

APROPOS

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APROPOS is published four times a year by OALT/ABO Sudbury Branch. Letter and enquiries should be directed to Box 2351, Sudbury, Ontario, P3A 4S8.

Summer 1983

Before taking a break for the summer, APROPOS brings you a feature issue on Decade 1 décennie. From feedback at the conference and survey questionnaires received thereafter, OALT/ABO's 10th anniversary celebrated in Sudbury was a success.

The Sudbury Region's financial state will be considerably improved by the revenues from Decade 1 décennie. This will allow members to plan and benefit from worthwhile professional development activities. Do you have any suggestions on how we should spend our money? Call me at (705) 675-4428 or 1-800-461-0183. The Sudbury Regional Executive is meeting in the fall to plan this year's activities and is always grateful for any suggestions from the membership.

Monique Fuchs

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The first OALT/ABO provincial executive and directors' meeting was held Saturday, June 19th at Ontario Hydro in Toronto. The highlights of this meeting were:

PROVINCIAL WORKSHOP

The provincial association will again sponsor a workshop in any region where interest is demonstrated. We must forward our request to Danielle Amat, Provincial Workshop Coordinator, by September if we are interested in having such a session in Sudbury. Our regional executive feels it would be worthwhile to take advantage of this opportunity and would like suggestions from members regarding possible topics for the workshop. Since the provincial body will cover any travel costs involved, we could invite a workshop leader from any area of Ontario. Please call me at 675-4427 or 1-800-461-0183 with any ideas you would like explored.

CAREER WEEK

The Vice-President is coordinating the Career Week project for 1983. OALT/ABO will be contacting secondary schools throughout the province, inviting them to involve library technicians in their schools' activities for Career Week, November 7-13, 1983. The Association is looking for volunteers in each region who would be willing to speak to students interested in learning more about library technicians. Participants will be provided with guidelines for presentations and pamphlets to distribute to the students. If you are able to participate in this important project, please let me know as soon as possible. Members who live outside Sudbury can call me at work prior to July 16th at 1-800-461-0183.

JOB SURVEY

The provincial hopes to expand on the job survey which was done in 1982-83 and needs volunteers to make employers aware of library technicians and also to expand employment opportunities in our field of work.

JOB HOTLINE

Doug Willford (Halton-Peel) volunteered to contact O.L.A. regarding possible co-operative access to their job hotline. The consensus is that a job hotline would be useful for our members but that it is not a financially feasible project for us to undertake by ourselves. This will be discussed again at the next meeting.

SALARY SURVEY

Andrew Porteus (Niagara) offered to head a committee to undertake a survey of library technicians' salaries. Volunteers are also required to assist with this project. Please contact me if you are interested.

The next provincial executive/board of directors' meeting will take place in Toronto on October 1st. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, I welcome your comments.

Linda Davis

Sudbury Regional Branch

OALT/ABO

SUDBURY TEACHER-LIBRARIANS EXPRESS
NEED FOR TECHNICIANS

In November 1982, the Ministry of Education began to promote a new philosophy for all school libraries through a resource guide entitled Partners in Action: the Library Resource Centre in the School Curriculum.

As the title of this document implies, the major thrust is for the cooperation between the partners (teacher, teacher-librarian & principal) in planning, implementing and evaluating curriculum. To successfully meet this end, Partners in Action maintains that certain prerequisites are necessary: a basic core collection (to supply resource-based programs), adequate facilities, a qualified teacher-librarian, a library technician, an audio-visual technician and clerical aids. The teacher-librarians must be provided with time to plan along with the partners and monies must be allotted for the maintenance of the core collection.

In response to this new resource guide, the Sudbury Secondary School Teacher-Librarians' Association (S.S.S.T.L.A.) has presented a position paper (May 24, 1983) to the Sudbury Board of Education's Superintendent of Libraries. According to the Association, most secondary schools in Sudbury have a core library resource collection, adequate facilities, and a qualified teacher-librarian; and almost every secondary school has an audiovisual technician. There are, however, only two library technicians in the 11 English secondary schools and as of September 1983, this will be further reduced to 1. None of these schools has clerical assistance.

