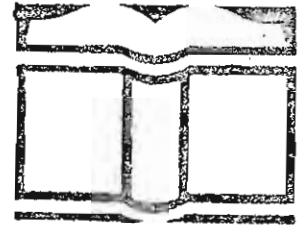


NETWORKS



HURONIA REGIONAL BRANCH OALT/ABO VOL. 3, NO. 2

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Canadian Library Association guide lines for the Education of Library Technicians was issued in August of this year. It is an interesting document and can be made available to members on request. It will also be brought to the regular meetings in order that members may have a look at it.

It would be great to have some entries for the essay contest from our Branch. Be sure to read the contest information in this issue of Networks.

Janet Iles is Huronia Region's representative on the Proposal for Change Committee. She has prepared comments for a November meeting but would like to have more feedback from the membership. Send along any comments to her in the near future. There are some proposals in this document which can have far-reaching consequences for OALT/ABO members. We need all the input that we can get.

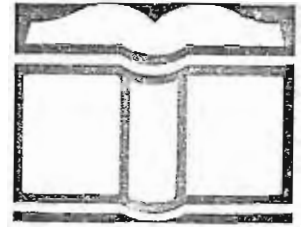
Irene Gelyk has agreed to be our Archivist. If you have any newspaper clippings, etc., concerning members or library activities of members which you feel should be kept for future generations, please send them to Irene or bring them to a meeting.

The memorandum from Danielle Amat, President of OALT/ABO, which follows, has been reproduced in its entirety because it explains fully the major projects being undertaken by the Provincial Executive. Please take the time to read it and catch up on the present activities and future plans of the Executive.

-Mary Davie
President, Huronia Regional Branch

OCTOBER 27, 1981

Ontario Association of Library Technicians/
Association des Bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario
P.O. Box 682
Oakville, Ontario
L6J 5C1



TO: REGIONAL PRESIDENTS

FROM: PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT

Following the October 3rd meeting, I felt a need to enlighten the regions as to the Executive's progress and to answer some of your queries concerning the different projects that the provincial would like to undertake.

According to different reports received, it seems that the following are your main concern: newsletter editors, essay contest, Proposal for Change and for some, the funding committee.

As far as the essay contest is concerned, the committee has been set up and has already submitted the guidelines, the rules and the names of the English judges. The committee presented their report at the October 3rd meeting and it was accepted by the Board. The Sudbury region is responsible for translating the rules and, with the help of Ottawa, is trying to find qualified persons to judge the French essays. The French names will be submitted to the Board at the November 28th meeting. The Public Relations Co-ordinator has sent out notices to different journals and to Library techniques programs publicizing the contest. The committee has sent notices to all libraries in Ontario; it now awaits the submission of essays from Library Technicians.

Past-president, Paulette Thibault has agreed to be convenor of the Proposal for Change committee and has been advised of all the regional representatives. They will try to have their first meeting in November or at their earliest convenience.

The funding committee had a 1st meeting in Oct. and will present their report at the November 28 Board of Directors and Executive meeting. I wish at this point to clarify the following: the committee to look into funding has not been disbanded. It has been turned over to the Board and the provincial executive, and has consequently become a presidential committee. The previous funding committee which was headed by C. Boardman, was disbanded as of May 1981. Please refer to the minutes of the last ABM for the exact motion (your director has a copy).

Possible editors for the newsletter have been found. Hopefully, the Board will agree to their nomination at the November 28th meeting.

As you can see, we have tried to tie up any loose ends. Most projects have either been completed or are in full swing. I would like now, to give you an overview of the work done by the Board of Directors and the Provincial acclaimed Executive, between the months of June and October:

a) four regions submitted the names of their graduates and letters of congratulations were sent;

b) letters were sent to different library schools (University of Toronto, Western, McGill) asking them to allow us to speak to the future librarians about library technicians;

c) over 240 letters were mailed to past members who have not renewed their membership;

d) the Directory/Annuaire has been mailed. We added two new sections: a geographical map (inside front cover), and an alphabetical list of members (names) by region;

e) Niagara has accepted the responsibility for the convention issue of the newsletter. Translation is now in the works;

f) Convention Procedures Manual is now at the typing stage. An English glossary has been compiled and it is being revised. Translation of the glossary will follow;

g) press releases were sent for the following: the Niagara Convention, the new Provincial Executive, the Essay Contest. The Public Relations Co-ordinator has sent a press release on the Thunder Bay convention, to all library journals and regional branches.

