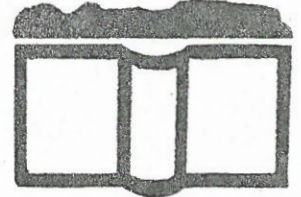


Ontario Association of Library Technicians/
Association des Bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario
Thunder Bay Region
PO Box 3332
P7B 5J8



THUNDER BAY

newsletter

March '82

vol. 7 no. 4

Annual Dinner Meeting

Date: Saturday, April 3, 1982
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: Cedar Room, Landmark Inn
Cost: \$14.00 per person

AGENDA: Minutes of last general meeting
Treasurer's report
Director's report
Correspondence
Reports of committees a) Funding
b) Archives
c) Conference
Unfinished business
New business
Speaker: Danielle Amat, President, OALT/ABO
Nominations and elections

If planning to attend, please call Kathy Deguns at 623-5277 between 5:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. weekdays, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. weekends, before Wednesday, March 24, 1982.

LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY
SPRING COURSES 1982

Library Technology 2530

Order Work

An examination of the methods involved in acquiring materials for various types of libraries. Students will be introduced to acquisition procedures and the use of basic bibliographic tools.

Circulation and Special Services

An examination of the work of the circulation department with special emphasis on charging systems and circulation policies. Other areas examined will include government documents and literature searches of computer stored data bases.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

News on the provincial level is short and sweet. Total provincial membership is 468 and the provincial bank balance as of January 31, 1982 stands at \$1076.71.

The last provincial meeting was held February 6, 1982; discussion centred on the constitutional changes proposed for the provincial constitution. Changes are now finalized for the Annual Board Meeting to be held in May.

Andrew Porteus, Archivist, has applied to the provincial government for sponsorship of a summer student to assist with the history project of the association. There is no word yet as to whether his application has been approved. In addition, Andrew wishes to coordinate a photographic display of OALT/ABO history. If anyone has photos they would like to donate, please contact me.

The next provincial meeting is scheduled to be held March 27, 1982.

-Helen Heerema

COMMENT

City Council budget issues have been very much in the news of late, not the least of which is the pending loss of certain public library services in the city. More's the pity. Since the province has in large part abdicated its funding responsibilities in this area, it is the municipality that presently finds itself contributing the major portion of the public library budget. -- And there's only just so much money to be spread, albeit at times thinly, among local services. Cutbacks are common to all and must simply be swallowed with as much good grace as can be mustered.

However, the imminent loss of the audio-visual department at Brodie Street brought another issue to the fore, namely the suggestion to implement user-fees as a means of preserving such a service.

Under the Provincial Library Act it is illegal for libraries to impose borrowing fees on its users. Unfortunately the Act does not address the area of audio-visual service, and this fact has apparently been used to support the view that the service, being "non-essential", should be maintained through the implementation of user-fees. However I suggest the omission from the Library Act, particularly in the light of its date of enactment, in no way reflects upon this being a "non-essential" service, any more so than a public library in total could be termed such.

My opposition to the user-fee proposal is basically two-fold. Firstly and most importantly, a public library should be exactly what the term implies -- a community resource, providing access to information, whatever its medium, regardless of race, creed, colour, sex, occupation, financial situation, or any other characteristic one cares to name. The preservation of a service for those who can pay is not the preservation of a public service.

Secondly, I would like to think that my opposition to this proposal has a practical basis as well as a philosophical one, particularly since proponents of the scheme tout its "practical necessity" in a decade fast becoming renowned for its emphasis on budgetary restraint. I suggest that implementing user fees on the scale proposed would do little to save this valuable service, but rather simply serve to postpone the loss.

-Annemarie Florian
