

# APROPOS

vol. 3 no. 4

February 1982

Happy New Year! APROPOS has already made its resolution...that is, to continue informing its readers of job openings, OALT/ABO activities, news from the library world and much more.

In this issue, find out what Sudbury's OALT/ABO is planning for 1983!

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Since this may be the last time that I write to you as president, I would like to recall some of the activities which have kept this year's executive occupied. As you review the list, you may be reminded of the objectives which we had set for ourselves in April 1981 (APROPOS, vol. 3, no. 1).

--Meetings: To date, Sudbury's membership has met twice (April 29th and October 13th, 1981). Our next meeting is scheduled for March 4, 1982. Details are given in this newsletter.

--Newsletter: APROPOS has been used to its fullest potential. It has included feature articles by various members and non-members, announcements of OALT/ABO's activities and conferences and also Sudbury's undertakings and news. Remember, your ideas and suggestions are always welcome. Send them to:  
APROPOS  
OALT/ABO - Sudbury Regional Branch  
P.O. Box 2351  
Sudbury, Ontario  
P3A 4S8

--Activities: Membership packages have been designed and compiled. Prospective members will be contacted at their workplaces in February.

A list of recommendations and suggestions to change the LITN

program at Cambrian College was submitted to the administrators before the program's cancellation.

Letters of congratulations were sent to the 1981 graduates.

In the eyes of some members, these accomplishments may not seem like much. If you'll pardon my lecturing, these members are probably the ones who do not attend meetings, much less organize them. They are the ones who pay their dues but complain they get nothing for their money.

Considering that there is only a handful of active members, and that the end of the fiscal year is months away, I feel much progress has been made in our organization. It won't be long before Sudbury can host significantly larger workshops and undertake projects to benefit all library technicians.

Many thanks to the members of the executive, Judy Laplante (sec./treas.), Linda Davis and Marie St. Pierre (info. coordinators), and to all who contributed some time and effort to OALT/ABO this past year.

Monique Fuchs

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Provincial executive and board of directors meetings were held Oct. 3, 1981 and Nov. 28, 1981. I attended the one in October, while Paulette Thibault graciously volunteered to attend the most recent meeting.

The provincial treasurer reports that our bank balance stands at \$1730.23 for the period ending Nov. 30, 1981. A petty cash fund has been approved for reimbursements which do not exceed \$20.00.

The funding committee is soliciting advertisers for the Newsletter/Nouvelles. Book publishers, distributors, library suppliers, binderies and film distributors are being offered the opportunity to

Sudbury Regional Branch

**OALT/ABO**

DIRECTOR'S REPORT cont.

advertise their services.

Copies of the Convention Procedures Manual are being made for each region in addition to the six copies intended for the region hosting the convention.

Newsletter editors have been found. Marion Doucette and Marg Bushell, members of the defunct London branch, have agreed to take over from Janet Fear and Dorothy Kew.

Helen Luoma, a Cambrian graduate, has become interim secretary to replace Francine Lacasse who is moving to Alberta.

Danielle Amat, OALT/ABO president, and Nancy Carlucci, P.R. director, visited students in the Library Science Program at the University of Western Ontario, and first year students of the Library Technician Program at Fanshawe. The students at Fanshawe were so impressed by OALT/ABO that 18 of them became new members.

The essay contest committee has been announcing the contest far and wide. Two colleges have informed them that entering an essay in this contest will become a part of the course requirements for their LITN students.

The Proposal for Change committee met twice, on Nov.28 and Jan.9. This committee is busy compiling feedback on constitutional changes from all regions. They will be presenting the proposed amendments to the February 3, 1982 board of directors and provincial executive meeting. I will not be able to attend the Feb.3 meeting and would like someone to replace me. Please call me at 693-4317 if you can attend on my behalf.

Monique Fuchs

ELECTIONS '82

Nominations are now being accepted for the positions of president, secretary/treasurer, information coordinator(s), and newsletter editor.

If you would like to inquire about the duties of these positions, call me at 693-4317.