In their report to the school board official the S.S.S.T.L.A. cited results of a survey indicating that 100 percent of teacher-librarians in the area feel that the lack of technical and clerical support is a major concern and would be the principal drawback to the implementation of Partners in Action. Without the support services provided by library technicians, the teacher-librarian cannot devote the time required to plan the school curriculum,

and the library will not be utilized to its full potential because it is inaccessible and unorganized. The S.S.S.T.L.A. Committee therefore recommends that the Administration Council and the Superintendent of Libraries "give attention to the problem of providing adequate library clerical and technical support, in order to facilitate the implementation of Partners in Action..."

It is encouraging to know that library technicians are valued in Sudbury schools and that they are supported and praised by teacher-librarians. The Ministry of Education also recognizes library technicians as important resource personnel integral to the efficient operation of the school library. OALT/ABO (Sudbury) endorses the position that S.S.S.T.L.A. has taken and we urge all boards of education to consider these recommendations as they formulate plans to implement Partners in Action.

Monique Fuchs

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Veterans of OALT/ABO will recollect that this is the time of year when "rookies" of the association ask the perennial question: "What do I get for my membership?"

For all new members and any others who may have forgotten, here is a short list:

- a subscription to the Newsletter/Nouvelles and our own regional newsletter Apropos
- a bi-annual membership directory and our regional membership list (in this issue)
- a 10 percent discount on all OALT/ABO publications
- reduced registration fees to the Annual Conference
- opportunities to attend workshops offered by the provincial or regional bodies

Many other benefits are to be gained by those members who actively participate on committees, surveys, provincial and regional executives. By attending meetings, you will be informed of job openings and all happenings in and around the Sudbury area. Creating a network for technicians and informing others about ourselves is important to OALT/ABO. Become a part of it!

Monique Fuchs

DECADE 1 DECENNIE - CONFERENCE
REVIEW

One hundred and fifty-six library technicians participated in OALT/ABO's 10th annual conference in Sudbury, May 5-7, 1983. They arrived by car, bus, train and plane and settled in at Laurentian University for 4 days of learning, discussing and socializing.

Besides attending four sessions of workshops by experts in various fields (reports follow), delegates had many opportunities to renew acquaintances and make new friends. On Wednesday evening, arriving delegates heard opening remarks and viewed the exhibits at an informal reception in the Science 2 cafeteria.

Thursday evening featured a French Canadian supper and lively entertainment. Carmern Shepherd, Marquis Bureau and Gerry Boudreau presented songs in French and English, and the audience participated enthusiastically. In keeping with our "first decade" theme, OALT/ABO presented awards to all 10 year members. Reminiscences followed and were highlighted by LaRea Moody and Donna Fossum from Thunder Bay, who gave us a comical look at ourselves, the association and past conferences.

Despite the adverse weather (yes, those were snowflakes!), over thirty brave souls donned hard hats and rubber boots for an underground tour of the Big Nickel Mine Site on Saturday afternoon. Good spirits prevailed as we splashed our way through the tunnels and learned about the technology of hard rock mining. A similar number of delegates toured Science North for a preview of features which will be offered to the public when the science centre officially opens in 1984.

The closing banquet Saturday evening was almost forced to proceed without a guest speaker as Stephen Lewis' plane was delayed by weather. However, the rain and snow finally subsided and we were able to enjoy the final conference event as planned.

Mr. Lewis discussed many topics in an articulate and humorous speech following the banquet. He focused on the growing importance of libraries

in our society, and the role they must play in counteracting the negative influences which are so prevalent today. Citing Neil Postman's book The Disappearance of Childhood (Delacorte, 1982), Mr. Lewis criticized the adverse effect that the mass media, particularly television, is having on our children. He emphasized that we, as library employees and supporters, have an obligation to stand firm against these unhealthy influences which are causing the childhood, as we know it, to disappear. While one may not always agree with the point of view expressed by Stephen Lewis, you are always impressed by the style and wit he displays in delivering a speech. In this regard, those who attended DECADE 1 DECENNIE's closing banquet were not disappointed.

Linda Davis

WORKSHOPS ENJOYED BY MANY

The following articles are submissions made by our members who participated in the workshops at the 1983 conference. If any topics described appeal to you, let Linda or me know so that we can recommend them as possible provincial or regional workshop topics.

