

TECH TALK

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President's Message!

Our busy schedule of workshops and meetings has begun!!

The fall **General Meeting** at the **Art Gallery** was well attended and everyone enjoyed the comprehensive tour of native art.

For those who recently attended the **Financial Planning** workshop, certainly received lots of information and ideas. By the year 2000, we should *all be retired* and on a beach in the sunny south.

The November presentation on **Stress Management**, will be held in the Faculty Lounge at Lakehead University on Tuesday, November 12th at 7:30 p.m. Terry Bodnar from St. Joseph's Hospital is the guest speaker.

Our annual **Jingle Mingle** will take place on Thursday December 5th at the home of Valerie Welsch (260 Piccadilly Ave.) There will be a short *general meeting* followed by a *festive social*. Hope to see you there!

Jill Otto has resigned from her position on the OALT/ABO executive as Regional Director due to other commitments. We thank Jill for her **THANKS!** hard work and dedication to the organization over the years and wish her well.



A big thank you goes out to **Cathy Walsh** who graciously accepted the appointment of Regional Director for the remainder of Jill's term.

The executive looks forward to meeting everyone at the up and coming workshops. Please plan to attend!

Carol Young



Provincial Report



REPORT OF THE PROVINCIAL BOARD MEETING--SEPTEMBER

The first meeting of the 1996-97 year for OALT/ABO Board of Directors was held in Toronto on Saturday, September 21, 1996 at the law offices of **Weir & Foulds** (courtesy of Teresa Kennedy, OALT/ABO provincial v.p.)

SALARY SURVEY:

A salary survey will be included in the next newsletter.

INTERNET HOME PAGE:

OALT/ABO is in the process of developing an Internet home page. A lot of work has gone into it and the result looks great so far. There is a *task force* headed by Angela Carito-Walmsley and Donna Ladouceur and they are looking for input from everyone! Currently, they are approaching Internet providers for information on pricing, loading, and monitoring, etc.

Our regional representative is Jill Otto and any feedback can be sent to her. I know a few of our members are taking Internet courses and they might like to look over the home page and give Jill some feedback.

At one time it was suggested that our home page could be mounted on Sheridan College's site but this proved unfeasible and it was thought that there would be a lack of control and quality with such an arrangement. Each region will be responsible for updating their information and keeping the pages relevant. Once this is up and running we might want to let certain organizations know such as LU so that they can link to our page.

There was some discussion about the *newsletter* being on the *Internet* only, but this did not seem like a good idea since so many members do not have the Internet.

FEE STRUCTURE:

There was a lot of discussion about **finances**. Some of the ideas that were thrown around involved restructuring the division of fee revenues. For example, provincial presently gets \$40.00 for every graduate member. So if our region charges graduates \$60.00 we get \$20.00. Some of the ideas involved % and #'s in the region etc. I need feedback from the membership before the next provincial board meeting in November. My own inclination is to drop the amount provincial gets to \$30.00 for a couple of years and reassess the finances then. Provincial as well as most regions, are in very good financial shape and it is not the point of the *organization* to hold large bank balances.

BRAINSTORMING:

The *Brainstorming Session* that was planned for September 21st-22nd did not go because of lack of response. It seems that few people were willing to travel to Barrie and there wasn't enough notice. It was suggested that TALTA hold a brainstorming session at the conference in May and/or each region have a session and then send those ideas to a provincial board meeting or to the conference. We did come up with a few questions to discuss:

- *Do we need an annual conference?*
- *Where is the organization going? Should it change focus?*
- *Should technicians be accredited and if so how?*
- *Should conference fees be divided differently? Should Provincial contribute the conference?*

CONFERENCE:

The conference will be held May 9th-11th, 1997 at the *University of Toronto*. They have some programming done and are working with the idea of dividing up the workshops into interest groups, ie. education, public, special, etc.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Susan Bourdeau from Ottawa, an ex officio board member, will head up the nominating committee and will need a member from each region.

CONSTITUTION:

The *new* constitution is done and copies have been sent to regional presidents. Each member will receive a copy with the directory.

NEXT MEETING:

Saturday, November 16, 1996 in Toronto

*Submitted by Cathy Walsh
Regional Director*

ANNOUNCING

A very special **welcome back** goes out to *Cathy Walsh* who has re-joined the executive team for duration of this term. She is by no means a stranger to our association! Cathy graduated from the Library Technology program at LU in 1985 and has been a member of OALT/ABO since then. It is also worth noting that Cathy has held various positions on our executive in previous years. These being past...Regional Director, Treasurer and Public Relations Coordinator.

- the OALT/ABO issues of our region were discussed in detail...
- we mingled with friends and colleagues
- an enlightening tour by Heidi Jeske took place..
- Johanna Partnoy was our door prize winner... Congratulations!
- your first OALT/ABO cake was shared by all at refreshment time! This tasty treat was provided by our Public Relations Coordinator, Kathy Crewdson.

The **Financial Planning** workshop was also attended by a fair number of our membership. Mark Colosimo (from Colosimo Financial Services) did his utmost to get us on the straight and narrow in planning for our present financial needs as well as those in our future... be it in life insurance policies... GICs, mutual funds, bonds... stocks, etc. He emphasized that everyone's needs are different.