To pursue OALT/ABO's goals and objectives of raising our profile and to promote ourselves in new fields, we as an association must take the initiative. In this quest, the Executive has proposed two new projects: a) job survey; b) a brochure on the library technician. These projects are not to be referred to any committee, they are the tasks of the OALT/ABO Board of Directors and the Provincial Executive. Preliminary work has been done by the Directors and Executive to determine the feasibility of these projects. The November 28th meeting will determine the continuation of these undertakings.

I personally feel that the projects will benefit OALT/ABO members. However, a prerequisite for the success of our endeavors is total support from the regions. So, please reconsider your position on these two propositions. If you have any questions about them please contact me for more details. May we remind you that you are always welcome to the Board of Directors and Provincial Executive meetings. May I suggest that you attend the next one, on November 28.

Come and see that WE are working for YOU!



c.c. Directors
Provincial Executive
Newsletter Editors
Archivist

ESSAY CONTEST

OALT/ABO is sponsoring an essay contest open to all library technicians and library technician students. The essays, which are to be between two thousand and five thousand words in length, can be about any aspect of library work, preferably related to the library technician. Include a brief biography of yourself and a separate sheet outlining the aims and objectives of your essay. All entries must be submitted by April 30, 1982 to Andrew Porteus, Chairman, OALT/ABO Essay Contest, P.O. Box 611, Niagara Falls, Ont. L2E 6V5. Let's share our knowledge and experiences and ensure that Huronia Regional Branch is well represented in this contest. (For complete rules and details please see the following page).

WORKSHOPS...WORKSHOPS...WORKSHOPS...

Three very successful workshops, arranged by Nancy Mack and Barbara Rudd, were presented on October 17, 1981 at Barrie Public Library.

The morning session, "Students in the library" - how to help students help themselves, was presented by Joanne Shea, Coordinator, Georgian College Learning Resource Centres. Joanne defines user education as the education of users to make independent use of all the resources of the library. User awareness, orientation and bibliographic instruction are the three main areas of user education.

The library can use certain general public relations tools such as newsletters, media reports, etc., to inform the public of the general resources of the library.

The library must orient the users to the general physical layout, staff and tools, which can be used to find information. This can be made easier by having good directional signs, a floor plan, signs explaining policies and slide, or, videotape shows. Joanne brought along the videotape which she uses at Georgian College. The videotape introduces the staff, and explains the resources and services of the Learning Resource Centre. The videotape emphasizes the use of all the major access points to information - the microfiche catalog, vertical file, periodical indexes, A/V catalog and bulletin board.

Instruction in the use of the major access points can be provided in the form of self-study guides; personalized instruction at the time of need; incorporating it into the curriculum in a school; special workshops and seminars; and, computerized instruction.

Joanne emphasized that we must encourage people to do things on their own, and, to use resources other than books. User education is very important in times of budget and staff cuts.

Dorothy Shadhoff, Reference Librarian, Barrie Public Library, conducted a workshop entitled "Special needs for special people" - how libraries can meet the needs of disabled persons. Dorothy presented the workshop on a very personal level - telling us many stories from her own experiences. We viewed the film: One day in the life of Bonnie Consolo, about a woman who does everything from baking bread to cutting her children's hair with her feet, because she was born without arms.

