

APROPOS

vol.5 no.2

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

Fall 1983

Looking for a job? Need to upgrade yourself to cope with changes in your workplace? Want to meet other library technicians to share ideas and problems?

By reading APROPOS and participating in the Region's planned events, workshops, and meetings, you'll find answers to your worries and fulfill your professional development needs.

PROMISING FUTURE FOR SUDBURY REGION

Decade 1 has been Sudbury's success story to date. It has brought our Region recognition, praise and some financial sustenance.

To remain visible in the library community, we must continue to offer our members relevant workshops, and publicize our efforts to attract new members.

This year, your local executive will strive to add a chapter to the success story. On September 12, they met to formulate plans for the year. All events have been scheduled and appear on the calendar of events in this issue of APROPOS.

FREE WORKSHOPS SCHEDULED NOV. 5, 1983

On Saturday, Nov. 5th, the Sudbury Region is hosting a second day of workshops. The first time was in October 1982.

The day will be broken into two sessions:

9-12 a.m. "How to find out what people really want to know."

1-4 p.m. "Pornography and censorship."

The morning session will be lead by Catherine Ross and Pat Dewdney of the University of Western Ontario, Continuing Education Program.

Futher details and registration forms for these workshops will be sent to members. Non-members will be required to pay a registration fee. For more info, call D. Gagnon or M. Dag at 560-0714.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The most recent Board of Directors and Provincial Executive meeting was held October 1 at the Bell Canada Building in Toronto. Following are the highlights of this session.

1) CLA '84 -- CLA's annual conference in 1984 will be held in Toronto. OALT/ABO will sponsor a social event and one workshop for library technicians and other interested delegates at the conference.

2) RENTAL SPACE -- The accumulation of OALT/ABO files is a problem because we do not have a permanent office. Loretta Taylor reported that she had requested funding from the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture to offset the cost of renting storage space. However, as an association, we do not qualify for funds from this source. Nancy Deas (TALTA) will update a previous survey of places offering rental storage space and will report at the November meeting.

3) PROVINCIAL WORKSHOPS -- Danielle Amat (OTTAWA) reported that these will be held in February and March. Sudbury's request was received and arrangements will be made to hold a session on microcomputers on March 31.

4) ESSAY CONTEST -- Contest winners were announced. First place went to Joan Pengelley (Seneca College) for her article "User Charges in the Public Library". It will appear in the next issue of Newsletter/Nouvelles.

Sudbury Regional Branch

OALT/ABO

5) JOB HOTLINE -- The board voted to proceed with the establishment of an OALT/ABO job hotline. This project will be set up for a one-year trial and will be evaluated at the end of this period. A volunteer in Halton-Peel will record the job ads on phone equipment in her home. Job seekers will then be able to call the hotline number and hear a recording of available positions in the library field. January 1984 is the target date for implementation.

If you have any questions or concerns you would like discussed at the next meeting in November, please contact me.

Linda Davis

LEARNING MORE IN '84

Huronian Region is proceeding with plans for the 1984 conference to be held May 31-June 2 in Orillia.

Continuing education for library technicians is the theme, and reflecting this, most workshops will be at least two sessions long. Some of the topics which will be available to delegates are literacy, puppetry, leadership skills, microcomputers, promotion and publicity, library service to native people and correctional institution services.

Conference literature will be mailed out in January to all OALT/ABO members. Expected cost for the total conference package, including meals and accommodation, will be approximately \$ 200.00.

Linda Davis

LOOKING FOR A JOB?

Try the O.L.A. job hotline which often lists openings for library technicians and clericals.

The number is 1-416-363-3380. A one minute call on Saturday or Sunday will cost you 30¢.

CENTRE DES JEUNES HIRING TECHNICIANS

The "Centre des Jeunes", a francophone cultural centre for the Sudbury region, has a collection of 5,000-6,000 items (books, audio-video materials) which they would like to organize.

According to Yves Tassé, Personnel Manager, two temporary positions for library technicians have been created through the federal government program called NEEDS to set up a library. To qualify for this program, persons must have exhausted their unemployment insurance benefits or be in receipt of social welfare. The applicant must also be bilingual for this particular position.

The two positions will last for six months each, from December through June 1, 1984. One of the two positions has already been filled.

