie Flett (Simply Read Books)

Making the Moose Out of Life / Illustrated by Nicholas
Oldhand (Kids Can Press)

Roslyn Rutabaga and the Biggest Hole on Earth! / Illustrated
by Marie-Louise Gay (Groundwood Books)

Singing Away the Dark / Illustrated by Julie Morstad
(Simply Read Books)

Spork / Illustrated by Isabelle Arsenault (Kids Can Press)

Speaking of Association

By Tamarack Hockin,

Library Technician, Surrey Public Library



When you work at the library, it is hard not to be a lifelong learner. Despite having completed my tech diploma,

I am still taking university courses in a slow-motion move towards completing an undergrad degree. Last semester was a full-throttle race into December as I tried to balance three courses with nearly full-time work and a slew of personal commitments thrown into the mix. This winter semester I have scaled back to one course: Advanced oral communications.

Unfortunately for me there is nothing 'advanced' about my oral communication skills, and I am feeling lost at sea every time I get up in front of a crowd. Any ideas of what I was going to say are promptly drowned out by what I could swear is the sound of people screaming and bombs dropping just behind me ...no doubt the soundtrack to success. I have my second 'speech' next week and have decided it might be wise to lower myself to baser methods — such as preparing a script and actually practicing it — as I attempt to speak fluently and confidently on the reasons why graduating library tech students should join and participate in their professional association.

This is not idle rhetoric — I am super passionate about association. It's not for my health that I have given up Friday nights to email, and weekday evenings to meetings. It is because I believe we are building something worthwhile as we build association. Library associations provide a forum for new ideas, and support us as lifelong learners in our profession long after academia has finished with us. An association provides a professional network of support and information sharing that reaches beyond our individual workplaces, connecting technicians all over the country. Lottier ideas aside, I would be remiss in my advocacy duties if I did not mention that the library association has provided me with a great network for bowling and beer nights (where else can I cuss out Melville Dewey over pints?). And though I love the bowling, it comes in at second place for all-time reason to sign up: Association is above all a preventative against future boredom.

Prior to my life as a library tech the longest I had kept any one job was about a year. The one year anniversary was an epic milestone, which would provoke shrieks of fear in my soul and a strong urge to quit my job and move to another country ASAP (a whim to which I gave in more than once). Though I am older and calmer now, I am not so calm as to think nothing of signing myself up for a career, which may prove life long. This long-term career is a big commitment, the scale of which I liken to getting married ...which I suppose would make association

like 'date night' in my relationship with the library: it keeps things spicy.

As a technician, I think having a strong network for professional development and community is especially important. For ML(I)S librarians there are established norms that recognize the importance of professional association for growth, development, and just keeping current. Techs, however, are the

“Library associations provide a forum for new ideas, and support us as lifelong learners in our profession long after academia has finished with us.”

ones who run the library while the librarians are away at conference. Our job descriptions tend to centre around making things happen, leaving little space to discuss, question, dream and scheme. But the dream-and-scheme is what makes library work so awesome! We work in some of the most interesting spaces – repositories of culture, art, science and history that we make accessible to those who want it. We are in the business of information – of course we will want to learn, to share, and to communicate with others in the profession.

I am really happy with my career, but I am also only a couple of years into it and I know this is still officially the honeymoon period. I have little doubt of my capacity for discontent if the going gets too repetitive. As a preventative, I am bulking up my professional life now with extra education and lots of professional association projects. I am heaping all this on my plate because I do not want to find my plate empty. There was a time when I thought I would be happy doing less, but I have realized that I am truly happy doing more.

This career is definitely a long-term commitment, and just like we can't expect our partners to be our everything, I cannot expect my on-call library tech job to be my library-everything. I have confidence in the value of association, but I have also come face

to face with the reality that many of my peers are varying degrees of indifferent to developing community. This speech I am working on is to try and persuade at least a handful of these peers otherwise. This class presentation is really just a dry run for March when LTAIG (the Library Technicians' and Assistants' Interest Group of the B.C. Library Association) co-hosts a speed-mentoring event for students and alumni of my alma mater: UFV's Library & Information Technology Program. Am I nervous? Hells yes! But I am hoping that the necessity of the situation will force me to get good at public speaking. There can't be a community or a network without a bunch of people, so I am going to have to swallow my nerves, hone my speaking skills and get persuasive or else it is going to be one small and lonely association.



Tamarack works at Surrey Public Library in B.C. in various technician capacities, and helps co-ordinate the mentoring program for LTAIG (the Library Technicians' & Assistants' Interest Group of the B.C. Library Association). You can find Tamarack online at tamahoc.wordpress.com.

For all listserv members don't forget when you are "out of office" this summer that your out of office message might go out to the whole listserv. Contact info@oaltabo.on.cato put a temporary hold on your outgoing messages. That way you don't miss out on important OALT/ABO content and the listserv isn't filled with vacation notices

What Makes a Special Library Special

By Maggie Weaver, Shaftesbury Associates

The most common concept of "special" is "special collections". Thus, subject-oriented libraries in academic institutions are "special libraries", and belong to the Special Library Association (SLA).

By focusing on a subject, academic and other special libraries often stretch the meaning of "collection". The Agricultural and Environmental Sciences library at McGill University includes bugs. The Botanical Library of the British Museum has trays and trays of pressed wildflowers.

This stretch from information to artifacts is not restricted to academic special libraries. The library of a Canadian oil company was redolent with the smell of gasoline, from the vintage gas pumps stored in the basement. And the Toronto library of a Canadian pharmaceutical company was responsible for the extensive collection of birth control devices that staff had donated over the years.

But in one way, the special library collections are NOT the same as special academic library collections, in that the special library is not limited by subject, but by the mandate of the parent organization.

I worked in a chemical company and the collection encompassed: environment, transport, engineering, corporate finance, shareholder rights, occupational health, competitor intelligence, and all the client industries: agriculture, plastics, construction, forestry... certainly not "special" in the way an academic library would recognize.

But another kind of library WOULD recognize this – school libraries also have collections focused on a

very specific mandate, which results in a very eclectic collection.

What does this mean for working in a special library?

It means that you can't build "just-in-case" library collections – one of everything on a topic. Instead, you have to have a broad general knowledge of the industry in which you work, whether that's management consulting, or immigration, or chemicals. And then you work "just-in-time", with a wide knowledge of databases, other special libraries, contacts and connections.

And those connections are not used to fill gaps and go deeper, as is done in academic specialties, but to go broader and wider. So your colleagues are a pretty eclectic bunch.

Knowledge of a sector helps, but a more important attribute is imagination – being able to put yourself in the shoes of the organizational staff that you serve, whether they are engineers or accountants, psychologists or secretaries.

Competition vs. collegiality

In the corporate world in particular, there is a certain distance that must be kept between libraries in similar organizations. After all, the library staff is working for competitors. So you can learn from those colleagues, but at arms length.

What does this mean for working in a special library?

I worked in a management consulting firm undertaking research prior to bidding on a project. Before asking for help from another library, I always asked if such a request would be a conflict.

Academic libraries get that a bit with their research

Special Libraries

clients –PhD students and Profs who don't want their research directions inadvertently signaled to competitors.

And not just between competing companies. In the chemical company, there was a dear little bug called bacillus thuringiensis, who happened to be important to 2 different departments, the pesticide team and the genetically modified crops team. One group actually asked me not to pass the results of a literature search to the "opposing" team. And I bet that happens in academic research teams, too.

Also you have to be careful about sharing materials – your company may be the only one who has forked out for an expensive market research report – you certainly don't copy any of it for a competing firm that hasn't made that investment.

By contrast, research findings are widely spread in the education and social sciences area that is the milieu of school and public libraries.

There is no "common good" in the corporate library world – it's dog eat dog. This means that professionals in the corporate and research libraries learn discretion, they protect their employer's investment in information.

Internal materials

In one regard, special libraries are unique – their staff is often responsible for internal materials. Perhaps not officially, but since lots of good information is often squirreled away in offices and files, info professionals learn how to get that info out, and then make it "accessible" if only to their own staff.

What does this mean for working in a special library?

It means you take knowledge management courses, records management, even archiving. And it means that you can get totally embedded into the employer organization, to the point of being detached from the library both physically and in user perception.

Interest in the outcome

While professionals in all types of library have an

interest in the outcome of the service they provide, special libraries have a broad responsibility to the organization, rather than the individual.

Academic and school libraries exist to serve individuals. So do public libraries, but they also recognize their responsibility to the broader community in which they reside, not just the residents of that community.

What does this mean for working in a special library?

Though individuals are the clients, the beneficiaries are the departments in which they work. Individuals may come and go, but the beneficiary department still needs the information and the service. And it is the department, not the individual, that is the source of funds, and to whom the library is accountable.

I think this has a consequence in the way the library staff relates to the parent organization. By exposing the needs and priorities of the organization, staff learn very quickly what makes the employer organization tick, who are the key influencers, what are the critical issues.