ESSAY CONTEST RULES

1. Open to all library technicians and library technician students; both members and non-members of OALT/AEO. Not open to the Board of Directors and Provincial Executive of OALT/AEO, members of the Essay Contest Committee, or their immediate family.
2. Topic can be any aspect of library or library-related work, preferably dealing with the library technician in some way.
3. Essays are to be typed, double-spaced, with 1½" side margins, 1½" top margins, and 1" bottom margins.
4. Essays should have a title page stating the title of the paper and the name of the author. Pages are to be numbered in the top right hand corner.
5. Essays should be between 2,000 and 5,000 words long, and be fully referenced and footnoted at the end of the paper.
6. A brief biography of the author should be included on a separate sheet of paper including name, address, telephone number, where the author is employed or attending school, the school graduated from and year of graduation.
7. A brief outline/abstract should be included on a separate sheet of paper stating the aims and objectives of the essay.
8. Essays may be submitted in English or French, and will be judged in the language that they are submitted in.
9. Essays will be judged anonymously.
10. Prizes are:
 - 1st prize - \$100
 - 2nd prize - \$ 50
 - 3rd prize - \$ 25
 - Runners-up \$ 5 (maximum of 3 runners-up)
11. In case of ties, the prize money for the two positions tied for will be split evenly by the winners.
12. Prizes will be awarded only if essays meet standards set by the Committee. Not all prizes need necessarily be awarded.
13. Decision of the Committee is final.
14. All essays become the property of OALT/AEO and may be published in the OALT/AEO newsletter or other publications. All other publication in whole or in part is forbidden without the written permission of OALT/AEO.
15. By entering the contest, participants agree to abide by the contest rules.
16. Winners will be announced in the OALT/AEO Newsletter and other library publications.
17. Essays should be submitted by April 30 to:

Andrew Porteus
Chairman
OALT/AEO ESSAY CONTEST
P.O. Box 611
NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO
L2E 6V5

Dorothy reminded us that public attitudes toward the handicapped are based on fear. Dorothy had several suggestions, which are reprinted on the following page, for people when they communicate with disabled persons. Her suggestions will be helpful to all library workers.

Dorothy also reminded us that access is most important - there is no point in libraries having resources for the handicapped if there are no elevators, ramps or specially equipped washrooms.

Thank you, Dorothy, for a very personal and heartfelt look at handicapped persons.

Sherry Douglas, a member of the Band Council of the Rama Indian Reserve, and Library Technician at Georgian College in Orillia, presented the last workshop - "Native people" - resources for and about native people. Sherry reminded us of one very important point we should consider when adding material about native people to our collection - the information must be accurate. She emphasized this point by reading an excerpt from a book which could be found on any library shelf - the excerpt was totally inaccurate and ridiculous. However, it would be read by many young students.

Sherry also pointed out that all libraries should have a copy of the Indian Act and should ensure that it is up-to-date. Libraries should have books about Indian language, especially those languages that are used in the area.

Sherry supplied us with an annotated bibliography of books about native people and Canadian history in general. The books have been rated according to her own recommendations. On a personal level she shared with us her experiences in talking to school children about native people. All in all an entertaining and very informative look at what libraries can do to maintain collections about native people.

The executive and members of the Huronia Regional Branch would like to take this opportunity to thank Joanne, Dorothy and Sherry for sharing their knowledge. Also many thanks to Barbara Rudd and Nancy Mack for arranging these excellent workshops. All who attended were most impressed by the quality of the speakers and subject material. Thanks to those who participated and to the Barrie Public Library for the use of their facilities.

More learning days are already being planned for us and if you missed the last workshop be sure and attend the next one. If you have any suggestions for future workshops, please let Barbara or Nancy know so that they can incorporate them into their future plans, if possible.

The October workshop was a financial success as well, and badly needed dollars were added to our treasury. Thanks again Barb and Nancy!

1982 OALT/ABO CONFERENCE REPORT

Thunder Bay Region is hard at work planning the 9th Annual OALT/ABO Conference, which will take place May 13-15, 1982 at Lakehead University.

Approximately fifteen workshops will be offered in the following categories - Children's Services, Reference Services, Technical Services, Administration, and general interest. They will be scheduled to enable delegates to attend the maximum number in their area of employment and/or interest. Four sessions of workshops will be held. (hopefully to the delight and approval of you)

Costs will run somewhat higher than those for southern Ontario, the most costly factor being air fare. Early estimated for accomodation, meals, workshops

WHAT THE LIBRARIAN CAN DO

Some librarians, with the very best of intentions, will feel awkward when actually faced with helping a disabled patron for the first time. A few simple do's and don'ts may help to put them at their ease.

