

TECH TALK

Volume 20, No.4 January 1993



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to all! I hope the holidays have left you refreshed and ready to meet the challenges and opportunities of 1993.

In 1993 the OALT/ABO is offering you the opportunity to deepen your knowledge and enhance your skills, as well as to socialize with fellow library technicians. On Wednesday, January 27, for example, Jennifer Graff will be showing us how to improve our presentation skills and on Saturday, March 20, Ian Dew will be talking to us about networks and microcomputer applications. These are but two of the opportunities highlighting the OALT/ABO year.

The executive would encourage you to attend and participate in OALT/ABO functions during 1993. OALT/ABO depends on your interest and support, on your ideas and commitment.

Carolyn Enns

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of 1 Jan 1993

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 NOVEMBER MEETING OF OALT/ABO BOARD

On November 21, 1992 the second provincial meeting of OALT/ABO board of directors was held via teleconference. The membership task force has generated a lot of interest but so far not much has been done and not all regions have a representative. All regions report fewer members. It appears that the economic times is the key factor to a declining membership.

The Ontario School Libraries Association particularly in Southern Ontario is concerned with Library Techs competing with School Librarians for jobs. OALT/ABO president, Bette Gore was invited to speak to their organization on September 21 outlining OALT/ABO's position on Library Techs in schools. There is also a letter being sent to them - the draft of which was the topic of considerable discussion at this November meeting.

It looks like we will be having a teleconference provincially sponsored in fall 1993. This is a great opportunity to participate at the provincial level.

Guidelines for forming committees and task forces were drawn up in draft form and will be implemented for the next conference. These were deemed necessary because of the casual way committees and task forces were proposed and then never

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followed up properly, sometimes with very little result in the end.

OALT/ABO will be collecting used greeting cards at the Ottawa conference for distribution to the Cancer Society. So if you want to donate I will make sure they get to Ottawa in May.

The conference in Ottawa expects to mail out a package to members in mid January. The member price for workshops, accommodation, meals, special events, and banquet is (\$525.00 non-members \$600.00). A full day workshop, lunch included is \$100.00 while a half day is \$50.00. The banquet is \$60.00 and special events in the evening \$125.00. No other details of workshop content were available. The conference runs from May 10-14. It sure would be nice to see increased Thunder Bay participation in the provincial conference.

The next provincial meeting is on February 6, 1993. Let me know before that date of any concerns that you want addressed.

Submitted by Catherine Walsh,
Regional Director, Thunder Bay

Report on General Meeting of 2 December 1992

The general meeting began a most interesting evening. Minutes of the last meeting were read by John Fell followed by reports from president Carolyn, treasurer Wendy, and director Cathy. Up coming events were reiterated ♡♥ Jennifer Graff ♡♥
** Ian Dew ** and the Annual Dinner.

Joan Kulmala of TOTALLY-U was the insightful, delightful speaker who took over the rest of the evening. Joan went on to prove her philosophy that "image is a tool for communicating and revealing your inherent qualities, your competence, abilities and leadership. It is a reflection that bears long lasting influence in your bid for success". I did notice that everyone took the time after the meeting to talk privately with Joan while enjoying coffee and desserts provided by the

executive. For those of you that missed Joan or if you want more of her, she is running a full day (9:00 - 4:00) workshop on 6 February 1993 at Confederation College.

PREVIEWS

27 January - 7:00 in the Brodie Library Auditorium

Jennifer Graff is going to speak on "Presenting Yourself With Confidence". This workshop will guide you on your way to gaining confidence in addressing a small group or preparing yourself for a job interview. We decided to try a different location for this meeting. Adhering to the policy of the Public Library there can be no fee charged to attend meetings on their premises so this is a good time for non-members to come to a meeting and see what the OALT/ABO is all about and how it can enhance you professionally. Remember to be environmentally friendly and bring your own mug for coffee following the tour. OALT/ABO mugs are also available for purchase.

20 March - 9:30 in the Bibliographic Processing Department of LU Library - Workshop #3

The date of this workshop has changed unexpectedly with the installation of new software in the University Library. However, Ian Dew will still 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..."

**Heather Miller
IMC Booking Clerk**

Since graduating in 1989, I have been gainfully employed by the Lakehead Board of Education in a variety of positions - some classified as Library Technician jobs - others not.

I started one week after graduating as an Acquisitions Secretary. Although it's not classified as a Library Tech position, I was able to utilize my schooling by doing some processing of kits, occasional cataloguing, etc.