I'm sure it's the same in public and school libraries – staff takes a personal interest in the growth and success of their clients. But when those clients move on, the interest fades. When the clients move on in a corporate library, the information need survives for the department; it's just a different vessel that you fill with knowledge.

Unpredictability

For some special libraries, routine is routine, but most have nothing like the regular ebb and flow of workloads and topics in academic and school libraries. And even public libraries have patterns of summer programming and winter outreach.

If special libraries have a routine, it may be at two ends of the time spectrum. Audit /annual report time is busy for special libraries, especially in regulated companies such as banks and publicly quoted companies. And production-related schedules result in unsocial hours for library staff at newspapers and hospitals.

Special Libraries

In between, workloads and pressures fluctuate with the political season, the state of the stock-market, the price of oil, the activities of competitors, the launch of new products, traffic accidents, the advent of a new drug, tax audits and judicial enquires.

What does this mean for working in a special library?

It means that planning has to be fit between crises, because "quiet times" are unpredictable, if totally non-existent. It means there is never a good time to take a vacation, or go to a conference, or weed the journal collection, or talk to a vendor, or even do a user survey.

Small size

Special libraries are often small – as are school and public libraries (and some academic special libraries). Five staff is an enormous special library. As most of us know, few staff means that what staff there is have to be VERY versatile. Chief cook and bottle-washer is the norm, and you're lucky to get part-time help with filing.

Special and school libraries share an added burden in this respect – that the supervisor of the chief cook and bottle-washer is not himself library trained, so has no idea of the variety of skills required, the time-consuming nature of some information processes, the costs of materials and resources, and the salaries that should be paid for the skill set required.

By contrast, small academic and public libraries, while still run by one cook-and-bottle-washer, generally have a supervisor or management that has at some time also been a cook and a bottle washer.

What does this mean for working in a special library?

That in addition to learning how to cook and wash bottles, you also have to learn to market yourself upwards to management. Boss management is an important skill, and is harder than staff management, but likely more rewarding. We ought to be good at managing people who haven't a clue how we operate – one half of any married couple is already



adept at that – but somehow it's not as easy as the pop psychology books say.

Reading management literature helps – in addition to the time you spend reading the subject literature, and washing bottles.

It means you can grow in unexpected ways – which is a good thing, because the downside is that you may not be able to move UP in the organization as a library professional, because UP moves you into a different type of profession.

Not unionized

Corporate special libraries are generally not unionized, though government ones often are, and libraries in sectors that have strong unions may also be part of a staff association or similar (e.g. newspaper libraries).

What does this mean for working in a special library?

It follows directly from the previous comment about learning boss management – there is no one else to go to bat for you, if you find yourself on the opposite side from your boss.

Now this is good and bad. It's bad, because you have only yourself for support, and there are no convenient safety nets like bumping, when layoffs happen.

And it's good, because you are looking out for only yourself, whereas a union or similar has multiple constituents, some with competing needs and wants, and you may be low man on that particular totem pole.

It's also good in that someone else's safety net can't

become your ceiling. Your job in a special library is whatever you make it. And since your boss doesn't know what you are doing, it is yours to make – or break!

Fragility

More than any other type of library, special libraries are the most fragile, in that they are liable to cuts at any time.

This happens not only in the corporate world, but also in government libraries. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Environment Canada both cut their libraries back about 6 years ago – not clear-cutting, but certainly no judicial pruning to encourage a healthy information system.

Only school libraries have the same kind of fragility, and they have a gang of irate parents, and educational research, to help them make their case. Government and corporate libraries have to learn to make their case financially, on their own. This does not usually happen in a vacuum, but at a time when other government units and corporate departments are also trying to defend budgets, or simply survive.

What does this mean for working in a special library?

It means you must learn personal marketing, learn to articulate value in financial terms, learn to say investment instead of cost, and learn to cultivate key influencers.

You have to be politically astute, with your finger in the wind and your eye on your employer's environment. Now all good special librarians know more about their employers environment than the employer does, but we tend to see that stuff with a view to passing it on to the appropriate part of the organization. We must also learn to use that knowledge to plan our own survival, and to prepare for hard landings, capsizing, and even jumping ship.

Variety within the community

I first asked myself "what makes a special library "special"?" when I worked at the new Trade Centre in Exhibition Place, now called the Direct Energy

Centre. The vast empty space in my "library" was used to stuff bags for the CLA component of the CLA-ALA Conference. And our Chair brought her tweenage daughter, who skeptically looked at the market reports colourfully displayed to attract small business attention, and remarked, "This isn't a library. Why is it special?"

The special library community is the least homogeneous of all the library types. Staff is librarians, trainers, marketers, editors, indexers, archivists, CIOs, consultants. They work in libraries with shelves and books, in resources centres with laptops and no paper, inside laboratories, embedded in client departments, serving remote clients through virtual services.

They deliver information as data maps or as training courses, selling information internally and information services externally, analyzing, critiquing, editing, and designing....

Perhaps because there's no way to go UP, many special library staff move OUT, into non-traditional information services.

I currently work in international trade. My users are business owners and entrepreneurs. My funding clients are government agencies and industry associations. I deliver information in newsletters and training courses. I create and re-package information, and make it accessible in web sites and workshops. I have a cubicle like any other cubicle, and my own laptop. I have no online subscriptions, periodicals or books, no materials budget, and even my computer is my own. My professional qualification is a math degree and post-grad diploma in information science.

And yet my clients invariably introduce me as "our librarian".

If you walk like a special librarian, and talk like a special librarian, it seems you are one.

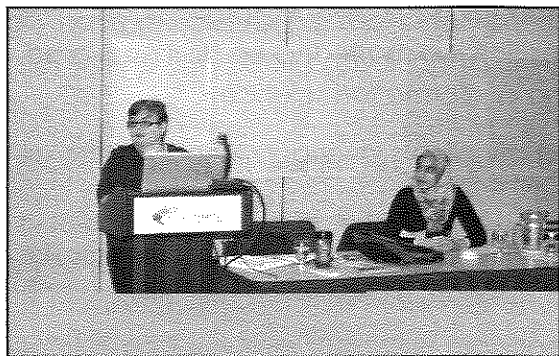


This article was an OALT/ABO-sponsored session presented at the 2011 OLA Super Conference



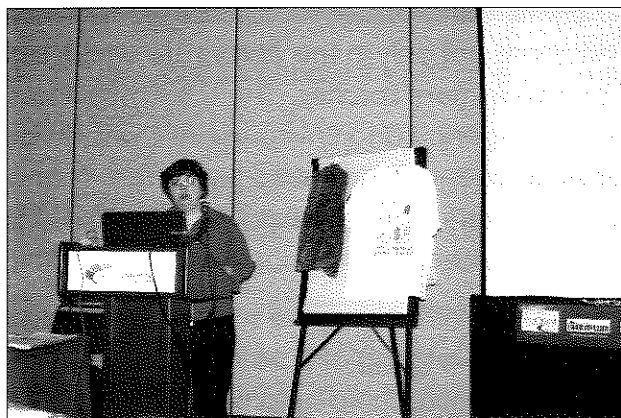
A Report from Kate Morrison on the OALT/ABO Sessions

The 2011 Super Conference was a success with over 4,000 attendees. Our sessions were above forecasted attendance with 163 people attending the sessions in total. These numbers were above the session numbers forecast for all but one which



*Speaker Kate Morrison and convener Amna Hussain
Session 1213: I've got the education, What do I do now?*

had the number forecast. This is a very exciting statistic as the formula used was expected to be over estimating numbers. Library technician (LT) sessions were well received and not just by LTs. In my session I had both LTs & librarians looking for employment. I believe this was true in the other sessions. Maria chose sessions that were of interest to many in the library field.



Speaker Melissa Poremba

Session 1014: Numeracy + Information Literacy = Success

There were also a number of member of OALT/ABO members that attended as I saw them in the crowds so we were well represented in this respect as well. The booth with Algonquin, Mohawk & Seneca Colleges was a great success as well with lots of traffic and interest.



*Speaker Marian Doucette Session 1313: Simple & Free
Technologies for Professional Development*

"This year I attended the OLA Super Conference for the first time since I was a Seneca LT student (1985-87). I seem to remember that it was held at the Royal York Hotel in the old days.

I only came on Friday and found it overwhelming, as it took me a while to find where the various seminar rooms were located. (I had never been to the Metro Convention Centre before, despite living in Toronto.) Since I wasn't able to find the room for my 9 a.m. seminar, I went to another one on Seniors Services instead and felt thankful that we weren't limited to specific seminars and didn't have to sign up for any in advance. Then I had a few hours to wander around the vendors' booths and picked up more freebies than I needed and bought more books than I could comfortably carry in two eco-friendly bags! After two more seminars in the afternoon, I went home instead of staying to party. Maybe next year!"

