

TECH TALK

Volume 20, No.2 September 1992



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Now that summer is slipping through the door and fall is entering, we turn our thoughts to new courses, new hobbies, and new OALT/ABO events. The executive has already met twice and is progressing well with plans for a stimulating year.

On September 14, Wendy Knudson and John Fell introduced first-year students in the LU Library and Information Studies programme to the OALT/ABO over coffee and doughnuts. September will be further highlighted by a General Meeting at Old Fort William and a tour of the Fort library with Shawn Allaire.

October will provide members with an opportunity to enjoy the fall countryside as they travel to a workshop in Atikokan. November will see a return presentation by Alex Ross of the City Archives. Finally, the first half of the OALT/ABO year will end with a Dessert Party held in the Lab, where Joan Kulmala will discuss principles of good grooming and dress and your body image.

Tentative plans have also been made for the second half of the OALT/ABO year. If you have any suggestions for workshops and activities, those on the executive would be delighted to receive them.

We invite you to join us for an educational and entertaining year.



Carolyn Enns

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of 1 Sept 1992

Bank Account Balance	190.19
Petty Cash	32.93
G.I.C.	<u>3000.00</u>
Total	\$ 3223.12

Wendy Knudson

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Graduate	20
Student	6
Associate	1
Institution	<u>4</u>
	31



Reviews

Cathy Walsh, Regional Director, will be flying to Toronto (12 September) for the first Regional Meeting in this term. She will present her report at the General Meeting, September 22 (at the Old Fort).

Donna Brown (Ontario Library Service-North) was the only person from this region to attend the OALT/ABO Conference in Sudbury last May. She has offered to give us a report.

Report on Annual Business Meeting

Explorations '92

When I received approval to attend Explorations '92 in Sudbury, my Area Director, Mr. Alan Pepper, suggested that I leave a day early which would enable me to visit our Kirkland Lake office. Therefore, I left on the early morning flight on Tuesday, May 26 and arrived two hours later in Sudbury, rented a car at the airport and then ventured out in what I hoped to be the direction of Kirkland Lake. The next day, after spending the morning in the office, I began my journey back to Sudbury. I was pleasantly surprised at what a nice city Sudbury appeared to be - very modern and clean. It's amazing how they built around so much rock, and they certainly have made the best out of their rough terrain. I arrived at the Sheraton Caswell, quickly unpacked then went down to the Solarium to register for the conference. There was pizza and beer in abundance and it turned out to be quite a fun evening catching up with old acquaintances and meeting many new ones. Since I hadn't attended a conference in the past two years due to an extended maternity/educational leave, I was introduced to many new faces.

My first session of the conference, Desktop Publishing was presented by John Davidson from the Sudbury Board of Education. Newsletters, flyers and brochures were produced to illustrate the many features of this program. Ventura, Pagemaker and Coreldraw were introduced.

A special interests lunch was arranged to accommodate groups of delegates who work in similar types of libraries. the following groups were designated: Government Libraries, Health Science Libraries, Law Libraries, School Libraries, One-person Libraries, Corporate Libraries, Government of Canada Libraries, and Public Libraries. A most informative and enjoyable lunch indeed!

After lunch I attended Changing Edition: A Cataloguing Update by Jean Weihs. Mrs. Weihs led us

through revisions and changes which have occurred in the 12th abridged edition of the Dewey Classification System. Mrs. Weihs also discussed major changes to the AACR2.

Delegates had about an hour and a half break before we had to meet for supper. We were given a choice between Italian and Chinese cuisine. I decided not to attend the Brewery Tour or the play as I was looking forward to leisure time with a 2-year-old. I spoke with a few of the girls who attended these events and they spoke very favourably of both.

The morning session I attended was The Genealogist in Your Library presented by Michael Mueller of the Sudbury Public Library. A very good session, which gave the participants quite a few very important hints of where to begin when tracing a family tree. This session provided a look at a basic genealogical collection for small and medium-sized libraries with emphasis on where to turn if you don't have the resources in your library.