AV EQUIPMENT UTILIZATION & TROUBLE-SHOOTING

Gary Carruthers, Supervisor of Equipment Distribution & Supplies, Cambrian College

This workshop covered the problems encountered when using AV equipment and the remedies for minor malfunctions. The main point was that almost all breakdowns are user-caused through improper use. The session gave tips on how to find and correct the problems which occur with the type of AV equipment frequently used in homes and schools, and when to send the machine for repairs.

As this was a very long presentation, there wasn't time to experiment with all the equipment as planned, but much valuable information was gained from the demonstration and discussion.

Arlene Joyce

BEATING THE STORY-HOUR BLUES

Kathy Wagner from the Languages Department at Cambrian College lead us in a participatory workshop on making the story-hour an exciting and enjoyable time for both the children and the storyteller.

We discussed ways in which to use innovative approaches (including AV materials) to take the tedium out of storytelling. Topics covered included:

- a) practical advice on how to identify and try to meet the needs of pre-school children
- b) various techniques to use when telling a story
- c) the use of music such as songs, fingerplays and sounds
- d) drama to encourage children to 'act out' a story, and to make use of puppets and pantomime.

Overall, this was an excellent workshop for anyone interested in working with children and making the time spent with them valuable.

Lorrie Roberts

INTRODUCTION TO TOY LIBRARIES

Lois Mahon, Director, Sudbury & Dist. Assoc. for the Mentally Retarded, Toy Library/Play Centre.

The purpose of this workshop was to provide participants with an awareness of the toy library and its function as a community resource.

Lois Mahon provided a comprehensive outline of the establishment and operation of a toy library, covering aspects of physical space, financing, selection and care of toys, safety and insurance, and type of borrower.

Because play is so important for the development of the child, carefully selected toys provide children with the tools to play and learn. The toy library also offers support to parents, providing a relaxed meeting area where socialization and sharing of problems can take place. The very latest information on other services available, or anything related to child care, is passed on to parents by staff.

The toy library provides users with a wide variety of toys that might otherwise be unavailable to them, and also provides an educational experience for parent and child.

The proposed funding formula is: number of families X 2.2 children X 3 toys X \$ 15.00 per toy.

Membership fees are charged, but cannot cover the cost of running the library. Therefore additional funds must come from other sources.

Handouts provided more information on selection for specific age groups, safety factors, guidelines for beginning a toy library and bibliographies.

This workshop would be valuable for anyone involved in selecting toys, whether buying for one child, or for a group, as in a nursery school or kindergarten.

Arlene Joyce

LOCAL HISTORY AND THE LIBRARY

Mrs. Shantz, Reference Librarian at Sudbury Public Library described and gave examples of important local history acquisition and suggested possible sources where such items could be located. Types of materials emphasized in the presentation included books, periodicals, biographies, maps, photographs, slides and directories. She gave many practical suggestions for the non-archivist involved in building and maintaining a local history collection.

Maysel Dag

MICROCOMPUTERS IN LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION

Linda Langdon, Librarian, West Ferris Secondary School, North Bay.

Linda demonstrated some of her programs written for use in school library administration including the preparation of library cards, pockets and labels (for print and non-print), overdue notices, budgets, staff circulation, bibliographies, lists of holdings, purchase orders, mailing labels, etc. She also used the microcomputer to access outside data bases such as InfoGlobe. A discussion about the equipment costs and the implementation of the computer system within the work environment followed. This workshop provided insight into what wonderful work the computer could accomplish.

Diane Gagnon

MICROFORMS IN LIBRARIES

Pam Zahn, Canadian Operations, University Microfilms International, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

This discussion of microforms included information on the terminology used in the business, film manufacturing and processing, distribution of films, film quality, film storage and future technology using microforms. The advantages and disadvantages of the different methods of developing film were explained. With the actual demonstration of the diazo, silver and vesicular formulas of processing, we were able to appreciate their varying qualities.

A short film and slide set were presented emphasizing the great economical and storing advantages of microforms versus print material.

This was an interesting workshop that demonstrated the ever-increasing importance of the role of microforms as information storage devices.

Debra Ranger

NEW TRENDS IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Ian Dutton, Chairman, Library Arts Department, Ryerson Polytechnical Inst.

This seminar presented a look at the history of communication and information storage starting with cave writing and ending with the newest in digital information discs.

The session progressed from analog video and audio systems such as cassette tapes and telephone transmissions to digital video and audio systems. The newest technology, digital discs read by laser beams, provides very high quality sound and pictures with direct access and no distortions.

