

TECH TALK

Volume 20, No.3 November 1992



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Now that the first snow has appeared and winter is looming, we begin to think of indoor activities and warmth. To brighten grey November, the OALT/ABO is meeting at the Archives to explore with Alex Ross the differences between archives and libraries. And, to open the Christmas season, we invite you to Joan Kulmala's December presentation on improving personal appearance. Ms. Kulmala's talk will be preceded by a short General Meeting and followed by desert.

The OALT/ABO's first General Meeting was held at Old Fort William in September in conjunction with an informative introduction to the Fort library by Shawn Allaire. We had hoped to have a out-of-town workshop in October, but are now thinking of the possibility of an out-of-town workshop in the spring.

We hope you will take the time to join us this year to further your education and meet fellow students and technicians.

Carolyn Enns

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of 1 Nov 1992

Bank Account Balance	420.83
Petty Cash	32.93
G.I.C.	<u>3000.00</u>
Total	\$ 3453.76

Wendy Knudson

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Graduate	23
Student	11
Associate	1
Institution	<u>4</u>
	39

Reviews

REPORT OF SEPTEMBER MEETING OF OALT/ABO BOARD

The September meeting of the provincial executive and board was held on September 12, 1992 in Toronto at Richview Public Library. The ad hoc committee on political awareness is slowly working towards its goal of creating generic job descriptions for library techs in various fields. It would be nice to see the work of this committee completed.

The Sudbury conference committee reported that they had a successful conference from all perspectives; financially, it was a success and apparently they had nothing but good comments about the program. Unfortunately, only Donna Brown from Thunder Bay attended. The next conference is in Ottawa May 10-14, 1993. It promises to be a very exciting time. Perhaps we will all have a chance to participate if the idea of having a teleconference for one of the workshops is realized. What a great way to get more members involved. More details later.

OALT/ABO is looking for possibilities of the organization getting involved in a charity province wide. Any ideas from members are welcome - some ideas so far are the Faye Peterson House, literacy programs.

The meeting was a productive one with many loose ends cleaned up and a resolution to complete the many projects that we have started



particularly in public relations field.

The next meeting will be a teleconference on November 21st. If you have any concerns or problems you would like me to bring up contact me before that date.

submitted by
Catherine Walsh



Report on General Meeting of 22 September 1992

Shawn Allaire met the twenty enthusiastic techs in the pavilion parking lot then lead us through the nature trail to the Old Fort's library. The meeting was started with everyone introducing themselves. Minutes of the last meeting were read by John Fell followed by reports from president Carolyn, treasurer Wendy, and director Cathy.

Under the heading of new business Muriel Davidson's Tech Talk contest and prizes were handed out (her comments and winners on page 5). The executive also handed out a short survey asking the membership present to indicate their preferences - 1) when they prefer events eg. evenings or week-ends?, 2) what completed programs have they enjoyed the most? and 3) what would you still like to see the executive do?

The general meeting was followed by a talk from Shawn Allaire about the library and her role in it. Then we all took time to browse before going downstairs to enjoy coffee and doughnuts.

The only kink in the evening was no one (except Shawn) thought to bring a flashlight to see our way back up the road in the dark.

report submitted by
Valerie Welsch

Previews

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. Because of the renovations, we are asked to use the Vickers Street entrance. Remember to be environmentally friendly and bring your own mug for coffee following the tour. OALT/ABO mugs are also available for purchase.

2 December - 7:00 in the Lab (5th floor LU Library) The general meeting will held first (7:00-7:30) followed by a fifteen minute break so Joan Kulmala of Totally You - will be able to set up for a workshop on your image and what this says about you. A positive outward appearance is often linked to having a sense of well-being. So after this workshop everyone can bring their inner beauty outward to create a more positive, flattering image. Coffee and deserts (created by the executive) will conclude the evening. This workshop takes the place of our usual wine and cheese gala.

? January - 7:30 in the Lab (5th floor LU Library)

Workshop #2

Jennifer Graf will be the guest speaker for a workshop on **Presentation Skills**. Jennifer belongs to "International Training in Communication" so is extremely well qualified to lead us on this topic. Coffee (in our environmentally friendly mugs) and doughnuts to follow.