After lunch the Annual Business Meeting was scheduled to begin at 1:30 sharp. Since I was the only delegate attending the conference from the Thunder Bay area, I was elected to represent Thunder Bay as a regional representative, Minutes of the last annual meeting were discussed, election of officers and minor changes to our constitution made up most of the afternoon.

The new executive was elected:

President	Bette Gore
Vice-President	Suzanne Orlando
Secretary	Bill Land
Treasurer	Teresa Kennedy
Public Relations	Marsha Hunt

Since there was only one flight back to Thunder Bay at noon on Saturday, and I would be unable to make any sessions in the morning, I decided to return home on the early evening flight on Friday. This meant that I would not be able to attend the banquet.

In closing, I must admit that this has been one the better conferences

that I have attended. It was all very well thought-out and organized, the workshops were interesting and the meals and accommodations were very good. The Sudbury Region should be commended on a job well done.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Brown



LIBRARY AUTOMATED CIRCULATION SYSTEMS

On June 16 and 17, 1992, OLS-North (Ontario Library Service) held a two-day pre-conference on library automation systems at the Ramada Red Oak Inn. The conference was well-attended with interested library personnel from both town and out-lying areas.

The companies that were represented were Bro-Dart, Columbia, Dynix, Eloquent Librarian, Multi-Lis, Library Works (INMAGIC Plus) and Winnebago. I.D. Security systems (a company that provides security systems) and Tamarack (this company provides CD Roms) rounded out the list. There were two three-hour blocks of time provided for the representatives to do their presentations and answer questions from the audience. After the representatives were done, there was time for people to go to the different booths that were set up, ask more detailed questions and actually try the systems out for themselves.

Each company gears itself toward library use, but some are oriented towards more specific types of libraries. For example, Bro-Dart, Columbia, and Dynix aim toward the school and public libraries. Eloquent Librarian (which used to be Sydney up to 1992) provides generic cataloguing and aims toward use in special libraries and archives. Along the same line is Library Works (INMAGIC) which is geared toward government, legislative and reference areas.

Price was one question that was asked of each representative. They

stated that each system would be custom-designed for a library's needs and therefore the price would be a rough estimate. Estimates ranged from \$4500. to \$7000. (this last estimate was for creating a master file for 20,000 books).

The OLS is to be thanked for putting on an informative conference on the different types of automated services now available to libraries.

Report submitted by Linda Bukovy



Previews

14 September - Wendy Knudson and John Fell welcome the new students with speeches on the value of OALT/ABO and invite them to join us as members. They will also be bearing the usual coffee and doughnuts.

22 September - General Meeting at The Old Fort William Library followed by a tour with Shawn Allaire. Shawn has arranged to meet everyone in the parking lot at 7:00pm and then she will lead the way to the Old Fort. We are asking everyone to be environmentally friendly and bring your own mug for the refreshments. (There are OALT/ABO mugs that may be purchased if necessary).

October - this meeting is still tentative but we are trying to plan a session in Atikokan. Keep watching for further information!!!

10 November - 7:30 in the Archives Building Alex Ross is going to explain "the difference between archives and library". His presentation also includes a twenty minute video and a tour of the newly renovated Archive Building.

2 December - 7:30 in the Lab (5th floor LU Library) Joan Kulmala of Totally You - will present a workshop on your image and what this says about you. Coffee and deserts (created by the executive) will conclude the evening. This workshop takes the place of our usual wine and cheese gala.

Muriel Davidson started the selections on "A Day In The Life Of..." various technicians employed in various libraries. This year I hope to carry on the theme but with technicians employed in non-traditional roles.

"A Day In The Life Of..."

**Nancy Chovancak
Senior Computer Operator/Technician**

When I graduated as a Library Technician, I never imagined I would leave a library for a world of computers. But, here I am working in the Computer Services Department of the Lakehead Board of Education as a Senior Computer Operator/Technician.