~Brenda Holz

"A highlight of the Conference was the "flash mob" performance before the closing luncheon and the luncheon speaker, Jian Ghomeshi. A great way to end my 2011 Conference experience."

~Kathryn Suffoletta

"I attended this year's OLA Super Conference. It never ceases to amaze me how the OALT/ABO booth at the vendors' marketplace always seems to fit right in with the other associations and publishing

companies. It always fills me with pride when I stop by and visit the booth. Again this year we presented several sessions at the conference and through these continued to present Library Technicians as professional, positive, competent and valuable staff members in all types of libraries.

I attended a variety of sessions and plenaries. There were some common themes in both - that many libraries are using open source more and more, collections are now client-driven rather than staff-driven, getting accurate content as fast as possible using social media is the name of the game, and digitization of various formats is becoming more and more important especially for special collections.

As always, there were various meetings and socials during the 4-days to facilitate networking and connecting with friends and colleagues. It was a very enjoyable, productive and informative conference that recharged my batteries and reinforced my feeling that I had made the right career choice all those years ago to become a library technician."

~Annette Desrosiers

"I had the opportunity to meet Vikki VanSickle author of "Words that Start with B" during the Expo. She was thrilled that our Virtual Book Club has chosen her book as our first read!"

~Angela Carito-Walmsley

My Super Conference or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Expo

By Philip Wasley, Seneca LIT program,
May 2011

This was the only time in my career that I was going to be able to enjoy the conference for free, so volunteering was a must for me. Time was limited as well, and I had only one day at my disposal! As a student, I was also there on a mission, having to complete an assignment based on the Expo. So, how do you experience the best a conference has to offer in one day, and worry about an assignment at the same time? There's many a way, I'm sure, but here's how I did it:

0700-0900hr Report to duty as a volunteer. A student friend and I were assigned signage detail for the various session rooms. As a result, I now know the layout of the MTCC South Building really, really well.

The exits are here, here and here. Washroom? Down that hall, second left.

0900-1000hr Reassigned to the main entrance to distribute the most essential item of the day, Super Conference bags and badge holders of course! As a result, I can safely say I met about a third of all Ontario library professionals. (A big shout out to Jennifer, Bob, Rick, Nancy, Steve, etc...the rest of you know who you are!)

1000-1200hr Reassigned to registration. More standing, more smiling, more meeting library professionals. These people are so nice!

1200-1300hr Peek into the Expo and then go to lunch with friends! Can't chat too much, there's so much more to do...like add to my collection of bags!

1300-1430hr It's official, the Expo is the best part of the day. Did you know that you could have purchased liquid-filled insoles here? Oh yeah, back to the Expo assignment.

1430-1500hr My first OLA plenary! I don't know who all these people are on the stage, but I'm pleased to be here with them. Keynote speaker Michael Wesch proves insightful and inspiring.

1500-1700hr A quick break, and then it's off to my first session, "How to Succeed in an Interview" presented by librarians, Yvonne Patch and Jim Brett. It was discussion based and rewarding. I left feeling totally hireable.

So with aching feet, but a small skip nonetheless, I made my way home that night, dreaming of next year and experiencing even more. ◇

**Going to the OALT/ABO Conference in
Ottawa this year? Tell us all about it!**

**Send us photos, a few lines, a
paragraph, a whole article!**

MOHAWK

COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY

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

- LIBRLT110 Introduction to Libraries and the Information Industry
- INFOLT390 Personal Computer Support
- INFOLT402 Electronic Publishing and Emerging Library Technologies
- LIBRLT220 Information Work I
- LIBRLT420 Information Work II
- LIBRLT425 Information Work III
- LIBRLT435 Client Services
- LIBRLT302 Descriptive and Access Cataloguing I
- LIBRLT305 Descriptive and Access Cataloguing II
- LIBRLT320 Subject Analysis and Classification
- INFOLT340 Database Design for Information Workers
- LIBRLT351 Serials
- LIBRLT350 Acquisitions
- MGMT10041 Library Financial Management and Budgeting
- COMMLT225 Genre Fiction and Readers' Advisory Services
- LIBR10002 Government Information
- LIBR10003 Cataloguing Electronic and Internet Resources
- OADM100 Records and Information Management Fundamentals
- LIBRRM103 Archives

Descriptions of each of these courses is on our web site. Courses begin on May 13 and end on August 19/11. Registration for these courses is open until May 19, where there is still space available.

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

More detailed information is on our newly redesigned web site

<http://disted.mohawkcollege.ca/library>

under "next semester", or feel free to email me at dolores.harmspenner@mohawkcollege.ca

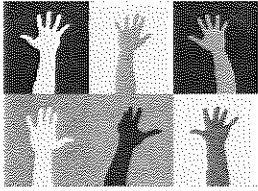
At Mohawk our convocation is held annually in October. This past October we were very pleased to recognize 43 graduates from the library technician diploma program and 15 graduates from the records management certificate program. It was a wonderful celebratory evening. We honoured Victoria Berkeley with the OALT/ABO Award. All of our graduates can be proud of their hard work in achieving their goal of completing our program.

Respectfully submitted,

Dolores Harms Penner

Program Manager, Library Technician Program

Mohawk College



Volunteer Spotlight

Q & A with Gislaine Hamelin

Tell us about yourself i.e. Educational background, employment etc?

I graduated from the LIT program at Algonquin College in 1995 with Honours. I enjoyed most every course and excelled at cataloguing and reference. My first job upon graduation was with a law library in a Provincial courthouse. I worked there for 4 years and at the same time accepted a part time job with the CBC cataloguing their archival video footage. I worked briefly at the Tax Court of Canada Library and then started working at the Statistics Canada Library. I have been with StatCan for 11 years and have worked as a Serials Cataloguer and in my current position as ILS Coordinator. I am responsible for the management of our internal database and OPAC. We will be implementing open source software in the Fall which will provide its own challenges and rewards.

How did you learn about volunteering as a Basketeer?

My dear friend and co-coordinator Brenda Huber (and fellow library colleague!), read an article in Metro about an organization called Basketeers that donated household items in a laundry basket to women in abused women's shelters to help them restart their lives. The founder realized that people were willing to donate to children in shelters, but, the women were often forgotten. So, she created The Basketeers. Brenda and I had read about a recent fire that killed one woman and destroyed a women's homeless shelter and we were moved to do something to help. Once we read about Basketeers we knew this was the volunteer project for us.

What drew you to these volunteer opportunities?

I have volunteered most of my adult life. For 10 years it was related to professional activities, but, more recently it has aligned with feminist and humanitarian beliefs and giving back to my community. I feel very strongly about these issues and believe that my contribution makes a difference.

What skills as an LT do you bring to your volunteer commitment?

With the LIT program and my work experience I have developed organizational, research and information management skills through the years. With Basketeers I use these skills to coordinate our efforts and to promote the cause. Brenda and I have grown from 10 baskets to 100. Our research skills enable us to promote Basketeers on a wider scale.

Are you developing new skills?

Yes, I am more aware of the impact of providing positive feedback and promoting our cause to a wider audience. The women who donate are taking time from their busy lives and spending their hard earned money to give a gift to a fellow sister to let them know they are thinking of them and that they want to help them. Do they help you at work/school/home life? These skills definitely help me in general, but, volunteering assists me to grow as a person.

Describe a typical work day at your volunteer commitment.

This varies according to our target basket dates. In between the pace is balanced and we are in planning stages. We have only been a region since 2009, so there are still many details to work out. Close to the dates, things are hectic. We need to coordinate all the Basketeers with drop off dates, basket development and times with the delivery to

the shelters. The target dates are an emotional high. We usually accept baskets between 10 a.m. and 12 noon and then deliver to local shelters. We are also able to meet with the Basketeers one on one and make a connection with them since we communicate via email only to that point. Personal delivery to the shelters is very rewarding. The shelter staff are so appreciative and kind-you feel so good about what you are doing.

What are some challenges, if any?

Challenges include creating a greater span of Basketeers to include more shelters in the National Capital Region. Currently we have 25 or more shelters and we have partnerships with 4 so far. We also need to foster relationships with local charity organizations for donations and media for exposure.

What is the most rewarding thing about your volunteer work?

I was raised in a violent household and I understand the syndrome of abused women and their struggle to support themselves and their children. Knowing that our donations may enable women to believe that they can support themselves and their children on their own and not feel the pressure to return to their situations out of sheer survival, calms my soul.

How do you balance working and volunteering?

You need to make time for the things that are important to you, whether that be friends, family or volunteering. You will see that if you feel strongly enough about something, you will find the time. It just happens if you want it enough!

What advice/words of encouragement would you give to people thinking of volunteering in general?

Don't be afraid to get involved, knowing that the smallest contribution can make a huge difference in the lives of people. And choose volunteer work that is meaningful to you. We are employed to make a living and this is not necessarily fulfilling. Volunteer work should feed your spirit. ◇

<http://www.basketeers.ca>

Assisting Women in new beginnings

Truly Transferable Skills

By Michelle Benincasa

*As seen on the Library and Information Technicians
Linkedin Group*

"I have been using my library weeding and inventory skills to help declutter the lives of my friends and family as part of their spring cleaning each year. It's that time again...