If you meet the above requirements and are interested, call Maria Bozzo, Canada Employment Centre at 675-2211. Send your application to:

Yves Tassé
 Directeur du Personnel
 20 chemin St. Anne
 SUDBURY, Ont.
 P3C 5N4

 Monique Fuchs

U.S. LIBRARY TECHNICIANS CALLED COLT

Joanne Wolford, President of COLT, came from Ohio to OALT/ABO's annual conference last May in Sudbury as representative of their association.

In the June issue of COLT Newsletter she wrote an extremely impressive article about Sudbury and our conference. Joanne is an instructor in the Library Technology Program at Ohio University-Lancaster.

All this praise and publicity which has been lavished on our region deserves acknowledgement. Consequently, I would like to devote some time to inform our

members of a reputable association called COLT.

The Council of Library Media Technical Assistants (COLT) is an autonomous international organization divided into five regions. New members are assigned to a region according to the geographical location.

Each region has a Regional Director who maintains COLT's interest within the area. Within each region, local chapters are developed by interested members to offer workshops and keep in touch with regional members.

A COLT membership is for the calendar year and entitles the member to all publications, meetings, workshops and seminars. COLT holds an annual conference and takes an active part in ALA's annual conference, of which it is an affiliate member.

There is one important difference between OALT/ABO and COLT -- OALT/ABO is an association of library technicians for library technicians. While COLT exists for library technicians, it is administered and operated primarily by librarians and library technician instructors.

For more information on COLT and its activities, write to:

Joanne Wolford
Library Technology Program
Ohio University - Lancaster
1570 Granville Pike
LANCASTER, Ohio 43130

PERSONALLY SPEAKING...

Julie Rancourt and Carole Delorme, are two technicians leaving North Central Regional Library for personal reasons. Richard Jones, Librarian, says they will not be replaced.

Joanne Jackson, who took her library training at Ryerson, replaced Sharon Brunelle at the Sudbury Law Association Library. She has done freelance/contract work for Laurentian University and the City of Sudbury.

"SIGN ON THE DOTTED LINE" by C. Van Horn

The Library Technician course had not been my first choice when I decided to return to school in 1978. However, I have never regretted taking the course. Since graduation, I have been employed almost continuously as a "contract worker" due to the ongoing demand for those in my field.

"What is a contract worker? What types of things do they do? How do they survive?" are a few of the questions I will attempt to answer in this article. These comments reflect my experience and personal view about contract work.

There is no existing definition for this type of worker, but I feel the following sentence best describes what a contract worker is:

"Contract workers are those who are paid for their services for a pre-determined length of time".

Some would say this could be applied to all workers, yet there are some very critical differences between contract work and a permanent position.

The most obvious difference is the time involved. A contract worker, in most cases, has a starting and finishing date already determined at the time of being hired. In a sense, the finishing date can be conceived as a deadline for the work that has to be done.

Salary in most cases is fixed. The majority of contracts do not allow for pay increases according to the amount of time served. Benefits are a rare commodity for most contract workers as well.

These three factors are the ones that would concern me the most if I were looking for another contract position. All these differences depend upon: place of employment, employer, type of work and, of course, money that is available.

What types of things have I done on my contract work? All have been library related in some way or another so I haven't lost total contact with the library field. In my most recent position,

I was the Experience '83 Regional Co-ordinator. I worked for the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture. This position involved a variety of duties and allowed a great deal of flexibility in the way they were carried out.

I was responsible for such things as: acting as the primary resource and contact person for the program for this region, providing consultative support to prospective participants, evaluating projects, making visitations, training students if necessary and handling most of the correspondence dealing with the program.

Although the position was not akin to the library field, my training did come in quite handy. My knowledge of libraries served me well, as most of the participants in the program were libraries. This understanding made the evaluation of library projects somewhat easier than others.

Having to train some of the students who were in library settings supplied me with the occasion to use my library skills. One student was organizing a small library and this meant creating a card catalogue, a shelf list, and some cataloguing from a source. I also trained two students, with the help of a manual I devised, to collect data for a computerized directory.

In addition to training, I reorganized the office's resource files and indexed them. This could not have been done had I not had some of the library knowledge about vertical files.

My position previous to this was with North Central Regional Library System. I was in the Cataloguing Department and I did most of the English cataloguing for the member libraries. I also searched on line, edited records, catalogued originally, kept statistics and made corrections to the Tri-Regional Catalogue.

What are the disadvantages of contract work? The following list would be what most people would consider the apparent disadvantages of contract work.