Designations such as "president" are sometimes frightening. Some members fear that the responsibilities of an executive position would be more than they could handle. Until you make the effort though, you will never really know.

The only prerequisites to becoming a member of the executive are:

1. Concern for your fellow library technicians and OALT/ABO
2. willingness to work (just a bit)
3. a lot of optimism (don't let anyone tell you what you can't do!)

If you would like to nominate someone for a position, or volunteer yourself, please contact me at the above-mentioned phone number. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the meeting on March 4th.

Please think seriously about taking one of these positions--new ideas and directions are vital to our development as a group.

Monique Fuchs

SATISFACTION...PLUS

Many of the library technician courses offered throughout Ontario are quite generalized, with only a few opportunities for specialization. Some students and graduates believe that areas of concentration are much preferred for the working world. Indeed, if a job or field is already promised, or is pretty well the only consideration upon graduation, then a specific approach is the better choice.

But there are a few jobs around for which specialization is not suitable. As the only library personnel in a high school library, I have found it necessary to use every technical skill acquired at college. All the responsibilities of operating the library--from ordering to cataloguing to reference work--fall upon the technician. It is, without a doubt, one of the best opportunities available to really see how the courses fit together in a working situation.

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DID YOU KNOW THAT... ?

..Eight of the 11 graduates of Cambrian's 1981 class have found employment.

..OALT/ABO was incorporated on February 1, 1979.

SATISFACTION...PLUS(cont.)

Of course, technical training does not include all the finer points for such a position. Administrative and human relations skills must be learned quickly on the job. Personal expertise is often challenged, and ingenuity is regularly put into play as classes quickly exhaust meagre supplies of the most visible sources of information. Records are kept on requests and whether or not sufficient information was uncovered so that next year, if money is available, these areas can be the first to be supplemented.

Theories are always great, and are often not even difficult to put into practice. But the true test comes the following year, after the new materials are on the shelves, when the staff collectively decides, once more, to play "let's test the librarian" by slightly changing the project topics just enough to start the procedure all over again.

The satisfaction that is felt when able to teach a member of the school population how to find materials in Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature, or make use of the card catalogue and vertical file...! Sometimes, even showing the usefulness of a book's index can be very gratifying.

Like any professional, the desire to be needed is great, but the requirements of the school to fully utilize my skills diminish the better I do my job. From a hundred questions a day about the layout, the card catalogue, the Dewey arrangement, fewer and fewer people will eventually be stopping by the desk until it dwindles to more difficult questions for information.

Although the personal contact must lessen, great pride can be taken in having taught these individuals to be more independent, leaving time free for the technical and administrative tasks which are never-ending. One can see the collection grow in quantity, quality and use. And if these aren't enough to maintain a euphoric state...there's always a new group next year.

Bette Heard

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

I am a library technician who believes strongly in professional development for all library techs. We work in a field that is becoming increasingly computerized and automated. In order to remain employable, we must become familiar with the changes in library systems and in the needs of library patrons.

In 1981 we still had a small voice in Sudbury's library community through the library technician program at Cambrian. But unfortunately there is no longer a program at the college. It now falls on us, past graduates, to see that we remain an important part of the library community. It is necessary for us to remain visible if we are to maintain the existing positions and for the development of new ones.

I sometimes feel we do not have a positive view of ourselves, and think that we are in a dead end field. Perhaps we are even viewed this way by outside groups, but it is up to us to improve our position. We do have a vital role to play and must learn to believe in our own capabilities.

There are opportunities we can take advantage of to keep or improve our positions. One is by taking an active part in the library community. This can be done by joining and promoting the local OALT/ABO. OALT/ABO can sponsor workshops and seminars on topics such as Library automation, story hours, reference services and government documents. Becoming active allows you to meet library technicians from all over the region and the province.

A number of courses offered through Cambrian College and universities in the region could help as well, e.g. computer courses, English courses, psychology. These would be of assistance in our jobs no matter where we work.

I realize it is difficult to promote ourselves, but we must if we are to maintain our credibility in this area.

Judy Laplante

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DID YOU KNOW THAT...