I know that it sounds completely unrelated, but with shows like cleansweep and hoarders showing the good and the bad of home organization, it's useful to practice the skills we learned for work at home, too. While looking for a job, it's easy to get frustrated and let your skills go stale, but if you create tasks like this to keep fresh, you also build in a sense of accomplishment and strengthen ties with your support network. Many of your friends and family may not fully understand what it is that a library technician does, but tasks like this help to clarify for them the value of your training, even in non-traditional ways. I never thought at first that my ability to create a subject bibliography of a particular author's backlist was a transferrable skill - but it can be. I create them regularly for friends and family, to assist them in organizing their book collections and for shopping. After all, who hasn't found a great book on sale and then gone home to find they already had it (with a different cover, of course). Clearing out duplicates and books they'll never read again makes room on their shelves for what they really want and the resulting pile can be donated to their local library (public or school). The process is good practice for us and both the tidy space and the donation make your friend or relative feel better about themselves, too. It's win-win."

The London Library

By Vicky Lynham, Library Technician,
Sidney Liswood Library,
Mount Sinai Hospital

For those who love books and the buildings that house them, they can not help but fall in love with the London Library, the oldest and largest private lending library in the World.

Last winter I had the opportunity to tour this attractive library situated on a lovely square in the heart of London, England. As soon as I found that my recently acquainted cousin was a librarian at the library, I managed to change a "meeting for coffee at St. Pancras" with my cousin and her sister to include a private tour of the London Library. After a

vacation hampered by unusual cold and snowy weather and a dislocated shoulder, this visit to the library was definitely going to be one of the highlights of my visit.

History of the Library

First, a bit of background on the library is necessary. The library was founded by Thomas Carlyle in 1841 based on an earlier London library that was founded in 1785 but closed about 1825. Carlyle craved peace and silence for his reading but didn't have the funds or space to create his own library at home. So he appealed to his friends to form a committee that would solicit subscriptions to the library and with the funds rent a space, purchase books and hire a librarian. The library was originally located on Pall Mall not far from Buckingham Palace but soon the collection outgrew the space and by 1845 the library was moved to its present location on St. James's Square.

Within a year of opening, the collection had grown to more than 13,000 books and the first catalogue was published a year later in 1842. Books were bought at auction and from booksellers and many others were donated by members or patrons from their private collections. Aided by the growth of the railways and the efficiency of the British postal service, the library became a national lending library and continues this service today. I found this to be one of the more remarkable features of the library that all but a very small percentage of books are circulated to members in person or by mail. And these books include many titles published in the 16th and 17th century and include rare and out-of-print titles.

The library archives recorded that when Charles Dickens was researching *A Tale of Two Cities* he borrowed cart-loads of books on the French Revolution, books such as *Defence of the French Revolution* published in 1791. Other famous writers who were members of the library include T.S. Eliot, Charles Darwin, Virginia Woolf, Agatha Christie, and Arthur Conan Doyle. Today's members include

Michael Palin, Antonia Fraser, and Tom Stoppard, the current president.

The Building

From the outside the size of the library is deceiving, with only a 27 foot frontage on St. James's Square. My cousin referred to this aspect of the library as the "Tardis" effect. Visitors are surprised at the size of the space and the number of volumes housed there.

The interior space retains the history of the building, the old windows, wood trim and majestic wood stairs. The library stays true to Carlyle's belief that the rooms should maintain a comfortable and domestic feeling, as if one were at home in their own library. This quality obviously adds to its attraction for members.



“For those who love books and the buildings that house them, they can not help but fall in love with the London Library, the oldest and largest private lending library in the World.”

When I toured the library the building was in the midst of construction, expanding once again into recently purchased buildings to the rear and the side. The detours caused by the construction only added to the labyrinthine feeling you get as you wind through the stairs and stacks while trying to avoid bumping patrons who have claimed small desks in secret corners. The enormous cost of purchasing land and buildings in central London for this expansion is covered by donations by grateful and wealthy patrons and by fundraising. The total amounts of members' fees go to new acquisitions.

Another unique feature of the library is the cast-iron grill floors of the book stacks built in the 1890s expansion. Like most new visitors to the library, I was

a little surprised to suddenly be walking on iron grills after the warmth of the reading room and the connecting stairs. High heels would not go well with these floors, and if you drop your pen, you may have to hike three floors down to retrieve it. Some movie directors have taken advantage of the unique architecture. If you watch closely the opening minutes of the 2002 movie "Possession" you will notice literary researcher Roland (Aaron Eckhart) sitting cross-legged on this same floor of the library stacks.

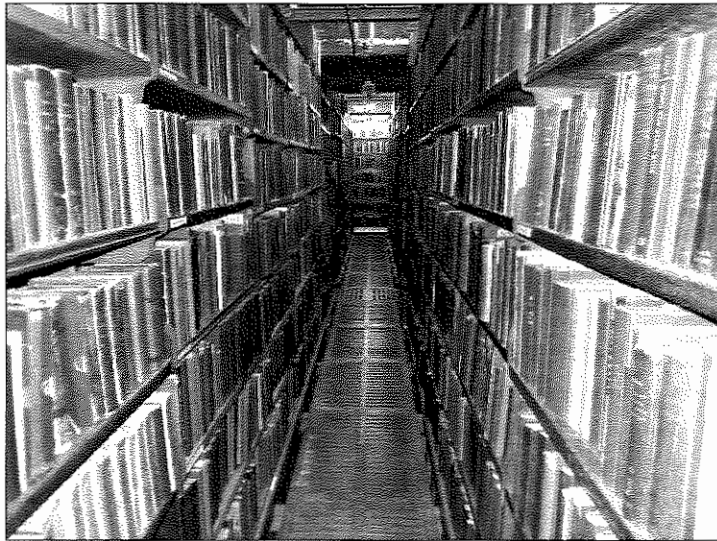
I hope that one day when the current expansion and construction is complete I can tour the library again to see the latest miracle fashioned by the architects of expanding and modernizing the library while retaining the original homey atmosphere.

The Library Collection

The library collection includes over one million volumes of books and about 850 current periodical titles as well as many more archived titles. The collection is expanding at about 8,000 volumes each year and there is no weeding of the collection except for a few duplicates. The online catalogue includes items acquired since 1950 and is available

on the library website. There are paper indexes older material.

The subject focus of the collection is the humanities and therefore is heavily weighted in literature, history, biography and art. Coming from a health sciences library, I was amused to find that medicine and health are classified under "Science



and Miscellaneous." The acquisition of novels and popular fiction is left to the public libraries.

The collection uses the Library of Congress subject headings but the shelf mark classification scheme is unique to the library. Books are classified into several major topics.

A – Art

H – History

L – Literature

R – Religion

S – Science & Miscellaneous

T – Topography

As well as Biog (Biography), Bibliog (Bibliography), Philology and others.

There is a large collection of foreign language books and the staff has knowledge of Russian, Spanish, French and other languages. An example of the eclectic collection is best illustrated by this anecdote from the *Library Book* by Tony McIntyre. In 1972 a journalist was commissioned to write about the Spassky-Fischer chess championship in Iceland and went to the London Library for research. "I hesitated for a moment whether to go to the 'C' for Chess section first, or the 'I' for Iceland section, but chose the former, because it was nearer. There were about twenty to thirty books on chess on the shelves,

and the first that caught my eye was a bulky volume with the title: Chess in Iceland and Icelandic Literature..."

The Future

Today you may find journalists, broadcasters, film and television production staff and actors of all ages seeking out that unique book to add

context to a newspaper column, a set design or an historical role. Before entering the library my cousin and I were cautioned by her sister not to stare at the famous people we might see. Fortunately I didn't recognize the "famous" British broadcasters and I was too busy examining the paper indexes to notice one of my favourite actors.

Membership is open to all and if you don't have the thousands of pounds to buy a life time membership you might be able to afford an annual membership of about £400 or a daily fee of just £10. There are currently about 8,000 members and according to my guide the library is very well used. The fact that the library has been able to raise the millions of pounds needed for the expansion shows that the library has a strong future. And it seems that the younger generation is part of that future. In my research for this article I came across an interview with Robert Pattinson, the young star and heartthrob of the Twilight movies. When asked what his favourite hangouts were when he had time to return home to London he replied "... and the London Library in St. James's Square, I loved it there. There's nothing like it anywhere in the world." ◇

The London Library. The London Library, 2008. Web. 22 Feb 2011. <<http://www.londonlibrary.co.uk/>>

McIntyre, Tony. *Library Book : an architectural journey through the London Library, 1841-2006.* London: London Library, 2006. Print

BEGINNINGS

History of the Canadian Library Association of Library Technicians

By Douglas Willford, Humber College 1972-2003

The beginnings of the Canadian Association of Library Technicians (CLTA) can be traced to a two day conference held May, 8th & 9th, 1970, in Thunder Bay at Lakehead University. The workshop sponsored by the Canadian Library Association had as its theme: **THE LIBRARY TECHNICIAN AT WORK: THEORY AND PRACTICE**, (ISBN 0-88802-051-1) and attracted participants from all across Canada and the United States. One unique aspect of the Workshop was that a number of Library Technicians were among the participants and took an active part in all sessions and discussions.