- a) The lack of a permanent position means one is always looking for a job and there are not guarantees of getting one.
- b) Having to look for a job, while unemployed, is usually less successful than if one is already working.
- c) The contract position lacks the benefits most people consider important such as: OHIP, pension plans, insurance, etc.
- d) A contract worker, especially in the library field, does not have opportunity to specialize and sometimes loses some library skills.

There are probably others, but I do believe these would be the ones that are the most negative about contract work.

The advantages of contract work (especially for a married person) in some cases are obvious. I also believe that work attitude and life-style will greatly influence the choice between contract work and a permanent position. The following list details what I feel are some of the advantages of contract work.

1. Variety is my major interest in continuing to do contract work. I believe that a contract worker can and does develop a number of skills that normally most permanent employees are not exposed to. I feel this variety prevents one from getting into a rut, which so often happens after doing the same thing for 3 years or more.
2. Variety as opposed to specialty allows a contract worker a wider job horizon. A specialist can be sometimes in a bind because prospective employers will look at her/him and think that is all this person can do. This would specifically be important to library technician because most positions require flexibility.
3. Benefits such as dental and eyeglasses coverage are of little consequence to me. If I were married, I would

feel that having to pay, even partial amounts, is a waste of money. The only benefit I may be interested in is a pension plan and only larger companies or organizations offer these.

There are other advantages, for myself at any rate, that I have not mentioned. I know they stem from my attitude towards work and my other numerous endeavours. Also, being single, I have responsibility only to myself. Therefore, if moving is involved in order to work from one contract to another, I am by no means tied down. Having a family would definitely change my outlook and attitude, although I would still consider contract work over a permanent position. I do use my time between contracts usefully by taking night courses and keeping in contact with people in my field. It has been my experience that who you know is as important as what you know.

I enjoy the challenge of contract work and I believe that this type of work will become more and more popular as the years go by. Being out of work does not bother me as it might others, because I am not afraid to try something new and I don't mind doing work that is not in my field. It would be interesting to see some research done on contract workers as there are so many of us. I would be quite interested in information on types of contracts that exist, and which areas employ the most contract workers.

Thank goodness I live in Canada. Unemployment insurance has assured me that I will survive between contracts. I would be lying if I said it hasn't been difficult, but I consider myself lucky in comparison to others. I also would be lying if I said I didn't want a permanent position, but considering the demand for library technicians, the numbers of them out there who are unemployed, and the economic situation in this country, I am quite satisfied to work by contract.

(Carol Van Horn is a graduate library technician of Cambrian College employed by the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture)

MANY BOOKS, MANY VOICES

This year's Children's Book Festival will be celebrated across the country November 13-19. The theme is "Many Books, Many Voices" and to mark the occasion, the Children's Book Centre has put together a superb festival kit.

Filled with activities and ideas for promoting Canadian children's books, the kit is a bargain at \$ 10.95. Everyone who works with children will find it a valuable resource.

Included in the 1983 kit are: 1) Our Choice, a catalogue of 205 Canadian titles for children 2) a colorful poster advertising the festival 3) forty-five bookmarks 4) an activity booklet with over 100 ideas which involve children learning more about their country and cultural heritage through reading, and 5) a master game sheet for "Read a Ring 'Round Canada."

To order your copy of the 1983 Festival Kit, send \$10.95 to the Children's Book Centre, 229 College St., 5th Floor, TORONTO, Ontario, M5T 1R4. There is a \$3.00 handling charge if you do not prepay your order.

Linda Davis

GREAT GIVEAWAYS

Looking for some new posters to use in your library? The promotional materials listed below are free while supplies last. For additional suggestions see School Library Journal (Sept. 1983)

Write: Ballantine/Fawcett Education Dept.
201 E. 50 St.
NEW YORK, NY 10022

Ask for: Del Rey Science Fiction Poster
Garfield Poster
Come to our Bookfair Poster
Contemporary Books for Today's
Teenagers Poster

Write: Jenny Frost.
Warner Books
40 W. 23 St.
NEW YORK, NY 10010

Include: A self-addressed envelope 9 X 12"

Ask for: Superman III Poster
You're a Whole Lot Smarter with
Webster's Poster
Wilderness of Four Poster

HELP WANTED!

