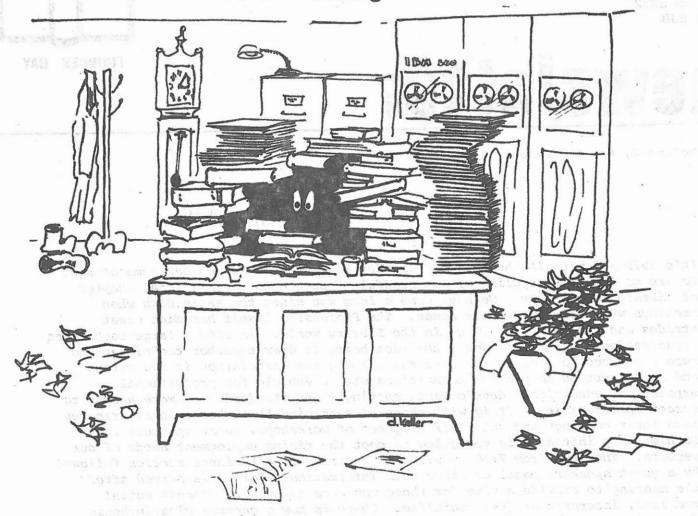THUNDER BAY

newsletter

It's been awhile ...

*It's 1979 and with it the OALT/ABO Thunder Bay Regional Branch has come of age.
We are no longer struggling with a handful of people to begin a local chapter
of library technicians. We have come a long way since the early days when
meetings were held in members homes. The Profession itself has made great
strides and has taken its place in the Library world. In 1968 a large technician
organization was just an idea - the idea being to draw together technicians to
form a nucleus to discuss job concerns. Today the Association is 500 strong
and is attempting to provide technicians with a vehicle for professional
expression, educational development, setting up of standards and more access to
career opportunities. It is with these aims in mind that the regional branches
plan their meetings and set their programs of workshops, guest speakers etc.
Each meeting initially is scheduled to meet the rising employment needs of our
members. They run from 7:30 to 9:30 and comprise of a business section followed
by a guest speaker, panel or other such information. Coffee is served after
the meeting to provide a time for those who care to stay to discuss mutual
problems, interests or just socialize. There is now a central clearinghouse
for employment information across Ontario, the contact person in Thunder Bay
being La Rea Moody. We have a constitution, are on the doorstep of incorporation
and May '79 will see the Annual Conference. Our Newsletter is also a stepping
stone into your homes to provide you with the facts of what is going on with us.
We as LIBRARY TECHNICIANS are very encouraged at the way in which our profession
has developed and is accepted as an integral part of the library scene. We have
bargained with unions, assisted in setting employment standards and set up
cirriculum. Those of us who are meeting on a regular basis would like to see
those of you who haven't been aware of the changes that have taken place. We
would like to hear your suggestions for future workshops, your reactions to
what's happening to the technician in the Thunder Bay Region and your thoughts
on how we may improve in helping you in meeting your career objectives. We
are willing to and have been working toward professional maturity. JOIN US.*

by Bonnie Moore-MacKay and Hilke Grunys

happy new year !

we've changed !

WE ARE PLEASED TO PRESENT ...

A pre-meeting dinner at La Rea's house on December 4th acquainted the local executive with the president of OALT/ABO, Eleanor Irwin. The pleasure of her company and her assured mannerism was inspiration to us and to those who attended the meeting that evening. The roles and power of the Association and how the technician benefits from this were discussed. Nostalgic moments, milestones and optimism for the future emerged in the conversation and one was left to feel that we as techs are a growing, viable, and professional organization. Eleanor also gave an interesting session to the students presently in the program at Lakehead University the next morning and was able to take in the sites at Old Fort William before returning to her home in London.
by Monika McNabb

NOTE :   Our meetings will be held on alternate days so that all can make it to at least one.   Memberships will be available at all meetings.

Wednesday, January 24th : This general meeting will feature the Library
    Technician as a freelancer. Hilke will discuss the general proposal to
employers; La Rea will speak on Law Libraries and Bonnie on Health Libraries.
Don"t miss this opportunity!.

Saturday, February : workshop (tentative) TBA

Thursday, March 29th : Annual Dinner Meeting

CONGRATULATIONS to all the technicians who helped to make the OLA Conference
a success. Another notch on the belt for our profession.

LET IT GO TO YOUR HEAD

Cathy Cameron graduated from the Lakehead University Library Tech course in 1970.
After spending seven years at the Faculty of Education Library where original
cataloguing was taken over by automation, she took the reigns of the library at
the Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital from Bonnie Moore-MacKay.
With a collection of approximately 6000, as well as periodicals, AV, government
documents and research papers, Cathy has her hands full. She is fortunate to
have Muriel, her library assistant who likes working there allowing her time to
get into things like switching from a classification system devised for the
Nursing profession to the National Library of Medicine classification. Subject
headings from the Canada Year Book are used for simplified access to gov docs.
Along with a library committee she is involved in ordering; does research and
is a resource person for the smaller hospitals and towns in the district.
Cathy has attended a conference especially for medical librarians which led to
a discussion of the technician as a professional and of the good communication
links in the profession and rapport between technicians.
We both agreed that special libraries and freelancing can be exciting, interesting
areas where "we" can further document our abilities and prove our standards.
by Monika McNabb

STANDARDS COMMITTEE, OALT/ABO DRAFT PROPOSAL ON ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM.
With corrections, April 15, 1978.