Slides and transparencies were used to illustrate the topic of communication, including printing methods, fibre optics, satellite microwave, digital recordings, computer integrated circuits, etc.

This was an educational workshop on information technology, past and present, which also focused on the transformation of the library technician into an information technologist.

Debra Ranger

NEWSLETTER EDITING

John Goodwin, Instructor, Cambrian College.

Mr. Goodwin presented a very enlightening, informative picture of the techniques of newsletter editing. Many of the people attending the workshop were involved in editing various newsletters and quite a lively discussion ensued regarding the problems an editor faces in trying to gather articles from members etc. and how to edit without insulting contributors.

I found myself very enthused after the presentation, thinking of ways a newsletter could be useful

in my work situation - possibly to publicize new acquisitions, theme kits and services offered by the media centre. I have also, since this workshop, been offered a position writing a community column for the Sudbury Star and am very glad indeed that I attended this workshop.

Sandra Boyd

TECHNICAL SERVICES IN SCHOOL LIBRARIES

At this most informative workshop, Mr. George Whalen, Librarian/Education Officer, Ministry of Education, provided worksheets on which the delegates in attendance participated in exercises of problem cataloguing, classifying, and proper punctuation procedures in cataloguing. Of particular interest, were handouts on the cataloguing and processing of computer software for schools. Mr. Whalen also made the participants aware of basic tools and authorities used in school libraries, acquisitions, and the purchase of cataloguing services.

May Gray

TELIDON

Alan T. Orr, Head of Utilization, Telidon Dept., OECA, Toronto.

This workshop gave an interesting explanation of Telidon as a data base useful to schools, libraries and administrations. The on-line "videotex" is a direct hook-up by telephone line to the host computer, and allows information to be shared over a large area. "Teletext" is a direct connection with a broadcaster, drawing from a cycle of 120 pages of information. We were able to see samples of programs from each of the four sections, which include TVO, an English database, a French data base, and the Student Guidance Information Service, and also how to get the information displayed. To date, Telidon is used mainly in secondary schools and libraries. As Telidon is constantly being improved and expanded, it seems as though it will be a valuable educational tool.

Arlene Joyce

BRIEFLY SPEAKING ...1983 ANNUAL
BUSINESS MEETING

This year's annual business meeting, one of the shortest yet, was held at the Fraser Auditorium, Laurentian University. Minutes will appear in a future issue of Newsletter/Nouvelles.

Because there were no amendments to the constitution nor any new committees formed, the group concentrated on electing a new executive, thanking the outgoing executive and accepting proposals from several regions to host future conferences.

1983-84 PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE

File this list carefully. You may want to refer to it some-time.

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FUTURE CONFERENCES

1984 - Huronia
Geneva Park, Orillia, Ont.
May 30 - June 2, 1984

Registration information will be mailed early next year. Begin to casually mention to your employer your interest in attending the next conference.

1985 - Toronto

1986 - Ottawa

1987 - Halton-Peel

Monique Fuchs

JOB OPENING

INFORMATION AND REFERENCE

CLERK

(Clerk 2, General)
(Schedule 3,7)

\$286 - 320 per week
(open)

Required by the Office of the Legislative Assembly, legislative library, to help deliver reference services. You will: stack retrievals; file looseleaf services and microfiche sets; photocopy; assist with shelving and filing in the current data file; provide auxiliary typing services; fill in for staff as required; provide other support services. Location: Toronto.

Qualifications: secondary school; library experience; typing skills; driver's licence; familiarity with Dewey and CO-DOC classification an asset.

Submit resume/application by July 22 to: File LA-7-19, Personnel Office, Office of the Legislative Assembly, Room 116, North Wing, Legislative Building, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1A2.

WHAT'S NEW

Quimby, Harriet and Margaret Mary Kimmel.
Building a children's literature collection. 3rd ed. Middletown, Connecticut: Choice, 1983. 48 p.

Commonsense cataloguing: a cataloguer's manual. 3rd ed. New York: H.W. Wilson, 1983.

WHOSE NEWSLETTER IS THIS ANYWAY?

Yours, of course.

Your submissions to Apropos are what make it interesting. Send in your comments, questions, articles to me for the next issue in the fall.

SUDBURY REGIONAL BRANCH--OALT/ABC MEMBERSHIP LIST June 1983

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