

TECH TALK

Volume 21, No.4 February 1994



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The OALT/ABO began the new year on Saturday, January 22, with an informative and fascinating workshop by Karen Harrison, chief librarian of the Thunder Bay Public Library system, on censorship. Using her own experience and case studies, Karen showed us the complex and difficult issues involved in responding to challenged literature.

We look forward now to a double tour on Tuesday, February 22, with Louise Wuorinen showing us the Northern Studies Centre and Fred McIntosh guiding us through the new facilities at Chancellor Paterson Library. Our year will be ended by the annual dinner meeting on March 30 at the Pagoda Gardens, at which time we will usher in the new executive.

The OALT/ABO executive were pleased to see the many student members attending the December general meeting and the January workshop. We would like to encourage you to continue to attend and would also like to encourage the graduate membership to support the OALT/ABO. Make one of your resolutions for the new year to attend OALT/ABO meetings!

Carolyn Enns

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of 31 January 1994

Bank Account Balance	420.50
Petty Cash	100.00
G.I.C.	<u>2500.00</u>
Total	\$ 3067.50

Jill Otto

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Graduate	19
Student	26
Senior	1
Associate	2
Institution	<u>4</u>
	52



Reviews

The following are the minutes from the 27 November 1993 OALT/ABO Directors meeting held in the Richview Public library in Toronto.

1. Letter was sent to the Ontario School Libraries Association along with a generic job description for school library technicians.
2. Barbara Cope, Vice-president, resigned from VP position due to other commitments and uncertain work situation. In the interim, Brady Leyser, Newsletter editor, will serve as VP; but this position has to be filled fairly soon. If anyone is interested in becoming vice-president for the provincial executive, please contact Carolyn Enns, regional president or Helen Hyvarinen, regional director.
3. Theresa Kennedy, Treasurer, does not want mail (memberships, membership fees, etc.) sent by registered mail as it has to be picked up and signed for personally from the post office. Please send by regular mail.
4. Regional directors' reports all seem to reflect poor turnout to workshops.

5. No submissions for name change contest for Newsletter/Nouvelle. If you have any suggestions, please send them to Brady Leyser, newsletter editor, at his home address.

6. Provincial archivist will be compiling a list of headings for the OALT/ABO association records. Jan suggested the archives should get complete conference kits and provincial newsletters.

7. Susan Morley, ex-officio, talked about FreeNet, community based computer system. The Ottawa FreeNet system is working really well. Toronto will have its own FreeNet system soon and is looking for information providers. OALT/ABO could be an information provider for the Toronto system. Information could include OALT/ABO fact sheet, upcoming conferences, etc. Information can be in ASCII or DOS text format. Susan will send all the information on FreeNet to Mike Mortimer for further investigation.

8. Treasurer reported that translation cost breakdowns in the past are not clear as to what each document costs to translate. A policy and guidelines for translation of documents will be compiled and included in the Board policy statements. Therefore, guidelines will have been established and can be followed without having to hash out what will be translated annually. Annual business meeting, executive directors' annual report forms, and membership forms will be translated. The fact sheet, statement of standards, directory, constitution, etc. have already been translated. Other documents will be translated at the discretion of the Board re Constitution, article 1B.

9. Treasurer will convert all information onto INMAGIC PLUS by Christmas. Membership information will be sent directly to the regional treasurers on hard copy and disk. Software program, SEARCH

MAGIC, is available for approximately \$395. for the regional executive to utilize the disk copy of the membership list. The program only searches information on the disk copy.

10. Constitution changes were discussed. Some minor revisions were made and Judy Koenig will have the new constitution typed and ready for printing by the next Board meeting, February 26, 1994.

11. Changes to the new membership directory were discussed. The updated directory should include provincial and regional executives. Theresa Kennedy will investigate the cost of changing the format to a smaller size. It was suggested that the new directory be ready to distribute at the next OALT/ABO conference.

12. Revolutions '94 conference preparations are still on schedule.

13. The working budget was discussed but not approved by the Board as proceeds from the Ottawa conference have not yet been received.

14. A provincial award committee is to be set up. Regional directors are to discuss with regional executives how to promote nominations. Christine Davey will ask Linda Davis to chair this committee. A profile of members who have been nominated in previous years should be put in the provincial newsletter.

Respectfully submitted,
Helen Hyvarinen
Regional Director
November 30, 1993



**CANADIAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
5th ANNUAL WINTER MEETING**

**Professional Development Day
Programme**

Friday, February 11, 1994 at the
Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay.