Library technicians as individuals and as a group should maintain profes-
sional job attitudes and work performance. They should be accountable
for their actions, since it is by these actions that they and their fellow
library technicians will be judged.

The OALT/ABO encourages library technicians to use the following as
guidelines:

1. Relationship to the public

    Library technicians have obligations to the public they serve and to
    the larger community. Library technicians will interpret as broadly
    as the organization will allow, the patron's right to information.
    Library users should be treated impartially; their transactions with
    Library Technicians should be confidential.

2. Work relationships

    Library technicians should know and adhere to the applicable, written
    or understood, policies regarding conditions of employment, such as
    puncuality, sick leave, appearance appropriate to the position and
    methods of redressing grievances.

    Library technicians should have a sense of obligation when accepting
    an offer of employment; one should intend to stay for a reasonable
    period of time, e.g., a year; one should give reasonable notice of ter-
    mination of employment, e.g., one month. In case of dismissal,
    library technicians should make every endeavour to discuss cause with
    their employer. Library technicians should use discretion and diplomacy,
    and maintain active communication in all working relationships.

    Library technicians should strive to be creative and flexible beyond
    their assigned role, willing to undertake special and emergency duties.
    However, it should not be expected that the library technician under-
    take unrecompensed overtime or special duties on a regular basis.

3. Aspects of professionalism

    Library technicians should belong actively to at least one library-
    oriented organization, and should attend workshops of value to their
    position, and consider further educational opportunities. They should
    have interests beyond the narrow definition of library work. Library
    technicians should take advantage of educational opportunities offered
    by the employer.

4. Personal development

    Library technicians should respect themselves and the excellent train-
    ing they have had. An objective assessment of a library technician
    should be that they are a capable, skilled group; able to be supportive
    as well as independent, adaptable and self-disciplinary, courteous, open
    and dignified.

OALT/ABO MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name:_____
             Surname   First name

Home Address:_____
             Street, Rural Route   Apartment #

             _____
             City, Town, Village   Province

             _____
             Postal Code   Telephone #

Job Title:_____

Work Address:_____

             _____

             _____
             City, Town, Village   Province

             _____
             Postal Code   Telephone #

OALT/ABO Branch Joined:_____

Full member _____ Associate member_____ L.T. Student/L.T. Senior Citizen Member _____

Fiscal year current OALT/ABO membership paid for:_____ 19___ to _____ 19___
                                                 Month   Month

Executive and/or Board of Directors position held at local and/or provincial level:
_____

Graduated from:_____

Year of Graduation:_____

Other Library Association memberships held (please specify):_____
_____

Is there any area in which you could contribute to a workshop (please specify):
_____

Publications (done alone and/or jointly):_____
_____

Fee Structure:

Forward original and carbon along with cheque to: **OALT/ABO**
                                                   THUNDER BAY **REGION**
                                                      P.O. Box 3332
                                                    Thunder Bay, **Ont.**
                                                        P7B 5J8

The above information will be included in the OALT/ABO Membership Directory.

DIRECTORS REPORT

The last Director's meeting was held at Sheridan College, Oakville on November 4, 1978.

Two policies were formulated concerning the OALT/ABO Directory and the provincial newsletter and new members. It was decided that all members joining OALT/ABO within a given fiscal year will receive the directory for that year as long as it is in print. All new members will receive the provincial newsletter published after the date they joined. Questions regarding back issues of newsletters are to be directed to the publications committee.

The sixth annual OALT/ABO Conference will be held at the University of Toronto, St. George's Campus (downtown), May 24-26, 1979. The theme of the conference is DIMENSIONS. There will be 28 workshops offered covering 12 different themes. For example, the theme Government Documents will be covered in the following three workshop groups: international, provincial/municipal and federal. Other themes to be covered include : automation, alternatives for library technicians, children's services, Anglo-American rules, no.2, Services, tours, effective communication in management, audio visual, budgeting and bookeeping, public relations and community information services. Plan to attend - it looks great! Anyone wanting more information can contact me.
Donna Fossum : work - 623-3112, home - 344-9314.

MEMBERSHIP

Full Member: any graduate library technician. Fee - $20. Full voting privileges.

Associate Member: anyone interested in joining. Fee - $15. No voting priveleges.

Institutional Member: any institution interested in joining. Fee - $25. No voting privileges.

Student Member: any student currently enrolled in a library tech program. Fee - $3. Full voting privileges.