After this, I worked at Hillcrest High School for one year in a library Tech position, to cover a person on leave. Tasks there included cataloguing and classification, processing, circulation, ordering materials, etc. as well as occasionally counselling or providing a shoulder to cry on (a must when working in a place with 1,000 teenagers).

Next, I accepted a position as LIMMS Central Cataloguer. LIMMS is the Lakehead Instructional Materials Management System library automation program. This position included a variety of duties such as: doing original cataloguing on books, testing and assisting in creation of software, liaising between school libraries and Computer Services department, preparing a user's manual, and teaching Teacher Librarians, Co-op students, parent volunteers, etc. how to enter their collections into the automated system. While continuing to work on LIMMS part-time, I took on a six month full-time position at Westgate High School. The jobs here were similar to those at Hillcrest. One

major difference however is that Westgate is automated, so circulation, cataloguing and retrieval procedures were different. I found working in two different High Schools interesting as I was able to see two different ways of running a library. As a result, I have kept note of both positive and negative aspects of both, so I can make suggestions at the next library I work in.

Currently I am still working on LIMMS on a part-time basis, and as a Film Booking Clerk at the Instructional Materials Centre on a full-time basis. Although the Booking clerk is not classified as a "Library Technician" position, it involves a combination of skills learned at previous jobs and at university such as booking and circulating materials, kit repair, computer skills, and good interpersonal skills.

All of the positions have been very interesting and exciting. Through so many different positions, I have been able to meet a great deal of people working within the system. I have gained a tremendous amount of experience, and have really been able to expand my library knowledge and skills. I have been very fortunate to have been allowed all of these opportunities which I'm sure will be a great benefit to me in the future of my career as a Library Technician.

Heather

FROM THE HALLS OF LEARNING...

Boy! How time and information change. For the November newsletter I was advised there would only be one class offered after Christmas. Now there are three different ones being offered beginning Monday 11 January 1993. They are -

*Thursday 5:00 - 9:00pm
LIS 1050 - Cataloguing and
Classification II*

Further studies in cataloguing procedures with an emphasis on derived cataloguing and computer programs. Students will be

introduced to subject analysis using Library of Congress Subject Headings.

Monday 6:00 - 9:00
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.

Monday 5:00 - 6:00 and
Tuesday 10:30 - 12:30
LIS 3030 - Online Bibliographic Searching

A practical introduction to the operation and use of online information retrieval systems. Students will become familiar with the techniques of searching various online databases. Special emphasis will be placed on the Dialog database.

FIRESIDE CHIT CHAT with MURIEL DAVIDSON

Well, hello all you hibernating bears!

It has been very difficult to find much information at all for this issue.

There does not seem to be any congratulations for new jobs! However, I have not, thankfully, heard of anyone being "laid-off" either, although cuts in hours seem quite commonplace.

Carol Schmaltz returned to work at McKellar Hospital in January after her maternity leave. Carol made her husband, Derek, a very proud father of twins, a perfect "instant" family - one of each. Bryan and Katelyn were born on 12 June 1992 and so really enjoyed the Christmas wrapping paper. They can sit up with help and support and are almost ready to start crawling, so Carol

escaped back to work just in time! (just kidding Carol!)

The leave was covered by Janice Hurrell who has been back in Thunder Bay for 2 years since her sojourn in Toronto. Whilst there Janice worked in the libraries of 2 hospitals, so she was well qualified to work at McKellar Hospital. Now she has only one evening per week at Confederation College Library.

Whilst chatting with our "medical" colleagues I learned of a smaller Library Association - The Northwestern Ontario Library Association (NOHLA). They are to have a two day course in February given by Tom Flemming, who is coming from McMaster University. He will instruct the Library Techs, Resident Interns and others in that field on updated and advanced skills in using "Grateful Med", which is a software package to do advance research strategy before going "On-line" through CISTI. It saves time and money and then prints out the information afterwards. so we wish all members of NOHLA success with their workshop.

It has been very encouraging to see one of the students at the OALT meetings (but where are the others)? This student is Bonnie Littlejohn whose sister-in-law, Claire, won the OALT Regional Branch Award when she graduated in 1988. Claire and her husband, Brent, were at LU together. They went to Vancouver after graduating and Claire worked in a library there. Now they are living in Nelson. Unfortunately, Claire was not able to get a library job but is enjoying work in a day nursery whilst Brent is finishing his Masters degree. I'm sure Bonnie will be able to supply Claire's address and further information to anyone who would like it.