27 February - 9:30 in the Bibliographic Processing Department of LU Library - Workshop #3

Ian Dew will present a workshop intended to explore the developments in library systems over the past year, especially networks

(communication) and the development of integrated microcomputer-based library software. The networks he intends to cover are LUCI and INTERNET and the Microcomputer-based systems are INMAGIC, Mandarin, Eloquet Librarian and Winnebago showing the uses in circulation, acquisitions, cataloguing, OPAC, and serials control. With all that information, you will really need your mug for coffee and doughnuts!!



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..."

Janis DeGagné Regional Access Specialist

Janis DeGagné, 1982 graduate Lakehead University Library Technician Program. Employed with the Atikokan Public Library Board for many happy and challenging years from 1978 - 1986; originally hired in the Adult Department, later as Head of Childrens Department.

Currently employed with Worker's Compensation Board, Thunder Bay Regional Office since October 1986, initially as Co-Ordinator Records Control. The principal objective of Records Registration and Control is to provide an efficient and

effective system of records management including registration of new claims, identification of incoming claim documents and control of file movement and location. In Thunder Bay, Records provides an integral service to all operating areas by creating, maintaining and ensuring the availability of approximately 50,000 claim files, of which 3,000 - 4,000 are active at any one time. The job of Records Co-Ordinator ensures these functions are performed through the activities of Records Clerks. the Co Ordinator directly supervises these Clerks (11 - 13), and is responsible for assigning and scheduling work, providing advice, direction and training, volume and quality control. The job has responsibility for monitoring progress, preparing performance appraisals and discussing with staff, administering oral discipline as required and recommending stronger disciplinary action to the manager. As well, the CoOrdinator is responsible for the implementation of all Records policies, procedures and routines including records security.

The major challenge/problem of the position has been the efficient back and forth movement of claim files to those areas both within the Regional Office, and to our Head Office, as well as other Regional Offices in the province.

Since the spring of 1989 I have performed the function of Regional Access Specialist, a job that provides claim file access to authorized requesters with an issue in dispute according to our provincial legislation. Also, all Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy requests for file information are channelled to my department. At this time we are currently attempting to provide file copies to over 363 requesters.

Skill learned as a Library Tech student and experience gained in the public library setting were definite assets which secured the positions of Records Co-Ordinator and Access Specialist.

Janis

FROM THE HALLS OF LEARNING...

After Christmas there will be only one evening class beginning Monday 11 January 1993. Karen Harrison, Chief Librarian at Thunder Bay Public Library will be instructing.

Monday 6:00 - 9:00pm
LIS 3070 - Current Issues

Further studies in the problems and issues confronted in Library service, including employment and the job market, intellectual freedom, censorship, public lending rights, etc. It is recommended that this course be taken during the last year of the program.

FIRESIDE CHIT CHAT with MURIEL DAVIDSON

Job Changes -

Our best wishes go with Mary McCreddie as she makes a change of career. Mary has been the para-professional at Mary JL Black Library for over a decade. Now she is leaving to become a lay preacher at Broadway United Church.

Congratulations to Helen Cimone who has at last had her qualifications acknowledged in a promotion to fill Mary's vacancy as the new para-professional at MJLB. Helen has been biding her time as a Library Assistant in the Children's department at Waverly Street Library. Whilst there she has won admiration from other staff and patrons for her wonderfully artistic skills. She is the one who designed the new system logo and her work on bulletin boards, displays and windows will be much missed by her colleagues.

Over at Brodie Street two new staff members have been welcomed.

Coral Peterson from Calgary, a May MLA graduate from the University of Alberta, Edmonton, has been hired on a contract basis to work as librarian in Adult Services in the circulation department.

Donna Bright has been hired as Librarian in the Children's department. She is also a May MLA graduate from Western University, London. Married and with two children, she was previously a teacher and travelled extensively - including living for awhile in Africa.

