

APROPOS

vol. 1 no. 4



Merry Christmas

OALT/ABO - SRB MEETING
November 8, 1979 Room 3009 7:00 p.m.

Present - Denise Denomé; Judy Laplante; Madeleine Simard; Heather Bell; Bette Heard; Lorrie Roberts; Monique Fuchs; Linda Davis; Marie Travaglini; Elsie Pigott.

1980 Conference will be held in Ottawa May 7-11, 1980. More information will be printed in the newsletter as it becomes available. All members are encouraged to attend.

Director's Report - Paulette Thibault was absent due to illness. Therefore, Bette Heard received the consensus for the annual meetings regarding voting rights of Provincial members. It was unanimously agreed that these persons should have the choice of voting with the region

from which they graduated or with the nearest geographical region to their present location. The Director's Report will be published in APROPOS.

Library Technician Advisory Committee - The program is presently suffering from problems with the first semester English course, poor placement success, no co-ordinator and internal problems. These are to be dealt with by Ted Keene, Bill Roy and Alcide Gour respectively. The Committee is to examine their purpose and membership in the near future.

OALT/ABO Publications - The prices for Salary Survey 1978 and booklet on The Library Technician will be published in the next OALT/ABO newsletter.

Letters written to Alcide Gour regarding the hiring of one of the teachers for the ELTN program and his reply were made available for those interested.

Madeleine Landry has returned to Thunder Bay. Paulette Thibault has agreed once again to fill the role of Secretary/Treasurer. (Elections will be held in the near future with openings expected for each position.)

Newsletter articles are due Nov. 23 for the December issue of APROPOS.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

We would like to welcome a new member - MARY RAATIKAINEN. Mary graduated from Cambrian College in 1973 and worked at Marathon High School in Marathon, Ont., for the next two years. She is presently working for the Sudbury Board of Education at Lively Secondary School.

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT OF THE OALT/ABO
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
Held November 3, 1979

In order that salary statistics for Library Technicians are kept up-to-date, the Association will prepare a form requesting this information. The form will then be given to each regional director for compiling. February 29, 1980 is the deadline date to send in to Nancy Mack the completed questionnaire.

A new list of OALT/ABO publications will be included in the Provincial Newsletter. Check for it! All of these publications are available through the provincial vice-president Dorothy Kew.

Peta Shelton is now in charge of membership. If there are any changes or corrections, or additions, please contact your region who will then forward this information to Peta.

The 1980 membership cards are BEIGE. Those of you who are members will be contacted at a later date for renewal of membership. Those of you who wish to become members can contact us at our mailing address. The Provincial Publicity Coordinator, Nancy Mack, is looking for suggestions for promotional gimmicks. If you have any, please let us know.

There is a job available in Baden, Germany, for a Library Technician. Look for more information in the provincial newsletter.

Respectfully submitted by:
Faulette Thibault,
Director, OALT/ABO - SRB

SHARING SKILLS

Is there something in particular that you are especially good at, or perhaps something special that you would like to learn at the professional or personal level? If so, please let us know, so a "resource/interest" list can be made. To date, Denise Denomme, coder at Laurentian University, has expressed a

willingness to give a workshop on CODOC procedures; Bette Heard is presently teaching a Human Relations course and is willing to devote an evening on this topic; Audrey Mark, a Librarian at North Central Regional Library System, has been suggested for AACR II; the placement officer at Cambrian College has been proposed for a workshop on job search skills. Any other ideas are welcome.

Bette Heard

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

On Wednesday, November 7, 1979 the latest gathering of Cambrian's Library Technician Advisory Committee was held. Following are some brief notes on the major topics discussed at the meeting.

English Language - The college presently provides an English course for all first semester students which is designed to bring all college students to a minimal level of competency. Any first semester student who is already past this minimal level has two choices - 1) Be exempt from the class and have a spare or 2) Attend the class anyway. It has been suggested that other alternatives be made available for students in this category. Ted Keene, Chairman of Languages, is to investigate the possibilities.

Education of Library Technicians - Guidelines - Library Technician Instructors (OALTI) have developed some guidelines for the education of Library Techs. These guidelines are to be distributed to various library groups and persons to be perused, with feedback given at a later date.

General - The Ministry of Colleges and Universities is now working very closely with the Ministry of Education. As a result, the Ministry of Education is showing an increased interest in placement success. Attempts are being made to discover why the place-

ment success in the Library Tech. program is not as high as in many other courses offered at Cambrian. (47% of LITN and BLTN grads were employed at the time of the survey.)