Following the Workshop a group of approximately 30 Library Technicians gathered at a local restaurant and discussed the need for and relevance of an Association open to Library Technicians all across Canada. All members present at that meeting were unanimous in their decision to move forward with the formation of an Association. The temporary headquarters would be located in Thunder Bay and the overall Co-ordinator would be Mrs Lois Pentney, a 1969 LT graduate from the Lakehead University Program. Charlotte Elwert another graduate from the Lakehead Program agreed to be the assistant Co-ordinator. Membership fees for graduates and students, and a Newsletter to keep members informed were discussed.

From the outset it was apparent that the realization of such an organization at the "national level" would not be easy to set up as the membership would literally be dispersed from sea to sea. Yet, it became apparent that the concern, exuberance and a

willingness to strive for such an Association were present in all library technicians who were career-minded and thinking of formal organization soon after graduation. It was realized that organization with regards to voice and recommendations, standards of training and performance and set objectives was desirable.

It was agreed upon that membership would be open to all Library Technician across Canada for both graduates and students. All graduates would be asked to pay \$2.00 for the fiscal year and no fees would be charged for students in training. From the outset the initial response was promising with 65 graduates and 89 students for a total of 154 members. This response was viewed as being very gratifying as only one official announcement about the formation of the Association had appeared in the Ontario Library Review, September, 1970 issue. Members who joined were encouraged to become involved in various ways: tying lists & articles, editing, mailing and contributing articles for the CLTA newsletter.

Although national in scope, since the majority of the Library Technician Training Programs were in Ontario, a strong regional core developed with the large percentage being from Ontario. It seemed very likely that the base of operations would be in Ontario.

Another welcome development was the formation of a provincial association - Manitoba Association of Library Technicians (M.A.L.T). The decision was left to those Library Technicians who joined M.A.L.T. if they also wanted to join CLTA as a personal member. It was stressed to all LT's that these two associations were not at cross purposes or counter

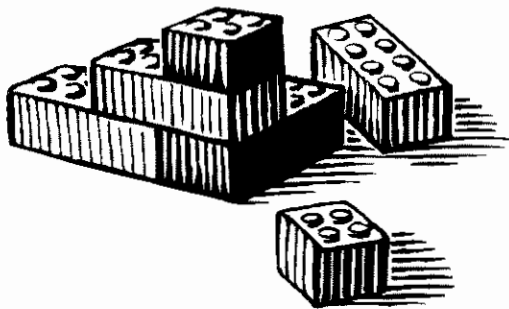
History

organizations but that they were two separate entities with mutual goals and attainable objectives.

In due course time decisions had to be made and elections were to be held via mail as was originally decided upon at the initial meeting in Thunder Bay , May 9th, 1970. Considerations/decisions that had to be made were:

- * Membership criteria (solely Technicians or those who have worked in libraries for a number of years)
- * Drafting a constitution
- * Decision to be taken whether or not to approach a library association for recognition or being granted the status of being an action group.

Other long range goals discussed were: concern with the standards of training and performance of Library Technicians in various positions, setting up a Placement Committee, the co-ordination of workshops for Library Technicians, to keep LT's informed of new developments in library service and to consider the formation of a Committee or Board for Certification.



In May of 1973 The Provincial Consultative Committee sponsored a seminar in Toronto to discuss the theme "**Where Are We Going And Why**" – the idea of extension programs/courses, standards of training and the like. Similar to the May 1970 workshop both Librarians, Library Technicians and representatives of the various programs throughout Ontario were invited to participate. One subject of discussion

re-occurred throughout the two days - **The Canadian Library Technician Association** – its status, aims and objectives. It was apparent to all participants that everyone was in approval of CLTA but if it was to become a reality it was up to the technicians themselves to guide its development.

As a result a meeting for interested LT's was organized at Humber College in Toronto on Oct 27th, 1973 to discuss the future of CLTA. After much heated and spirited debate it was decided to abandon the idea of a national association at this time and instead organize at the Provincial level. Thus the beginnings of The Ontario Association of Library Technicians/ Association des bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario were put into motion.



Dear Readers,

*Looking to broaden your reading style? Try an **Epistolary Novel**. It is described as any novel that is written in a series of letters--by one character or several characters.¹ :*

Here are a few suggestions:

We need to talk about Kevin

By Lionel Shriver

Letters

By John Barth

The Perks of Being a Wallflower [YA]

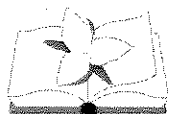
By Stephen Chbosky

¹http://web.cn.edu/kwheeler/lit_terms_e.html

Sincerely,

The editors

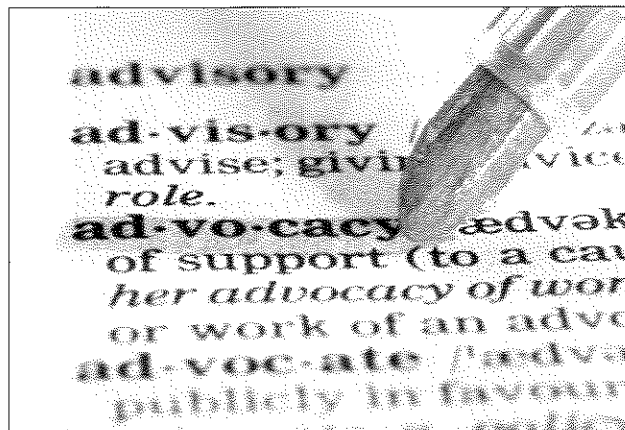
CHAPTER COORDINATOR UPDATE



OALT / ABO

After much planning for a "Day of Wellness" Super Saturday event in Toronto on March 5th (thank you Michael David Reansbury for all of your help), the event was cancelled due to low registration. That said, although I was disappointed, your Chapter Coordinator will not be defeated! I have surveyed you all back in October and many have you indicated that events were important to you. We will persevere! Over the next few months, rather than trying to develop elaborate full day Saturday programs for member in various parts of the province, I will concentrate on social events. Fun filled, laidback, stress-free events that will not be cancelled as long as at least six people indicate they will be in attendance. Starting in September your Chapter Coordinator - moi, with the help of a few locals in the area where the event will take place, hopes to have a program in place that will spark your attention and have you coming out to meet your peers, learning something new, or sharing your expertise! In the meantime, if you have ANY IDEAS, on what YOU would like to see as part of our Fall list of programs (remember, I may be determined, but I am not a mind-reader) please share them by sending them to chaptercoordinator@oaltabo.on.ca. I look forward to continuing to meet all of you!

~ Maria Ripley 2010 OALT/ABO Chapter
Coordinator



HOT

Hot: though the theme of the Gala dinner at the May Conference it also describes the recent discussion on the listserv. Much of the conversation and debate centered on a single issue: advocacy.

The Executive of the Association has tasked the Advocacy Committee with creating a document that explores the idea of advocacy and what this means for our Association. When completed this document will be used to guide the OALT/ABO and the Executive in our efforts to promote library technicians within the profession and set out goals for OALT/ABO to meet in the coming year(s).

There is still time to join the Committee which will meet at the May Conference to begin the task of creating the document. If you wish to join please send your intention to info@oaltabo.on.ca with Advocacy Committee in the subject line.

Michael David Reansbury

President 2011-2012

ZINES

Zine Libraries and Collections: Embracing Alternative Culture

By Marta Chudolinska,
Learning Zone Librarian, OCAD University

Independent production of ephemeral booklets is a practice with a deep and rich history, dating back to the impact of Gutenberg's first printing press. A new branch of this practice emerged from the do-it-yourself (DIY) punk scene of the 1970s in the form of zines. While the aesthetic and format can differ from zine to zine, it is generally agreed that a zine is an independently produced and distributed periodical (Dodge, 1995; Gisonny & Freedman, 2006; Stoddart & Kiser, 2004). Though there are no guidelines or restrictions for how a zine should look, the most common format is a photocopied, folded and stapled booklet, often employing a handmade, cut and paste aesthetic (see Figure 1).