We operate a VAX 6000-310 super mini-computer and a Microvax 3100-80. The network consists of over 150 user terminals at some 60 different sites in and around Thunder Bay in several Boards of Education. This includes twenty-eight dial up modems and ten direct lines to connect both the Elementary and Secondary schools. There are two dial out lines which provide the school libraries with a connection to either the Public Library or the Lakehead University Library. Within Computer Services, there are Programmers, Client Support Staff, Computer Operator/Technicians, a Planner and a manager. Major application software includes: Student Records, Payroll, Personnel, Budget, General Ledger, Purchasing, Accounts Payable, Taxation, IMC systems and a number of smaller information systems.

My day usually starts with printing. All printing for the Board Office, Elementary and Secondary schools is done at Computer Services. Since many departments are using our printer, the paper we use is in different shapes and sizes that have to be mounted, lined up and changed quite frequently during the day. Our forms include: timetables, labels, attendance cards, scan sheets, transcripts, report cards, 2 & 3 part standard paper, Accounts Payable cheques, Tax Bills, SPED forms and other various Payroll

forms. New Bar Code Labels have been recently added for the new automated Libraries at Isabella and Valley Central schools.

Besides printing the various forms, there's also the post processing - decollating and bursting. We have a 1200 decollator, which removes the carbon paper in multiple copy forms and a 3410 detacher (burster), which splits forms along the perforation lines. The burster can also sign cheques using signature plates. A new feature added this year is the 4200 Speedisealer, which heats and seals the new payroll employee statements.

Many days are quite hectic, we have a precedence for print jobs. Our first priority is always Payroll - after that it's up to the Operator's discretion as to what needs to be done. For example, Budget printouts at month end, report cards in January and June, T4s in February, Tax bills at tax time, etc. The printouts are distributed and sent by Courier to the Board office and the schools.

The technician part of my job involves the installation and troubleshooting of computer equipment and software for both administration and the school offices. Some days you'll find me travelling to the different schools to install computers and software (ie. WordPerfect, Lotus 1-2-3 etc.).

The only typical day I have is Monday when I shutdown the computer system and do a Standalone Backup. This backup takes all the information on the system drives and transfers it onto magnetic tapes. These are sent offsite to Lakehead University in case of a disaster. After the computer system is started, another Backup is done and tapes are mounted to save the information on the other drives. Backups are done every night and the tapes are stored in our tape library for restoration purposes. Currently our collection consists of 1400 tapes. Each tape is recorded in binders to show what the tape consists of and it's current status - both onsite or the Ministry of

Education, for Student information or Program updates. An inventory is done annually to make sure all the tapes are circulating properly.

Things change quite frequently working with computers and it's a new learning experience each day. Since working at Computer Services for the past two years, I have seen how the technology has grown, and I look forward to the future and what it holds.

Nancy

This summer while we were sitting here complaining about the rotten weather Margaret MacLean was touring Thailand. I asked - and she has most graciously written a travelogue for us to enjoy.

MY SUMMER VACATION IN THAILAND
by Margaret MacLean

Thailand - for centuries known as Siam - is Southeast Asian, predominantly Buddhist kingdom almost equidistant between India and China. Thailand shares borders with Myanmar (Burma) to the west and north, Laos to the northeast, Kampuchea to the west and Malaysia to the south. Thai cuisine is distinctive - rich and spicy. Dining is a true gourmet's delight to be enjoyed in either spicy Thai style or in Continental recipes. Restaurants serve just about every nation's cuisine from both East and West.

Although the Thai language is incomprehensible to the casual visitor, English is widely understood and spoken. We both found the Thais to be a very helpful and wonderful people. Customer service is the best we have experienced anywhere.

Thailand is truly a "shop till you drop" country. Shoppers have a wide choice of areas in which to pursue their search for bargains - shopping

centres, hotels, the markets, night bazaars, and everywhere on the street. Thai silks, cotton, silver, bronze, pewter, pottery, jewellery, wood carvings, precious stones, folk handicrafts, ready-made and quality tailor-made clothing, and more are available for purchase. Bargaining is expected and this was one of the acceptable practices that I didn't enjoy. 30-50% off quoted prices was not unusual - if you remembered to bargain! The markets are sightseeing attractions in themselves.