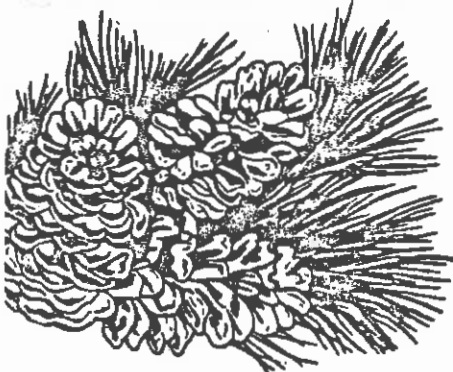
The college feels justified in not having a co-ordinator for the LITN/BLTN programs due to finances and a relatively low enrollment (in comparison with other courses at Cambrian).

There are some internal problems with the Library Technician program which were brought out by letters sent to various persons dealing with the program (Chairman, Chairman of the Advisory Committee) and by students attending the meeting. It was decided that Bill Roy, Chairman of Community Services, and Alcide Gour, Chairman of French language Programs, will attempt to solve the problem.

It was brought to the attention of Committee members that neither the committee as a whole nor individual employers on the committee are members of OALT/ABO - SRB so are missing articles of possible interest to them. Bill Roy mentioned that monies could be made available for an OALT membership, but this offer was turned down in favour of requesting a complimentary copy of SRB's APROPOS.

As it became evident during this meeting that the Advisory Committee is functioning without guidelines, it was agreed to investigate the Committee's purpose, membership, etc. in the near future.

Respectfully submitted by:
Bette Heard
Member, Advisory Committee



(Here is the first article in what will hopefully become a series about places in the area where Library Technicians are presently working.)

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION LIBRARY

The Ministry of Education, where I work, employs two full-time library Technicians. In addition, summer employees are usually hired for the May through August period.

Our library serves people in education and related fields, and the collection includes both professional and children's materials. There are about 15,000 professional books which are available to consultants and teachers throughout Northern Ontario.

Most of my duties relate to the children's collection which includes about 10,000 books, 2,500 filmstrips and a variety of multi-media kits, games, toys and learning activities. Because the use of the children's materials is restricted to schools in isolated areas, and those with low enrollment and no resources of their own, most of our service is provided through the mail.

Teachers usually send brief outlines of the topics they will be covering in a certain period. I then gather support materials at the appropriate grade levels and forward these to the school. Many of the schools we serve are one room facilities in small communities such as Missanable, Moose River, Shining Tree, Sultan and Smoky Falls.

Selecting and ordering of materials are done on an ongoing basis. Most of our cataloguing is done by agencies so original cataloguing is not a major activity, except in the case of the games and toys. Reference work and circulation are more time consuming than in some libraries, due to the fact that the patrons who do make use of the children's collection live so far away. Much time is spent therefore, in searching for appropriate materials to fill requests and in packing and unpacking circulating items.

The Ministry of Education library is an interesting place to work. Reference requests are numerous and often challenging, patrons are appreciative, and the collection is unique.

Linda Davis



PROFESSIONALIZE YOUR GIVING

As the Christmas season draws nearer, we are fraught with the pressures of personalized giving. A generally under-sufficient budget disallows the luxurious items we would like to purchase for our loved ones, the lack of time (or ability) prevents us from making many of the oft-appreciated "homey" gifts such as macrame hangings, knitted or crocheted clothing articles, stuffed toys. And for many, a severe case of no-gooditis ideas has left us scrounging in little gift and novelty shops for something unique, something for which we will be remembered, at a not-too-unaffordable (but always over-budget) price.)

How many of us have considered allowing our training to do our "shopping" for us? No, I don't mean to buy Aunt Emma another book on houseplants - we probably all gave books to most people on our list the last year or two, and, anyway, it's a little too predictable to be coming from a Library Technician. Books are also far too impersonal unless you are able to locate just THE book for a particular someone. So why not spend a little time in a library preparing a more professionalized gift for some of our family and friends?

Try a bibliography of books, articles, video tapes on interior decorating for Cousin Jack. Or an annotated list of materials available from the public library on personal growth and human relations for the person who is most involved in volunteer work. Your parents are book collectors? They may really appreciate you using some of your ingenuity and professional skills to organize their collection, or prepare a card index of some of their materials for easier retrieval. Perhaps you are the book fanatic, and just can't stop collecting materials that you just KNOW somebody will need someday. How about a list of these materials to people you wouldn't mind lending your books to? Of course, we can't forget the thesis Katherine is preparing. Any reason why you can't become her research assistant, either with a list of obscure resources for Christmas, or a "promissory note" to devote X hours a week for Y weeks to help with her research?