Figure 1. Zines at the Toronto Zine Library

Zines have been described as "the unfiltered voice of the common person" (Stoddart & Kiser, 2004, p. 192) and as being "produced and published for love rather than profit" (Gisonny & Freedman, 2006, p. 26). Zines today span an almost unimaginable range of subject matter and format, and therefore impart "an unusual perspective...that would be difficult to obtain from mainstream media" (Stoddart & Kiser, 2004, p. 192). For this reason, they have been identified by Chris Dodge (1995) as "a crucial example of media democracy during an era in which daily newspapers are owned by increasingly fewer (and larger) conglomerates" (p. 27). Although access to independent online publishing, such as blogs and personal websites, has helped extend media democracy, zines continue to fulfill an important need for zinesters who have with limited online access and those who enjoy the physicality of zine production.

Subcultures and Institutions: Influences on Zine Collections

Since the 1970s, the DIY scene has been embraced by many subcultures and communities: activist/political, feminist, music, queer, literary and comics. The development, organization, and access to a zine collection is dependent on how strongly it supports and relates to the community it draws upon. The institution in which a zine collection is housed will also have an impact on the organization and access to the zine collection. Zine collections exist in retail spaces, public and academic libraries, alternative community centres, artist run spaces, and on the Internet.

Stoddart and Kiser (2004) wrote about the significance of collecting zines, particularly in libraries, stating that zines "preserve an alternative point of view, celebrate individual expression, or provide a written document of our accelerated culture" (p. 193). Several authors believe that zines will be instrumental to researchers as "cultural documents" (Stoddart & Kiser, 2004, p. 196) which, if adequately preserved, will provide "evidence of cultural dissent and innovation in the late twentieth century" (Dodge, 1995, p. 26). Also, since zines often

Collections

feature non-traditional or dissenting voices, they are likely to attract disenfranchised youth and other non-traditional users to the library (Bartel, 2004; Hubbard, 2005).

Zine Collections in Libraries

Zine collections in libraries have become increasingly popular in the past fifteen years and tend to have a strong focus on organization, classification and cataloguing, or finding aid access. Julie Bartel's (2004) *From A to Zine: Building a Winning Zine Collection in Your Library* provides an in-depth discussion of collecting zines in public libraries.

Collection Development of Zine Collections

There are several zine distributors and review zines which can be used by library staff to aid collection development. These resources are mostly useful for zine libraries with budgets to select and acquire new materials. Many zine collections are built entirely through donations.

Because zines are inexpensive to produce and are founded in ideals of free information, zine makers – or “zinesters” as they are often called – are often willing to share their work with libraries without compensation. There are several ways of drawing donations to the library, such as through “solicitation in review zines such as *Zine World: A Reader's Guide to the Underground Press* and *Broken Pencil*” (Stoddart & Kiser, 2004, p. 194), by “posting a ‘call for zines’ on online discussion lists... [such as] Zinesters and Zine Geeks” (Knight, 2004, p. 28), or by soliciting donations through a profile on the zine-focused social networking site We Make Zines (<http://wemakezines.ning.com/>). Building a collection entirely through donations necessitates the adoption of a “take what you can get” mentality. Though many libraries would prefer to only selectively collect the highest quality materials, accepting zines of lower aesthetic quality or questionable content is all part of adopting the open, DIY essence of zine culture.

Developing an exemplary zine collection is highly dependent on creating strong ties with zine communities. Dodge (1995) recommends that zine libraries that do not have the budgets to collect

comprehensively should “think globally, collect locally” (p. 27). Gisonny & Freedman (2006) believe that having a focus on local zines “connects the institution with its community and is an effective outreach tool to all sorts of folks who may not normally use the library” (p. 27). Good relationships with zinesters can result in significant donations of personal collections, while involving zine makers in “planning non-traditional programs at the library helps foster the local alternative press/zine community” (Gisonny & Freedman, 2006, p. 27).

Becoming involved in this community requires staff working with zine libraries to perform outreach by going outside of the library space. A good way of becoming involved is to attend zine fests, such as Canzine, an annual event held in Toronto and organized by *Broken Pencil*, a magazine about zine culture and independent arts (Koh, 2008). Other Toronto-based zine events include the Toronto Anarchist Book Fair, Toronto Small Press Book Fair, the Annual OCAD Zine Fair and Zine Dream. These events are a good opportunity to meet zine makers, promote the zine library, and potentially solicit donations.

Classification Systems for Zine Collections

Classification of zines presents many challenges for libraries, primarily because of the futility of attempting to impose a classification scheme on a format that is fundamentally against order and categorization. Zine authors are often anonymous or multiple; zine titles are changing or non-existent. Though they are generally defined as periodicals, the sporadic or frequently discontinued production of zines makes applying serials cataloguing rules a frustrating task. Zines can contain alternative content and a diversity of subject matter, making it difficult to assign standardized subject headings. As a result, zine-related subject headings are often employed, reflecting the subcultures which produce zines: activist/political, feminist, queer, literary, comics, art, and music. The benefits and drawbacks of various classification methods are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1 – Classification System Analysis

Classification System	Pros	Cons
MARC records Ex: Search “zines” at http://clio.cul.columbia.edu	-Allows researchers to stumble across alternative voices and unconventional, non-academic perspectives (<i>Knight, 2004</i>) -“Users who search the catalog and do not find records may think the library has no zine holdings” (<i>Hubbard, 2005, p. 354</i>)	Several qualities to zines make them a difficult material to catalogue including: -“the frequent use of unique content and language” -highly irregular publishing schedules and pagination -changes in/missing information about the title and author (<i>Koh, 2008, p. 50</i>)
In-house database or searchable finding aid Ex: Anchor Archive Zine Library Catalogue http://www.robertsstreet.org/n/catalogue Independent Publishing Resource Center Library Catalogue http://www.iprc.org/iprclibrary/	-Library staff can customize the search tools and parameters used -Can provide simple access to the collection without incorporating zines into the catalogue	-Requires time, resources and technical skills to design, update, and operate the software used -In order to access the collection, users must perform a separate search from catalogue
Thesaurus http://www.robertsstreet.org/n/thesaurus/out.htm	-A learning and finding resource that “describes the subject, lists similar terms, and offers examples or prominent zines in that category” (<i>Hubbard, 2005, p. 353</i>)	-Establishing and defining subject terms is a difficult task, particularly with the unique and multi-subject nature of many zines
Subject-based shelving	-Zines can be put into the collection faster since they do not have to be processed	-Does not provide remote access to the collection -Physical browsing is the only method of access

Zine Collections in Non-Library Spaces

Collection of zines in retail spaces is often sporadic, under-documented, and unique to each retail establishment. Generally, these collections are said to share few defining characteristics. They usually have no organization or classification system and consequently lack a finding aid or catalogue for searching the collection. The Bibliograph(e) zine collection at the Toc Toc Café in Montreal (see Figure 2) is an example of such a collection, where access to the zines is limited to physically searching through the items on the shelves.



Figure 2 Bibliograph(e) Zine Library in Montreal.

Collections

Zine collections in retail spaces are available to any member of the public, limited only by the operating hours of the retail establishment. Such collections illustrate an interesting phenomenon in creating a public, open space within a commercial space. The lowercase reading room at the Regional Assembly of Text in Vancouver (see Figure 3) is a small room branching off from the main retail space. A small couch in one corner provides visitors with a welcoming space to peruse the collection and read zines for as long as they desire.

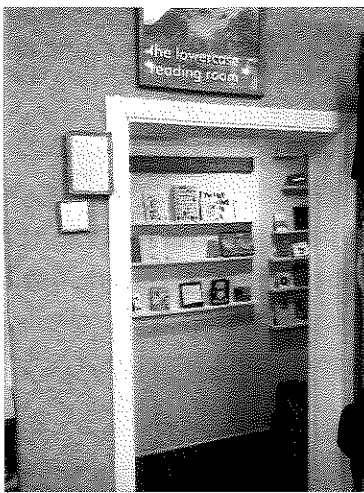


Figure 2. The lowercase reading room in Vancouver

The collection is organized on the shelf according to zine size and the zines in the collection are often the same as the zines sold in the store.

The most dynamic and well-developed zine collections often exist in alternative community centres or artist run spaces. Examples of such collections include the Toronto Zine Library (TZL) located in the TRANZAC (Toronto Australia New Zealand Club – a local cultural space which includes the zine library, music venues, rehearsal spaces, readings, and film screenings) (see Figure 8), the Anchor Archive Zine Library at the Robert Street Social Centre in Halifax (a vibrant community space which includes the zine library, a screenprinting studio, community event space, garden, and residency program), and the Independent Publishing Resource Centre in Portland (a space which includes a zine library, zine production centre, letterpress print shop and related workshops).



Figure 8. The Toronto Zine Library

Many of these collections operate as lending libraries and develop their collections primarily through donation. The success of these spaces is largely due to their support of their zine communities, through providing space to create zines and through development opportunities such as workshops and events.