**9:00 - Noon EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES -
THE FREENET AND DISTANCE LEARNING**

Speakers: Brian Campbell, Systems
and Planning Director,
Vancouver Public Library
and President, Vancouver
Regional FreeNet
Association.
Sam Shaw, Director,
Contact North

Noon - 1:30 Lunch

**1:30 - 3:30 GAINING POWER IN THE
COMMUNITY - THE POLITICAL LIBRARIAN
AND LOBBYING**

Speaker: Pat Cavill, Pat Cavill
Consulting, Calgary, AB

OR

**TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS - A LOOK AT
SMART CARD APPLICATIONS AND MORE...
PANEL DISCUSSION**

Speakers: Deb deBruijn of the
University of Calgary &
Ian Dew from Lakehead
University discuss the
latest innovations in
technology for
libraries.

**Registration Fee \$20.00 / includes
two workshops, handouts, coffee
breaks and light lunch.**

**OLS-NORTH ENGLISH LANGUAGE
CONFERENCE**

The Conference is being held at the
Nor'wester Resort Hotel in Thunder
Bay. There was a strong feeling
expressed at last year's conference
that librarians of small public
libraries needed to consider their
professional image very carefully.
Professional image includes all
those aspects which "sell" the
library; written and spoken
presentation; the visual impact of
the library; the confidence and
personal appeal of the librarian;
all those things, in fact, which
help ensure that the library is
taken seriously and is not dismissed
as an amateur service, run by
glorified volunteers.

**8:30 - 11:30 PRESENTING YOUR CASE
ON PAPER**

Speaker: Alan G. Pepper, OLS-
North, presents an in-
depth workshop on report
writing. Covers
assembling your
information, evaluating
your audience, arranging
your material, formats
and presentation.

11:30 - 12:30 Lunch

**12:30 - 2:30 PRESENTING A
PROFESSIONAL IMAGE**

Speaker: Joan Kulmala of the
"Totally-U" company will
deal with all aspects
that staff dealing with
the public need to be
concerned about - dress,
voice, manner,
deportment and other
matters what help you be
taken seriously as a
professional in your
working environment.

**Registration fee \$14.25 / contact
Susan Geschwender OLS-North**



Previews

22 February - 7:00 pm - 5th floor -
A tour of the newly renovated
Chancellor Paterson Library given by
Fred McIntosh, Chief Librarian
followed by a second tour of the
Northern Studies Regional Centre
Library will be conducted by Louise
Wuorinen.

30 March - Annual Dinner
Meeting - Pagoda Gardens
6:30 Symposium
7:00 Dinner
cost \$20.00

Tickets for the Dinner are available
from all Executive members. The
\$20.00 includes meal, tips and GST.
A cash bar is available.



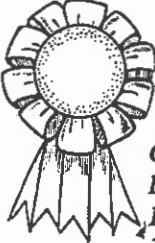
experienced cohorts, I applied what I learned to the situation and loved my job. Time moved on and so did I. I attended Lakehead University and graduated with my Library Technology diploma and a new set of skills. These basic skills were taken into the workplace and again added to. I work for the public board (and we don't admit religion here) but I give thanks to whomever for placing me in a job that is perfect for my "green" personality.

There are four different "Library Technician" job descriptions used by The Lakehead Board of Education for the thirteen techs working there.

All four job descriptions begin with the definition "The Library Technician is a graduate in Library Technology from an accredited post secondary institution whose program is recognized by the Canadian Library Association. The Library Technician must demonstrate well developed human relations skills as well as effective organization, planning and collaboration skills in order to function effectively in an educational environment with student and staff." (The three different positions at the Board Office change the last four words to "staff members of The Lakehead Board of Education".)

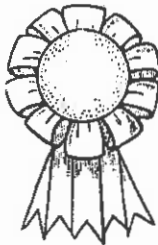
The High School Library Technician's description then proceeds to give the role of a library technician again emphasizing the fact they have acquired a specialized knowledge of both manual and automated library systems, and methods in developing, organizing and maintaining a collection of library material, records and files. The Library Technician assists the Teacher-Librarian in her/his role as a resource manager and curriculum developer to students, teachers and school administration in the use of library resources and/or research.

Their job description is then broken into three sections listing the wide range of duties; public service, technical, and administrative. This last paragraph actually takes two pages to elaborate on these duties.



Congratulation to Margaret MacLean, Chair of the Department of Library Studies, Lakehead University, whose application for tenure was approved December 1, 1993. She will officially be awarded tenure, July 1, 1994.

Well done Margaret!!!!



Since there are so many student members I tried to think of a topic for the newsletter that might be beneficial to them - hence job descriptions. When I first went to teacher's college, the teachers tried to give me a general idea on how to teach and why. Then I was in the real world (a classroom with a curriculum binder) and with the assistance and guidance of more

Preesenting...

Now at the Board Office there are three library technicians performing three specialized jobs. The LIMMS Technician is a newly created position that has the responsibility of being central cataloguer, authority control, assistant to computer programmers designing LIMMS, and new to the system teacher-librarian trainer. This tech is responsible for computerized ordering and loading of MARC data from external sources in VAX tape and floppy disk formats. She then check the external data for integrity and makes it available for the schools use. This technician also has an intricate knowledge of the LIMMS system to aid in the Board's sale of the software package to prospective buyers.