..a quarterly periodical called The Reference Librarian, edited by Bill Katz is available. The subscription cost is \$41.00 (Canadian) and may be ordered from The Havorth Press, 140 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY, 10010.

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CORRECTION: Please note that the number on the October newsletter was incorrect. It should have read vol. 3, number 3.

### LIBRARY SERVICE TO PRISON INMATES

As the library technician for Sault Ste. Marie District Jail, my job centers around people more than the regular day to day operations of a library. In an effort to provide effective library services, I try to meet the inmates on an individual basis, assessing their interests and educational needs.

The position is on a part-time basis and therefore my time must be allocated carefully in order to comply with the necessary functions of a library.

The majority of my day is spent dealing with the inmates, explaining the jail library rules, getting to know what they like to read and then providing them with books which will hold their attention. For inmates who are illiterate, picture and beginning to read books are made available. These inmates are encouraged to join the literacy program which is now being implemented. In larger institutions where the library is more developed, it can act as the initiative to encourage inmates to continue their education in an effort to re-establish themselves in society. In the smaller correctional facilities, like the Sault Ste. Marie Jail, the library acts more as a recreational outlet.

The jail library is small and due to inadequate space and the security aspect the inmates are not permitted to visit it. In order to compensate, I have compiled an Author-Title-Subject list which is circulated among the inmates. They make their selections from this and are allowed to charge out three books at one time. Requests are taken for books not on the list and once a week I borrow these books from the public library. Special arrangements have been made with the librarian of the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library regarding borrowing privileges.

The jail library is set up on a similar basis to a public library. The non-fiction is classified according to the Dewey Decimal System; the fiction is arranged alphabetically by author under subject headings, i.e. Mystery, Western, etc. Each month statistics are recorded concerning the number of books charged out, damages, additions, donations, the

number and type of requests taken.

It is rewarding to know that someone who has never read a book may have decided to try because you were making the effort to give him a chance.

Lori-Jean McQueen

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### CONTRACT WORK--PROS AND CONS

As of June 25, 1982, I will have worked for the Ministry of Education for a year. I will have gained no seniority and no benefits. My year's probation will not be over either. My job could be over tomorrow and I would have to find another. This is because I work on contract.

On September 14th, I started on contract with the Ministry's film library after working there during the summer through Experience '81. I am (as many of you know) a library technician by diploma but a clerk general by contract classification.

I receive better pay than I have in any job before, but I pay for my own OHIP and Blue Cross. I get to work in an office where the work varies and where I can change what I'm doing when I want to most times. I have an employer who is willing to listen to suggestions to improve the work and carry out those that are most advantageous to cutting down on work time.

Along with booking, packing, pulling, weighing, stamping and unpacking films, I have a few duties that are my own responsibilities. These include keeping a daily, weekly and monthly record of the number and percentage of films returned not used. I also do the filing of video tapes, and record their expiry dates. We are in the process of setting up a new system for keeping track of when they expire.

We all get to use the 16mm projectors to view films at appropriate times. What my audio-visual course failed to teach, our own A/V tech. shows us. We are learning to use the videotape recorders and playback units so we can dub a program that exists on to another blank tape to make copies.

The audio-visual equipment is being catalogued and processed by myself with the help of Michel Gagnon, the AV technician. This will make the equipment more accessible to the other office members.

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CONTRACT WORK cont.

In seven months I've never found the job undemanding; there's always something to do when we circulate approximately 1000 films per week.

For the most part, I am treated like a permanent employee by fellow workers and my employers. I never think of my work as temporary. After all, it can employ me for 10 months out of 12. That leaves me two months of summer employment or a summer of relaxation and I think that's a pretty good deal.

Jo-ann O'Connor

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FALL MEETING CONSIDERED A SUCCESS

About a dozen people were present at our October 13th meeting to hear an interesting presentation by Vicki Skelton, librarian at North Central Regional Library System.

Vicki gave us an overview of the computerized cataloguing system in use at North Central and explained in detail the processes involved in obtaining the required information. Each person present had a chance to use the terminal and gain some hands-on experience. This was an excellent opportunity for many of us who work in situations where automated systems do not yet exist.