Zine Collections Online

The online environment, rather than negating the need for zines, has been used to strengthen ties between zinesters, zine communities, and zine libraries. An easy way to connect with other zine librarians is through the Yahoo! Group Zinelibrarians created by Jenna Freedman, librarian for the Barnard College zine collection. The discussions on the group page "range anywhere from zine cataloging methods to debates on the inclusion of abstracts for zine records to zine related events at the next ALA conference" (Knight, 2004, p. 29). Reading past discussion threads can provide many answers for the budding zine librarian while also provoking new questions. The online environment has also been used to share resources helpful in building and maintaining a zine collection and to support searching of zine collection catalogues and

Collections

finding aids. These search tools are put to use by the local community as well as long-distance researchers seeking information on specific zines. The Anchor Archive Zine Library presents a powerful prototype for further online access to collections. Their web presence (<http://www.robertsstreet.org/n/zine-library>) includes a catalogue with multiple access points (title, author, subject, location, year), a zine thesaurus with relevant subject headings, and a zine catalogue blog discussing the development of their cataloguing project.

“Providing access to zines in libraries is important to preserving the alternative culture and creative expression of local communities.”

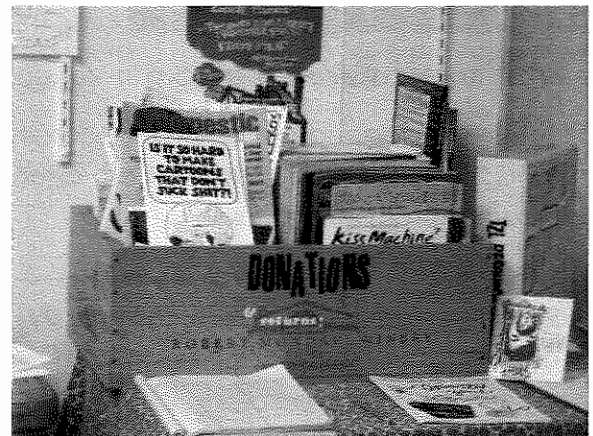
The Internet has also been used to host digital zine collections, a practice which brings about a unique set of challenges. The Queer Zine Archive Project (QZAP, www.qzap.org) is a well-organized and maintained zine collection that can be a model for best practices in this area. When questioned why the archive uses Portable Document Format (PDF) in their digital files, co-founder Milo Miller provided the following reasons (personal communication, April 19, 2009): the files are supported on a broad variety of operating systems (MAC, Windows, Linux, Unix) and devices (cellular phones, eBook readers), the files have good resolution and can be compressed to small size, and it is possible to make text in the file searchable, providing access to keyword searching.

Creating digital copies of zines and making them accessible online may be in conflict with copyright laws and rights. QZAP operates under a fair use policy, stating that their archive is a site for research and cultural appreciation. The archive practices what they call “due diligence”: they contact each zine maker for permission before posting their zine

online. If a zinester cannot be contacted, the archive posts the zine and makes it clear that any zine will be removed upon request (Milo Miller, personal communication, April 19, 2009). By practicing these policies, the Queer Zine Archive Project has successfully maneuvered around the minefield of copyright laws. An interesting question is whether zines are an open source material. Copyright laws are often bent and broken by zine makers themselves by borrowing images and text from copyrighted material (Herrada, 1995). The concept of sharing their work without permission may not even be an issue for many zine makers.

Conclusion

Zines are a cultural artefact that are here to stay. Despite the proliferation of independent online publishing, zinesters continue to produce ephemeral publications expressing their unique outlook on the world. Providing access to zines in libraries is important to preserving the alternative culture and creative expression of local communities. Zine collections thrive in institutions that build connections and relationships with zine makers, increasing



Donation box at Toronto Zine Library

donation and interest for the collection. Providing access to zines can present library staff with new challenges in traditional practices such as collection development and classification. When navigated with the help and insight of local zine communities, these challenges become new opportunities to provide access to a colourful and diverse world of unique ideas and perspectives.

References

- Bartel, J. (2004). *From A to Zine: Building a winning zine collection in your library*. American Library Association: Chicago, IL.
- Dodge, C. (1995). Pushing the boundaries: Zines and libraries. *Wilson Library Bulletin*, 69, 26-30.
- Gisonny, K., & Freedman, J. (2006). *Zines in libraries: how, what and why?* *Collection Building*, 25 (1), 26-30.
- Herrada, J. (1995). Zines in libraries: A culture preserved. *Serials Review*, 21 (2), 79-88.
- Hubbard, C. (2005). DIY in the stacks: A study of three public library zine collections. *Public Libraries*, 44(6), 351-354.
- Knight, A. (2004). Scratching the surface: Zines in libraries. MLIS paper written for course with Dr. Debra Hansen. Retrieved from <http://grrrlzines.net/writing/zinesinlibraries.pdf>
- Koh, R. (2008). Alternative literature in libraries: the unseen zine. *Collection Building*, 27(2), 48-51.
- Stoddart, R.A., & Kiser T. (2004). Zines and the library. *Library Resources & Technical Services*, 48(3), 191-198.

Marta Chudolinska is the Learning Zone Librarian at OCAD University. She is a graduate of the Ontario College of Art and Design, where she studied drawing, painting, and printmaking. Her love of zines, books, and libraries led her to the Faculty of Information at the University of Toronto, where she recently completed the program in Library and Information Science. She plans to combine her Masters studies with her interest in art, social justice, and community development. The following article is an edited version of "Information Access to Zine Collections", originally published in *Faculty of Information Quarterly*, Vol. 2, no.3 (2010).

New Publication!

Guidelines for the Education of Library Technicians

CLA Press Release

CLA is pleased to announce the release of the new Guidelines for the Education of Library Technicians. This document is a revision of the Guidelines first produced in 1991.

The new Guidelines have been produced by the CLA Library Technicians Interest Group, in consultation with the Program Chairs/Coordinators of Canadian institutions offering Library Technician programs.

The purpose of the Guidelines for the Education of Library Technicians is to promote excellence in the training and education of library technicians and to serve as a national standard for both educational institutions in Canada and employers who need to determine the capabilities of program graduates.

Karen Hildebrandt, convener of the Library Technicians Interest Group, is thrilled that this update has been completed. "So much has changed in libraries in the past 20 years, and Library Technician education must continue to keep pace. These updated Guidelines will help our educators to ensure that graduates have the necessary competencies to meet the needs of a variety of employers."

The Guidelines for the Education of Library Technicians is available on the CLA website at:

http://www.cla.ca/Content/NavigationMenu/CLAAatWork/InterestGroups/LibraryTechnicians/CLA_LTIG_guidelines.pdf



get GROWING

By Shireen Harbin, Circulation Intern, OCAD University

Like many of you, I am less-than-patiently waiting for winter to be over. I'm waiting for the winter blahs to be replaced by that 'love is in the air' feeling that comes with spring. But mostly, I'm waiting for gardening season to begin again.

After a few years of enjoying the bounty from my friend's organic urban garden, I decided to take a stab at growing my own food and joined a community gardening group in the east end of the city. The Oakvale Green Community Gardens are just north of the Greenwood TTC yard, a short walk from either Donlands or Greenwood station on the Bloor/Danforth line. The non-profit, volunteer-based organization boasts about 50 members with 40 personal vegetable garden plots, 2 personal flower beds, 4 community perennial areas, and a newly planted urban orchard (on which I'm proud to say I helped break ground) (<http://oakvalegardens.ca/>). The group has a growing interest in square foot gardening, a technique created by Mel Bartholomew that allows you to grow a lot of food in very little space. Steps include planting in raised beds, creating the perfect soil formula ("Mel's Mix"), and dividing your plot into square feet into which different vegetables or flowers can be planted. The author has worked out the number of squares needed for different types of plants. For example, one pepper plant per square, 4 marigolds per square, 9 beets per square, and 16 carrots per square. With only an 8-foot by 4-foot plot, I divided my box into squares of one-foot each. So I ended up with 32-square feet of gardening space. I used

compost instead of Mel's Mix and with very little work ended up with a very productive plot! Square foot gardening reduces weeds and makes more efficient use of space than gardening in rows. The raised beds can also be easily adapted to make gardening accessible to people with mobility issues. I highly recommend *Square foot gardening: a new way to garden in less space with less work* as well as *All new square foot gardening: grow more in less space*.

“In their own unique way, both Bartholomew and Trail’s books have made me excited about gardening.”

This year I came across two books by Toronto designer and gardener Gayla Trail: *You grow girl : the groundbreaking guide to gardening* and *Grow great grub : organic food from small spaces*. *You grow girl* is a general guide to gardening in small spaces while *Grow great grub* is focused on growing food. Both books are aimed at the young, urban gardener that doesn't have a lot of money or a lot of space on hand.