Two weeks before we left Thunder Bay, newspapers and newscasters on every radio and TV station covered the riots, shootings and burning in the fight for democracy that had just started in Bangkok. Throwing caution to the wind, on Monday 25 May we started our journey. Thunder Bay to Toronto, Toronto to Vancouver, Vancouver to Hong Kong, Hong Kong to Bangkok on Canadian Airlines. Twenty hours in flying time and an eleven hour time difference.

BANGKOK - Bangkok - the capital's proper name is Krung Thep, translates as "City of Angels". I thought it was "Sin Capital of the World"? Initial impressions are indescribable- the smell, the heat, the noise, the pollution, assails you immediately. Past and present co-exist. Historic temples and monuments are but a backdrop to today's highrise buildings and modern shopping complexes. Bangkok is culturally and historically fascinating.

Getting around Bangkok is inexpensive and convenient. Taxis and "tuk tuks" (three-wheeled motorized vehicles) are abundant and fares - always to be negotiated in advance - are less than expected. We negotiated a fare of 100Bhat (\$5.00) to be taken from our hotel to the Grand Palace and the Democracy Monument. We were taken on a tour of the city with occasional stops at speciality shops and only when the hour was up were we brought to the Palace. Taxis, we learned, kept you captive for an hour. Other than the burned government building, you would not have been aware that two

weeks earlier Thailand had experienced any sort of political unrest.

There are over 400 Buddhist temples (Wats) in Bangkok alone. The famous Temple of the Emerald Buddha (Wat Phra Kaeo) is situated within the Grand Place. The Temple of Dawn (Wat Arun), the Marble Temple (Wat Benchamabopit), the Golden Buddha (Wat Ratchabopit) which is made of five and a half tonnes of solid gold, are some of Bangkok's most memorable landmarks. Sandals are the footwear of choice when visiting temples since shoes must be removed before entering - also, no shorts, tank top, etc.

The "City Tour" - always taken upon first arrival in any new city - provided us with the necessary orientation to our new home. "Bangkok by Night" tour showed us the legendary nightlife of Bangkok. The "Rose Garden" tour was very relaxing. A country resort and cultural centre afforded a good introduction to traditional Thai life.

Waterborne commerce at the Damnoen Saduak or "Floating market" tour was one of our favourites. It was a truly memorable experience taking the boat through the canals to the market - a route taken by James Bond. This is Thailand's most vibrant floating market where farmers congregate on canals each morning in produce-laden boats.

CHIANG MAI

Less than an hour by air, Chiang Mai, (Rose of the North), is a veritable treasure trove of the arts and architecture unique to the region. Founded in the 13th century, the city's original perimeter is still marked by a moat and fortified gates. There is little of the frenetic air that typifies life in Bangkok.

A little more civilized, our day tours started at 7am. The most exciting and expensive (\$75.00 each), being to the "Golden Triangle". A three hour road trip to Chiang Rai, the Golden Triangle is a

spellbinding spot where the borders of Thailand, Burma, and Laos meet and the Mekong River flows by. The view from this, the northernmost point in Thailand was breathtaking - jungle-covered mountains, their slopes dotted with hilltribe villages. We visited the Yao and Akha tribes, each dressed in different colourful traditional costumes. These people maintain independent lifestyles, mostly untouched by the twentieth century.

This was the location of the last Rambo movie. We almost felt we were in a Rambo movie, when as we were leaving, we had to stop at a border checkpoint. Armed guards asked for our passports - which were in the hotel safe.

"The Bridge on the River Kwai" in Kanchanaburi and the Allied War Cemetery was another interesting tour. Road, rail, and water were our modes of transportation. We actually found the one Canadian grave among the thousands of headstones.

PHUKET

After four days in Chiang Mai we once again boarded Thai Airways for the two-hour flight to Phuket, Thailand's southern paradise isle. Here, the dream of an idyllic escape into a tropical island world becomes a reality. Unspoilt stretches of fine white sand and the sparkling warm blue waters of the Andaman Sea lapping the shore and sun-drenched, palm-fringed, beaches. The best seafood in Thailand is to be found here - seafood restaurants abound and offer the sea's daily harvest. In one of the cafe restaurants we filled a shopping basket with a live lobster, a fresh fish, some asparagus (?), potatoes and brought it to the cash register where they weighed everything, and charged us accordingly. While I sat at the table, Don stayed and watched them prepare, clean, season, and cook our dinner. Everything is done outside in full view of the busy sidewalk.