Following this, we watched the film entitled Now the Chips Are Down, which provided an in-depth look at microprocessors and minicomputers. It explored this area of rapidly expanding technology and the impact it will have on all types of employees.

Our association is grateful to Vicki for the time she gave in order to familiarize us with the cataloguing system, and to North Central for providing their facilities for our meeting. Our efforts to organize interesting and topical programs for our members are greatly facilitated by such cooperation

Linda Davis

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DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

...Toy Libraries: How to Start a Toy Library in Your Community is available for \$3.00 plus postage from the Can. Assoc. of Toy Libraries, 50 Quebec Ave., Suite 1207, TORONTO, M6P 4B4.

YOU COULD BE A WINNER!

On March 4, 1982, we are holding our first OALT/ABO meeting of 1982. This is a very important get-together because we (Sudbury Regional Branch) are investigating the possibility of holding the 1983 OALT/ABO conference in Sudbury. If we are to do this we need support from the whole library community--technicians, librarians, library assistants, etc. We need a commitment from everyone!

To hold the conference here would greatly improve the Sudbury image. It would also provide an unprecedented opportunity for technicians in our region to participate in this worthwhile activity. It will be a lot of work, but we would all benefit.

At this meeting, we will also be discussing the 1982 conference to be held in Thunder Bay in May. To assist one of our members with expenses for this year's conference, we will hold a \$50.00 draw, open to any member present at the March 4th meeting. Out-of-town members can also arrange to have their names included in the draw by calling Linda Davis at 1-800-461-0183, Monday to Friday, 9:00 to 4:30. The winner will receive the \$50.00 upon presentation of her/his conference fee receipt. If you are not presently a member, but would like to join and have your name included in this draw, contact Judy Laplante at 692-9471 (home) for a membership form.

So come out to this important meeting to be held at the Ontario Government Building, 199 Larch Street (7th floor boardroom), and be a winner!

Judy Laplante

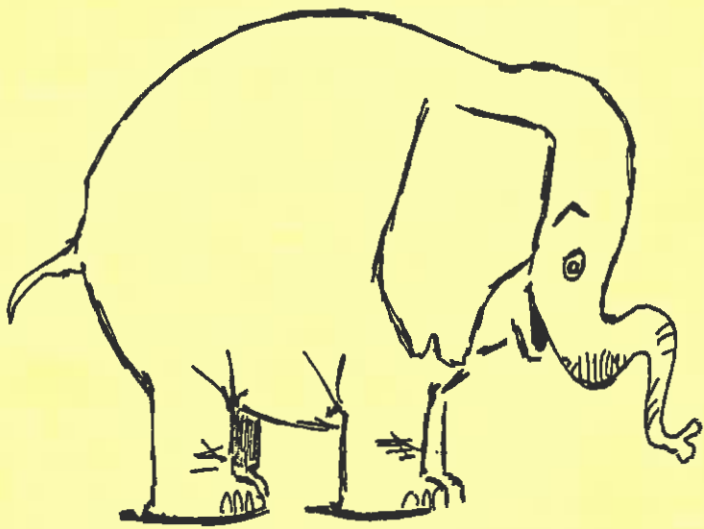
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PERSONALLY YOURS...

Denise Denormé, library technician at Laurentian University government documents section, and past president of OALT in Sudbury, gave birth to a 9 lb. 3 oz. baby boy on Oct.26th. Welcome to the world, Adam!

Monique Fuchs, technician at the Ministry of Education & current president of OALT in Sudbury recently gave birth to a son as well. Brennan was 6 lbs. 1 oz. & arrived Oct.28th.

Lorrie Roberts, technician at Valley East Public Library is the new mother of an 8 lb. 3 oz baby girl, who arrived in December. Better late than never, right Michelle?



# Don't Forget!

OALT/ABC SUDBURY BRANCH  
GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1982  
ONTARIO GOVERNMENT BUILDING  
7th FLOOR BOARDROOM  
199 LARCH STREET

7:30 P.M.

SEE YOU THERE!!

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