The library technician who is Head of Circulation supervises a staff of three while they circulate a multimillion dollar collection of films, kits, videotapes, and audio visual equipment. This tech supervises overdue problems and daily practices her public relations skills. This technician also transfers TVO programs from three quarter inch masters to a half inch format that circulates and then catalogues each program for the Media Centre catalogue. This technician also has the headache of being responsible for the distribution and organization of all Resource Documents. This tech remembers everything that has occurred in her department for the last six years and so contributes to departmental policy.

The final technician position is the Acquisitions Library Technician. This technician catalogues all the films, no-rights (non TVO) videos, kits, and reproducible that are housed in the IMC. This technician is responsible for the production and purity of the Media Catalogue and the production of three hundred plus specialized bibliographies requested by teachers each year. This tech is also responsible for acting as Acquisition Librarian during librarian's absence therefor must keep abreast of decisions in that area.

FIRESIDE CHIT CHAT with MURIEL DAVIDSON



It has been a very difficult to chit or chat with anyone this month! I have phoned many evenings to many members and received no answers. I think everyone is in a state of hibernation or has migrated.

However, I am able to tell you that the most exciting occurrence at the Public Libraries is the fact that the Acquisitions are now On-Line - which means if you are enquiring about a book via your own personal computer you can find out if it has been ordered, if it is not already on the shelf.

There seem to be a lack of movement in the job lines and everyone is holding on to whatever part-time hours they can manage.

Siam Brockhouse, who graduated as a Library Technician in 1988 and then went on to become a teacher, has returned to Canada to find that work is no easier to find here than in England. She has applied all across Canada - right up to the Yukon and the Northwest Territories (she did not mention Nunavut - but then that was born in her absence) without success and is even contemplating going to sea! (Oh, her poor tummy!!)

The other Library Technician ('89 graduate) who went on to teaching has been more fortunate. Kelly Norman returned to her home town of Dryden and was able to find "supply" work for a year. Last summer she returned to LU to do the Teacher Librarian I course. This year she is very happy to be working quite busily and been able to move into "a place of my own". To add to her joy of life, she has acquired a "goofy" puppy named Clovis. She, too, would like to move westwards when opportunities improve.

On the sick list this month, we were sorry to hear that Christel Klein injured her back at work in December. She has been able to continue working, but as there has been no improvement, she has had to have more investigations done and is

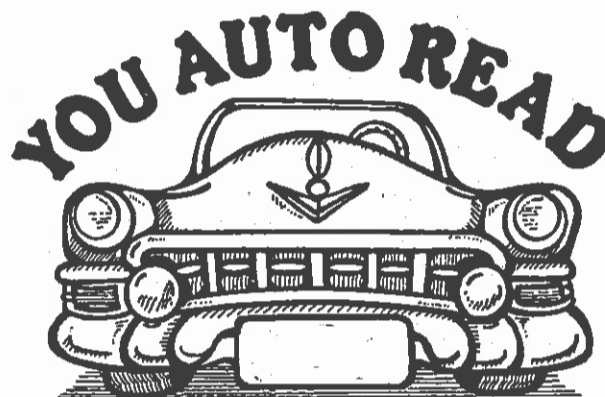
awaiting the results. Hope they don't find anything too drastic, Christel.

Mary McKinstry, who had a skiing accident last March break, finally had surgery in December, which consisted of bone and tendon grafting. She is now having therapy and we hope that this time the therapy will prove successful for her.

We wish these two ladies and anyone else "under the weather" speedy recovery.

We do have a happy piece of news to close with. A Library Stork Delivery! On October 20th a 6lb 14oz son was delivered to Donna Brown. Husband John and elder son Trevor, now 3½ years old, were thrilled with the new addition. Rory Thomas is a happy baby and likes to "listen-in" when Trevor has his special time with mummy at bedtime. Donna will be returning to work at Ontario Library Service - North (OLS-North) at the end of September. In the meantime, Debbie Rubert, who usually is AV technician there, is standing in for Donna. The work there has been redistributed among other staff to help with the "Social Contract" effort.

Undoubtedly the Groundhog will warn us of another six weeks of winter, so keep your 'longjohns' and scarves on and phone me when life begins to stir around your burrows.



This newsletter is a little late but... I now realize how I survived Saskatchewan's winters for a quarter of a century! I used to hibernate and read. During this cold spell I did the same. I went to work, came home, ate, did dishes, and then read. Much to my two university-aged daughters disgust the books were not even of scholarly value. I have read all Grishams, Clancy, Cornwell, Archer's latest, Follett's latest and the list goes on. "K" was at least satisfied when I read "The Robber Bride". Oh, the book "Indecent Proposal" was really quite good! Both husband and wife had been married before, husband was a Jew while the one night stand was a sheik and both the same age. (I was not favourably impressed with the movie.) Anyway, you will receive your final newsletter from me in the middle of April.