1. Offer assistance as you would to anyone else, for example, to push a wheelchair or to guide a blind person. The person will indicate whether or not the help is needed, and a "no, thank you" must be respected. Most disabled people will not hesitate to ask for needed help and will be specific as to how it should be given, for example, the blind person usually prefers to take your arm rather than to have you grab his or hers.
2. Noticing an obvious disability is not rude; however, asking personal questions about it is inappropriate.
3. Always talk directly to a disabled person rather than to the person who may be accompanying him or her. Never talk about a disabled person to the person he or she is with as if the person did not exist. This would include an interpreter for a deaf person.
4. Do not be concerned if you use the words walking or running when talking to a person in a wheelchair or "Do you see?" when talking to a blind person. Disabled people use these words themselves and think nothing of it.
5. Do not avoid using words like blind or deaf when associating with people with these disabilities. Disabled people know that they have them, and do not need to be shielded from the facts.
6. When talking with a person in a wheelchair for any length of time, it is better to sit down in order to be at the same eye level. It is very tiring for a person to look up for a long time.
7. Be sensitive to architectural barriers in your libraries. By law they should be removed. Everyone must be concerned and alert to this very real problem.
8. Remember that if a person does not turn around in response to a call, it may be that he or she is deaf. A light tap on the shoulder to get a person's attention makes sense.
9. Never gesture about a blind person to someone else who may be present. This will inevitably be picked up and make the person who is blind feel that you are "talking behind his or her back."
10. Lip reading by deaf persons can be aided by being sure that the light is on your face and not behind you, and by taking all obstructions such as pipes, cigarettes or gum out of the mouth, keeping the lips flexible, and speaking slowly. Additional communication could include sign language, pantomime and gestures of all kinds, and written communication if necessary.

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(BPL wheelchair patron adds that when the librarian makes suggestions on books, don't just offer the title - bring the book to the patron!)

and air fare (from Toronto) run from \$350-400. If Sue Weaver is still agreeable to looking into booking group flights via Nordair or Air Canada (as was done in '76), the cost should be somewhat reduced. If delegates fly here on the Wednesday night, May 12, they will be met at the airport, balloons and ribbons flying!

Donna Fossum says that if everyone saves \$10.00 a week from October 1 on, they will have \$320 in their conference coffers by May 12, 1982. So start saving your money now, and tell your employers what a great conference is being planned in the great northwestern Ontario metropolis of Thunder Bay.

COMMITTEE ON LIBRARY TECHNICIANS (ROLE AND EDUCATION)

Nancy Mack attended a meeting of the Canadian Library Association: Committee on Library Technicians (Role and Education) on November 2, 1981 in Toronto. The following are highlights from that meeting:

-Margot Montgomery reported that a list of Library Technician correspondence/distance education packages available in the United States and Canada is available. If anyone would like a copy of what courses are available please contact the editor of this newsletter.

-Jean Weihs reported that the Ontario Association of Library Educators is presenting a brief to the Ministry of Colleges and Universities recommending the establishment of correspondence/distance courses for library technicians, particularly for Northern Ontario library workers.

-Nancy Mack reported that Georgian College is not in fact planning to offer a part-time program for Library Technicians.

-Nancy also mentioned that financial cutbacks in libraries seem to have the effect of reducing Library Technicians' participation at conferences and workshops. Members commented that unfortunately the professional and administrative library staff seem to have priority for these opportunities. This will be placed on a future agenda for exploration and the development of a strategy to improve the situation.

-Plans for the 1982 Canadian Library Association Conference are well underway. Activities geared towards library technicians are to include: a session on Monday afternoon for library technician educators; a Sunday evening reception for library technicians and any other interested parties; a Monday morning workshop for technicians on a theme related to technicians in special libraries; and, an informal luncheon on Monday offered to technicians, educators and employers after which panelists from each province will briefly share information.

The above information was supplied courtesy of Nancy Mack. If anyone would like more information about the Committee on Library Technicians (Role and Education) please contact Nancy at Georgian College, Barrie.

REMINDER...REMINDER...REMINDER...

The next issue of this newsletter will be published in March 1982. If you have any news that you would like to share with other members of Huronia Regional Branch please send it to me at RR#1, Stroud, Ont. L0L 2M0.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!!

-Jackie Druery
Editor