We hope these two newcomers and their families will enjoy living and working in Thunder Bay.

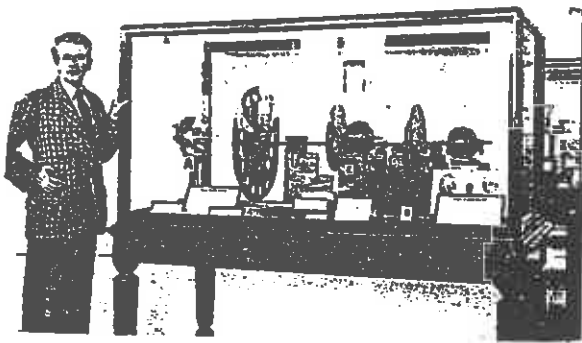
Hatched, Matched and Dispatched

This area is very quiet these days, although there is a "pregnant expectation" hanging around! However, we do have one very happy occasion to report and we shall combine it with a "personal profile". In 1986 a quiet, shy young lady signed into the Library and Information Studies program at LU. During the second year she caught the attention of others besides her classmates with her bulletin board displayed on the fifth floor. It was a stork in postman's uniform - flying in with a bundle of new books - which was whisked off to decorate a maternity ward as soon as it was available for removal. That same summer she won the "driver of the month" award! After her graduation she seemed to drop out of sight, but on September 12, 1992 Rhonda Rogalski became Mrs. Robert Urban. Following the wedding at the Mormon church in Rosslyn, the happy couple honeymooned in Cancun, Mexico.

I asked Rhonda what had happened since her graduation. For a summer job that year she had worked in the library at the MNR and this led to being hired by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, progressing through Records, Program Amendment clerk and OSAP claims over the last four years. It turns out that she followed in the footsteps of another library technician, Gerry Towne, who has also become a church minister. We would like to offer our congratulations and best wishes for a very happy future to Rhonda and her train engineer husband Rob.

HONE YOUR RESEARCH SKILLS...

Former TECH TALK newsletter editor Muriel Davidson created a HONE YOUR RESEARCH SKILLS contest. Muriel tried diligently to get participants in her contest. After many phone calls and many hints three people responded. For those of you who didn't hone your research skills the answers are -



Our first photograph showed a man beside a showcase containing 2 perforated discs. The clue was "It's not exactly as you see it" and you were told it was an AV subject. the discs were NIPKOW DISCS that were used by several people in a quest to invent the first TELEVISION. They were used by Paul Nipkow, Boris Rosing, Ferdinand Braun and others - any of whom would have gained points. In our photo the person was John Logie Baird. He made his first television success in December 1925 and gave the first public demonstration in January 1926. Either date would have been acceptable.

The second photograph showed a man beside a "cabinet" type machine with papers in his hands. It was hoped you would think in the direction of photocopiers. This being so any of the first inventors of any of the different copy machines would have been accepted (after all most of the bearded men look alike don't they?). The actual photograph showed David Gestetner (remember you were told his name is still used) with the Cyslost duplicating machine invented in 1881. Helen Heerema came up with a copier invented in 1848 by Frederick Bakewell which he called a Facsimile machine. Obviously such research is very acceptable!! (And you thought a facsimile machine was very modern!)



The authors of course were both mystery writers (you were told you don't need any clues to solve these authors) They were the most famous mystery writers. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, born May 22nd 1859, died July 7th 1930 inventor of the great Sherlock Holmes and his fellow characters. Dame Agatha Christie, born September 15th 1890, died January 12th 1976 created Hercule Poirot, Miss Jane Marple and others. Helen also reported that fact that she also wrote under the pseudonym "Mary Westmacott".



The results were Helen Heerema - 23 points, Linda Bukovy - 13 points and Valerie Welsch - 13 points. Muriel had purchased three books "The original illustrated Arthur Conan Doyle" which she had presented to the three participants. Muriel had also included a gift of money for each but the executive thought this was beyond expectation and returned the money to Muriel. We all know the size of Muriel's heart and the thought and the books are most graciously appreciated.