The most famous and popular tour in Phuket is "James Bond Island", so named because it was the location

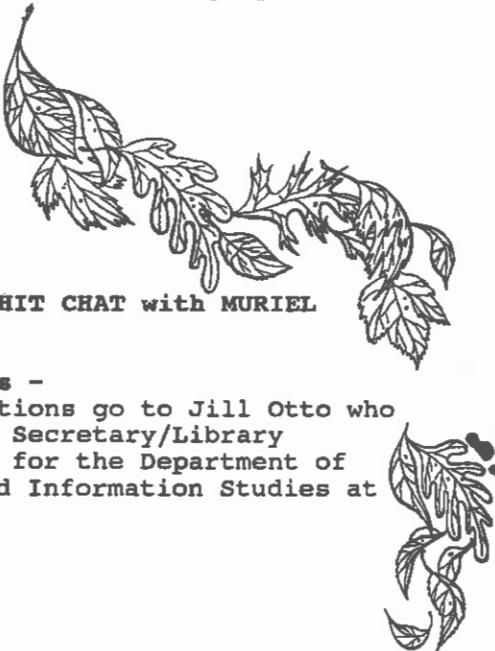
for the movie "The Man with the Golden Gun". "The Killing Fields" was also filmed in Phuket.

We only scratched the surface in our choice of tours. One needs much longer than two weeks to experience and visit everything in this magnificent and historical country.

HONG KONG

The last leg of our journey was five nights in Hong Kong, the British colony which reverts to China in 1997. Here, was a complete contrast to Thailand. Our hotel was the most expensive and the smallest we have ever experienced, but the location on Nathan Road was perfect. The Kowloon area offered a lot of variety of sights and things to buy, but shopping was not a pleasant experience. Most vendors were very confrontational, and we found items to be very expensive. We experienced the subway and the Star Ferry and had lunch at Victoria Peak having taken the tram up to the summit. Rainy season caught us off guard and since everyone was so lacking in common courtesy and friendliness, we shortened our stay by two days.

On June 12th, we boarded Canadian Airlines for our return. We didn't really experience jet lag on our way to the Orient but it sure hit hard on our return. It took a few days to recuperate, but we have some wonderful memories, beautiful souvenirs, and some very special new friends.



FIRESIDE CHIT CHAT with MURIEL DAVIDSON

Job Changes -
Congratulations go to Jill Otto who is the new Secretary/Library Technician for the Department of Library and Information Studies at

the University. This is a part-time position which runs until the end of April and suits Jill fine, as it enables her to continue her studies for her BA at the same time.

Although several people managed to find temporary summer jobs in the various libraries around town, we have not heard of any permanent job opportunities offered - either full or part-time.

Pat Laskowski is back at Westgate High School Library after a Semester's leave-of-absence, releasing Heather Miller to work on the LIMMS programme again.

Our sympathies go to Krishna Panu, who is another technician to suffer job loss due to the closure of the Library at the Chronicle Journal offices.

Sweet Summer Time

Some people were fortunate enough to be able to go away on holiday in the summer. We always say, "Send us a card" and Margaret has done just that as you will read elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Holland has been popular this year with the Globe Trotting Library Techs. Helen Heerema and her husband had lovely weather over there, enabling them to use the favourite form of Dutch transportation - the bicycle!! Ruth Rilling also visited Holland in her five country tour of Denmark, Holland, Germany, France and England.

Helen Hyvarinen stayed on this continent but was able to bring back news for us. Whilst in Edmonton she called on Jackie (Boker) Craig and brings us tidings from there and assures us that Jackie and Burton are very well and very happy and settled nicely in their new home.

Hatched, Matched and Dispatched

The summer months seem to have been exceedingly quiet for most of you, with no news of engagements, marriages or births, although we hear that the Library Stork has received several requests for deliveries later in the year.