These are just a few ideas. Continue to use your imagination and you may find many more. Merry Christmas, and happy listing.

Bette Heard

NATIVE PEOPLES & LIBRARIES

There will soon be a time when there will hopefully be so many native people in the library field that there will be no necessity for a non-native like myself to write articles like this one.

Native people are very quickly becoming more interested in library work in the last few years. Recent threats of massive development encroaching on Indian land, and how to cope with existing and increasing development, the strong interest in Indian culture by people and the constant demands from the non-native government for documentation of Indian aboriginal cases, legal cases and cases for cultural equality, have made Indian people

aware of the need for proper organization of their material. There are hundreds of files accumulating in native organizations, and there are more and more native libraries being developed every day. One of the reasons for this is that native organizations often encompass many different programs and projects: education, health, translation, legal services, student counselling, -- the list is endless. Phoebe Nahanni, Librarian at the National Indian Brotherhood in Ottawa says she gets about three feet of mail a day, plus constant phone calls. The pressure is on native people to deliver, learn and receive information as quickly as possible.

So why haven't we seen Indian people rushing to get into Library Technician and Library Science courses? A few of the possible reasons are highlighted here:

1. It is impossible for many Indians living in remote Northern communities to take full-time or even part-time library courses. There are no educational institutions offering library courses for hundreds of miles. Plus the cultural shock of moving from a Northern community to the city can often be too great.
2. Much of the material covered in a library course is irrelevant to a native person aspiring to be a librarian. Many Indian people are primarily concerned about issue-oriented or cultural material that relates to them. There are rarely any references to native people in any of the library professional development textbooks I have ever read (although there are starting to be more workshops and library magazine articles about them).
3. Classification schemes have been in the past (this is somewhat changing) notoriously racist, discriminatory and one-sided. For example, the Religion section of the Dewey Decimal System (the 200's) gives out options for other religions in each sub-section of the 200's, but still, 7 out of 10 sub-sections have "Christian" or "Christianity" in the headings. This is one

of the many reasons why some native libraries in Southern Ontario have opted for a classification scheme based on linguistic and tribal groups.

In the frustration of dealing with the institutionalized library field, many native people have designed their own libraries, their own classification schemes and their own training programs.

Brian Deer, Librarian -- one of the few Indian people in Canada with a Library Science or Library Technician Diploma-- advocates that Indian people take library courses on a cooperative basis, attending library courses on a part-time basis and working in the library at the same time. This is perhaps the most effective approach to solving the problem.

The Ojibway-Cree Resource Centre in Timmins has taken an aggressive and creative approach towards improving library services to native people in Northern Ontario, through coordinating efforts with the Northern Ontario Regional Library Systems. They are holding workshops, visiting Indian communities and computerizing their holdings (with a native classification scheme, of course).

In addition, the Original Peoples Library Association was formed recently to voice the concerns and provide an information link for people in native libraries across Canada.

I cannot possibly summarize in one article all the changes that have taken place in the field of native libraries. However, I hope that you will think about these things the next time you see a native person.

I would like to encourage Library Technicians to do the following:

1. Be sensitive to the cultural needs and community interests of your community. Documented examples of libraries already doing this are the Crouch Neighbourhood Resource Centre in London (Canadian Library Journal, Feb/Apr/79) and the Spadina Road Branch of the Toronto Public Library (slide-tape show).

2. Don't assume that you already know what native people want, or what any cultural group wants, before checking it out with them first.

3. Don't be afraid to question subject headings and classification schemes that you feel might be one-sided or discriminatory. Perhaps if enough people complain, something will be done about them. And don't resist being a little creative with your library classification schemes. Unless your library is entirely computerized under a standard library classification system, you can bend a few rules for sure, as long as you're consistent about them.

Leith Peterson

(Leith Peterson is a Library Technician who works at the Ojibway-Cree Resource Centre in Timmins.)

DACUM

It seems that there is still some confusion regarding the DACUM (Devise A Curriculum) session held Nov. 20-22, 1978 in Rexdale. Questions are still unanswered, although the results at the time of the session have been made available to all interested persons. Here is a brief resume of DACUM.