The Sudbury Board
of Education
Civic Square, West Tower
200 Brady Street
Sudbury, Ontario
P3C 5K3



Conseil de l'Education
de Sudbury
Place Civique, Tour de l'ouest
200, rue Brady
Sudbury, Ontario
P3E 5K3

Telephone: (705) 674-3171

**POSITION: ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SECRETARY —
CLERICAL AIDE**

This is a 10-month per year position, working 15 hours per
week, commencing as soon as possible

LOCATION: George Vanier Public School
Box 340, 249 Sixth Avenue,
LIVELY, ONTARIO P0M 2E0

DUTIES: Secretarial duties in the office, and library clerical
duties in the library. The successful applicant should have
some knowledge of the "Commodore Pet" for the
computerized cataloguing system in the school's library.

QUALIFICATIONS: Grade 12 Graduation Diploma, Ability to
type 45 words per minute, and possess the necessary
clerical skills for the position. Knowledge of French would
be considered an asset.

SALARY: As per Category 22 or 23 of the Clerks and
Secretaries Salary Schedule.

COMMENCEMENT DATE: As soon as possible.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: October 14, 1983

APPLY IN WRITING TO: Mrs. Margaret Winckel, Principal
George Vanier Public School
(address above)

WITH COPY TO: Mr. L.F. FitzPatrick,
Manager of Personnel Relations
and Finance,
The Sudbury Board of Education,
200 Brady Street, 5th Floor,
Civic Square, West Tower,
SUDBURY, ONTARIO P3E 5K3

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

1983-1984 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

27-30 (Thurs.-Sat.)

Ontario Library Association
81st annual conference
Skyline Hotel, TORONTO
Theme: "Library futures: law, money and
social change".

NOVEMBER

5 (Sat.)

OALT/ABO, Sudbury Region
Day of workshops
Civic Square, SUDBURY
Themes: "How to find out what people
really want to know" and
"Pornography and censorship".

7-13 (Mon. to Fri.)

OALT/ABO
Promotion of library technicians
during Career Week throughout
secondary schools in Ontario

19 (Sat.)

OALT/ABO
Board of Directors and Provincial
Executive Meeting
Bell Canada, TORONTO

DECEMBER

5 (Monday, p.m.)

OALT/ABO, Sudbury Region
General Membership Meeting, Xmas supper

1984

JANUARY

14 (Sat.)

OALT/ABO
Board of Directors and Provincial
Executive Meeting
Bell Canada, TORONTO

FEBRUARY

27 (Monday, p.m.)

OALT/AEO, Sudbury Region
Annual Business Meeting (Elections)

MARCH

10 (Sat.)

OALT/ABO
Board of Directors and Provincial
Executive Meeting
Bell Canada, TORONTO

31 (Sat.)

OALT/ABO, Sudbury Region
Provincial workshops
SUDBURY
Theme: "Microcomputers in the
library".

MAY

5 (Sat.)

OALT/ABO
Board of Directors and Provincial
Executive Meeting
Bell Canada, TORONTO

30-June 2 (Wed.-Sat.)

OALT/ABO, Huronia Region
11th annual conference
Geneva Park, ORILLIA, Ont.
Theme: "Learning more in '84"

JUNE

7-12 (Thurs.- Tues.)

Canadian Library Association
TORONTO
Theme: "Beyond: human values in a
computer age".

23-28 (Sun.-Thurs.)

COLT
Annual conference
DALLAS, Texas



"Sorry, but you still owe a fine on an overdue book at Central Library."

From Wilson Library Bulletin,
June 1983

GREETINGS TO ROOKIES

The Sudbury Region welcomes the following new members to the OALT/ABO team: Mary Anne Boulet, Debbie Conway, Judy Elston, Northern College, Lorrie Roberts, Elizabeth Rose, Maire Leigh Sheppard, Carol Van Horn and Sharon Wigney.

NEXT ISSUE

Sooner or later, you will be asked (begged or blackmailed) to write an article, a comment, anything for APROPOS. To avoid embarrassment, do it now!

If you want to start a column, complain about the editor's grammar, etc., please submit your ideas by January 20, in time for the winter issue. You may call me anytime at 675-4428 or 1-800-461-0183 (work)

Monique Fuchs

CHOICE ACQUISITIONS

Computer Word Processing: Do You Want It?
Indianapolis, Indiana: QUE Corp.,
c1981. 148 p.

Maltin, Leonard. The Whole Film Source-
book. New York: New American
Library, c1983. 454 p.

Woolman, Bertha. The Newbery Award
Winners: the Books and Their
Authors. New Revised Edition.
Minneapolis, Minn.: T.S.
Denison, c1981. 84 p.