What I like about Gayla's books are the crafty projects and ideas featured throughout. For example, in *You Grow Girl* you can learn how to make your own bath and beauty products from plants in your garden, such as a healing hand salve

Book Review

(p.162) or a peppermint foot scrub (p.160). There are also practical activities for the garden, such as making your own pest repellent from items in your kitchen (p.116). All of the activities have ratings, from one leaf ("easy peasy") to five leaves ("get down and dirty") (p.5). Building your own planter box (p.30) rates at 5 leaves while building a simple irrigation system from an old plastic bottle (p.86) rates as one leaf. I particularly liked her idea of placing branches from early flowering trees such as apple, cherry, or lilac into jars of water in order to enjoy their blooms indoors (p. 188), an activity rated as one leaf. A downside of this book is that it's obviously aimed at females. Aside from the title, the cartoon woman on the front cover (and cartoon women throughout) will probably deter males from picking it up.



Grow Great Grub contains photos and information on conditions needed to grow vegetables, fruits, herbs, and edible flowers, including companion planting considerations, if applicable. The book also contains some interesting recipes from the garden: herbal iced teas (p.155), herb-infused salt or sugar (p.161), or herb and flower vinegars (p.196). I especially liked the author's idea of sewing your own leafy green storage bags out of dish towels (p. 176). The author states that if kept moist, the bags help to preserve leafy greens and herbs longer in the fridge than using plastic bags.

In their own unique way, both Bartholomew and Trail's books have made me excited about gardening. Mel's square foot gardening books were great for their practical overall gardening method. What's more motivating than being able to grow more food in less space, and with less work? (Sign me up!) On the other hand, Gayla's books motivated me to explore my creative side and try new things in the garden (and in the kitchen).

If you are interested in community gardening in Toronto, check out the Toronto Community Garden Network <http://www.tcgn.ca/wiki/wiki.php>. You can also Google search community gardens in your city/region or check out your city's official website for information on community gardening.

As food prices continue to rise and concerns about the effects of consuming pesticides and "frankenfoods" continue to grow, it's nice to know that we don't have to be held hostage by the grocery store.

We can take matters into our own hands, regardless of the amount of space we have. Organic gardening is empowering, good for you, and its lots of fun. To your health!



**Book reviews are a
fantastic ice breaker if
you are nervous about
writing
oaltabonenewsletter@gmail.com**

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 have over 10 yrs of experience as a Library Technician. I am currently looking for work and hoping to network with other library technicians for job opportunities, information, and knowledge."

"I am a final semester library and information technician student, and I would like to join the group to keep updated on professional issues."

"I am at Durham College. We are interested in the issues facing library techs as we are creating new programs in this area."

"I am a library technician in the York Region District School board, working in a high school. I am interested in joining the message board to keep up to date on OALT information."

"I've been working as a library technician for about 7 years now and just want to become more involved in oalt."

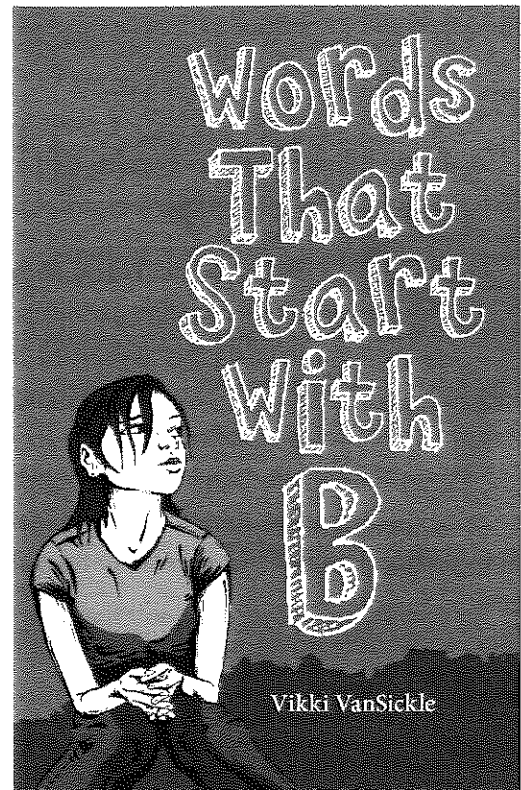
"I am library technician currently working in Alberta but looking for work in Ontario. I am from Ontario originally (London area)."

"I am a library technician working in a public library and would like to see the discussions happening in this group."

"I am a member of OALT and am curious about the list!"

"Currently employed as a medical library tech. Founding member of the Huronia Branch of the OALT/ABO and would like to become more informed of current issues & events."

Virtual Book Club



Though the Book Club will have its official launch at the May Conference, "One Book One Conference" there are a few easy and relatively painless steps you can take to be prepared:

1. Buy the first book to be discussed: Words that Start with B by Vikki VanSickle.
 2. Read the book!
 3. Bookmark www.oaltabo.on.ca as this is where all the action will happen.
 4. If you do not already have a:
 - i) Twitter
 - ii) Facebook
 - iii) Linked Inaccounts it is time to get one! We will be using all three, plus an online forum, for our discussion.
 5. Start thinking about a second book you would like to discuss.
- Take a deep breath.

OALT/ABO Website Update

www.oaltabo.on.ca

With Gratitude



Thank you to **Tracy Morgan** for your suggestions to improve the function and layout of the website. Take a look around www.oaltabo.on.ca to see the subtle but important changes to make things easier to find. Our

News & Events page will have a story to outline the changes.

Thank you to **Irène Kumar** for volunteering to translate key components of the website.

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

Going Paperless

Reminder: 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 bibliothécaires de l'Ontario
Abbey Market, P.O. Box 76010, 1500 Upper Middle Road
West, Oakville, ON, L6M 3H5
or by email: info@oaltabo.on.ca



Want to follow OALT/ABO on Twitter?

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

The Last Word

In the last issue we asked you about
Food For Fines in the library
community.

Here's what you said:

"The LRC has been running the Food for Fines campaign for many years during the month of December.

The LRC user has the choice to either bring in food items for each \$1.00 owing or the cash.

It is the hope that materials will be brought back and fines paid before students leave for the Christmas Break.

We park an old Woolco shopping cart behind the Circulation Desk with a sign as to its purpose.

The student food bank run by the Counseling Department is always grateful for what is dropped off."

Kathi Vandenheuvel

Library Resource Centre @ Lambton College

"Food for fines is also implemented each December at Wilfrid Laurier University with all food donated to the Student Food Bank on campus."

Christina Kerr

Access Services/Reference
Associate

Faculty of Social Work Library

Wilfrid Laurier University

2010 – 2011 Executive Contact List

President: Kathryn Suffoletta

koc21ca@yahoo.ca

ksuffoletta@county.middlesex.on.ca

President – Elect: Michael David Reansbury

michaeldavidreansbury@gmail.com

Treasurer: Shannon Matthews

matthews.shan@gmail.com

smatthews@conestogac.on.ca

Membership Coordinator: Amy Dwyer

amybdwyer@yahoo.ca

Chapter Coordinator: Maria Ripley

chaptercoordinator@oaltabo.on.ca

Conference Coordinator: Maggie Weaver

kweaver5478@rogers.com

External Communications Coordinator: Donna Brown

tjbrown@tbaytel.net

Internal Communications Coordinator: Lisa Eschli

leschli@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Julie Cristinzo and Jessica Goodman

oaltabonewsletter@gmail.com

Web Development Team:

Judith Banville Beverley Clark

Cristina Gulshani Gislaine Hamelin

Lori Ann Pettey Philip Wasley

info@oaltabo.on.ca

Archivist: Kathi Vandenheuvel

kathivandenheuvel@ymail.com

kathiv@lambton.on.ca

Past President: Maria Ripley

mariaripley5261@hotmail.com

Welcome / Bienvenue

A very special welcome to all our new members:

Janet Lengel	Rob White
Beverley Clark	Sandra McPherson
John Laberge	Beeda Olivia Wijewardana
Jillan Rothwell	Kelly Sobie
Diane Smele	Andrew Fraser
Vicky Zazulak	
Jacqueline Cornell	

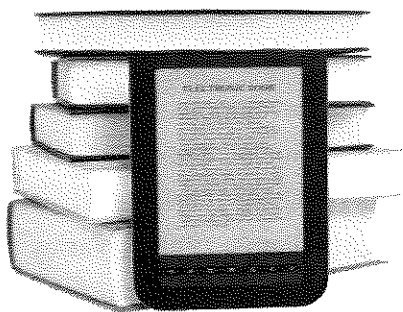
The Last Word

As of March 7, HarperCollins e-book titles licensed to Canadian schools and public libraries come with a new restriction: after 26 checkouts, they self-destruct.

What do you think ?

Read what Vickery Bowles, director of collections management at the Toronto Public Library and Keith Walker, president of the Canadian Library Association have to say:

http://www.cla.ca/digest/03102011_CLA_President_HarperCollins.pdf



Please submit your thoughts/comments to the editors. Responses will be featured in the January issue. Have an idea for the 'Last Word' column? Please send to the editors for consideration.

oaltabnewsletter@gmail.com

Call for Submissions

We would love to hear from you, all and any (even a quote) contributions are appreciated. 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?
- * 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, LibraryThing
- * Photographs

Please submit your articles to:

oaltabnewsletter@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 August 1st, 2011 Thank you!