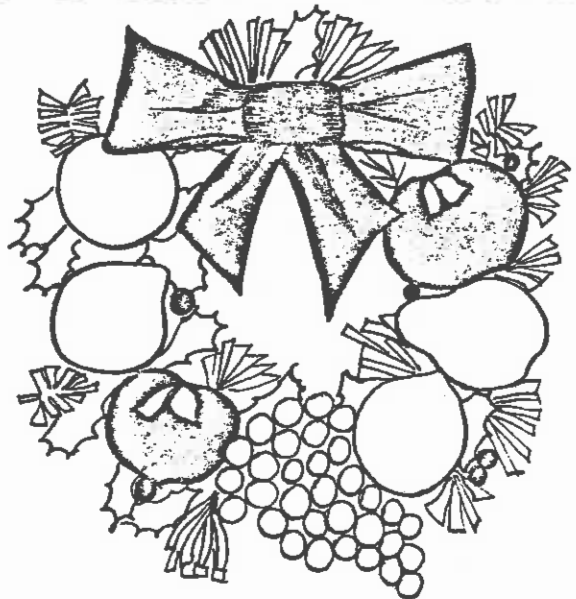
DACUM was sponsored by G.H. Wright, Program Consultant, Program Resources Branch, Ministry of Colleges and Universities. Input was provided by:
Mary Louise Gregotski, Niagara Falls Public Library, Niagara Falls
Joyce Hacker, Central Ontario Regional Library System, Richmond Hill
Eleanor Irwin, School of Library and information Science, UWO, London
Judy Kellond, Burlington Public Library, Burlington
Mary McKinstry, Confederation College, Thunder Bay
Micheline Overall, Sport Information Resource Centre, Ottawa
Peta Shelton, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Toronto
Bette Heard, Sudbury Board of Education, Sudbury

Laura Yenor, Bramalea
Yolande Declercq, London Middlesex Separate School Board, London.

In an intensive, structured three-day consultation with library technicians, DACUM described the various titles given to them. It also developed a break-down of job descriptions to 12 categories and the steps required for each of these categories. The categories were then to illustrate required skills for each task, frequency of the use of certain skills and the level of difficulty in learning the skills. These results were then to be sent to the various co-ordinators/directors of Library Technician programs. (Check with your college to see if the results have been received and of what use DACUM was to the programs.)

DACUM was intended to help revise and up-date the Library Technician program standards across the province. The actual results and their usefulness are still unknown by those who participated.

Bette Heard



Did you know that:

...there is a Library Documentation Centre, National Library of Canada that keeps up-to-date documentation on library and information science

in Canada. The address is
Library Documentation Centre
National Library of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0N4
Phone: (613) 995-8717

...the name "Christmas" derives from the Old English "Christes Maesse", or Christ's Mass and the present spelling dates from the 16th century

...an ISSN is an International Standard Serial Number, a unique code, used for the identification of serial publications. It consists of eight digits, the first being a unique title number and the eighth, a computer check digit.

...burning the Yule log came from the ancient Scandinavian practice of kindling huge bonfires in honour of the winter solstice

...the starting wage for a Library Technician at Laurentian University for 1979/80 is \$9,162 and the maximum is \$12,695; the same wages for a Library Tech with the Sudbury Board of Education are \$10,074 and \$17,046 for the same period.

...St. Francis of Assisi is credited with introducing the first "creche" or nativity scene, and Martin Luther, the use of evergreens as "Christmas trees"

...the Canadian Debates, like those of the British Parliament are referred to as Hansard, in honour of the nineteenth century printer T.C. Hansard

...in 1642, in the England of Oliver Cromwell, Christmas celebrations were banned as antireligious

WHO'S WHERE

Madeleine Simard (nee Poulin), a Cambrian graduate of 1973, is presently employed at Ecole des sciences de l'education, Laurentian University.

Madeleine is the mother of a two-year old girl named Julie, and is awaiting a new family member May, 1980.

Jan Tulloch (Ceccarelli) graduated from Cambrian in 1975. She is in charge of the Huntington College Library at Laurentian University. She and Dan bought a house about a year ago and live in New Sudbury.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As president of the Sudbury Branch of OALT/ABO, I would like to thank all of you for supporting the Association. From Paulette, Judy, and myself, may Christmas be especially joyful for you, and may the New Year bring many good memories.

Denise Denomme

(Special thanks to our typist, Bette Heard, and article contributors.)



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