FROM THE HALLS OF LEARNING

The following courses are being offered second semester:

LIS 3030 Information Access &
Retrieval (Mon. 6:00-9:00 pm)

BUS 1511 Basics of Management
(Tues. 7:00-10:00 pm)

Rumour has it that the second year students from the Library & Information Students Department at LU are in the process of planning their field trip to Ottawa. They will be off to our nation's capital between February 13th-16th, 1997. Wishing you could go too?? Well ... guess what ... *you can!* But you have to *act*

now! Don't delay ... call Margot Ponder at 343-8420 (work) or at 767-6835 (home) for more details.

I'm happy to report that I did my seminar on "*The Library Technician...*" in Current Issues class today!

Special thanks to Valerie, Carolyn, Tara, Kathy, Karen, Mary-Lou, and LaRea. Their comments and insights on being a library technician gave me a good foundation for my presentation. I hope I absorbed some of their professionalism and positive outlook.

Time is moving quickly and the first half of the semester is over. I've discovered that the difference between a library technician and a library technician student is that a library tech student is learning and a library technician is still learning.

Submitted by Marsha Porter

"LIFE,
LIBRARY,
AND THE PURSUIT OF
HAPPINESS."



What is a Library ...

"The Medicine Chest of the Soul"

...Inscription over the door of the Library of Thebes

"Libraries are as the shrines where all the relics of the ancient saints, full of true virtue, and that without delusion or imposture, are preserved and reposed.

...Francis Bacon (1561-1626)

"A library is not a luxury...but one of the necessities of life."

...Henry Ward Beecher

"Libraries are the wardrobes of literature, whence men, properly informed may bring forth something for ornament, much for curiosity, and more for use."

...William Dyer (1636-1696)

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF ... LINDA BUKOVY

I'm Linda Bukovy and I graduated in 1988 from Lakehead University's Library Technology program and have been a member of OALT/ABO since then. I am currently a *supply library technician* for the Lakehead Board of Education's secondary schools. Since 1988, I have worked at Sir Winston Churchill C.V.I., Port Arthur Collegiate Institute, Westgate, Hammarskjold and Hillcrest. Although my day-to-day duties vary widely from school to school, I will try to give you a synopsis of a usual day.

It's 7:30 a.m. and the phone rings; I answer it to find out that I am needed to work at a school library and am I available? After responding that I am, I tell them that I will be in as soon as possible, and leap out of bed, getting underway.

When I arrive at the school, I report to the head secretary to tell her who I am and whom I am replacing, and also pick up the master key to the library if I have arrived before the Teacher-Librarian. I turn on the lights and my day at work begins.

One thing that I found out is that not to assume that all libraries are run the same. Currently, three of the above mentioned libraries are up and running on LIMMS (Lakehead Instructional Materials Management System), a computerized circulation and information database library system and this is accessed through two programs; one for students for inquiry on library materials, cataloguing, patron inquiry, etc. These two access points have their own passwords and they are changed often for security reasons; this means that I have to ask the Teacher-Librarian for the passwords and I have to be aware of when students look perplexed at the screen ... this often means that they've logged themselves out!

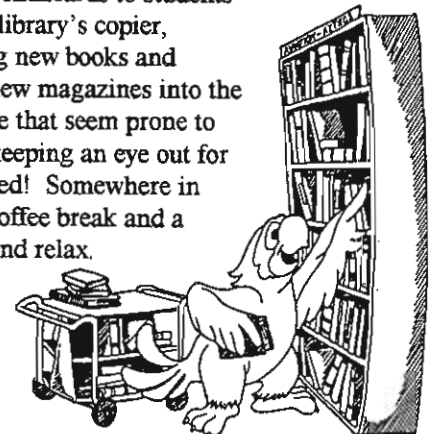
Before classes begin, I boot up the computers (both students' and staff's) and acquaint myself with the circulation system (for those libraries that are not on LIMMS) and the school's policy (some school libraries let their reference materials go out on an overnight loan; some do not...same with magazines and vertical file

materials). A quick look through the work area is always helpful...the location of audio-visual materials (cassette players, video cameras) along with projector and overhead bulbs is always useful to know., especially when a teacher comes down with blown bulb in hand and needs to get back to the classroom a.s.a.p. I also check if there are any scheduled classes and if materials need to be pulled for them.

Within minutes of the library doors opening, students start coming in. Some head immediately to the reading area where the current magazines are located; others head over to the tables to do homework, and some aimlessly wander through the stacks, hoping that a book will just fall off the shelves into their hands and be the one that they really, really need for their assignment. I assist these people and check if they had either used subject catalogue or LIMMS to find their information. Sometimes they may have checked...but they are not always sure how to find a book on the shelf. So a quick lesson in reading a Dewey number is done.

A few minutes to 9:00 a.m. and the announcement to stand for the Canadian National Anthem comes on. I do a quick visual check to see if everyone is standing (yep), then wait for the anthem and morning announcements to end ... and then, ... **school begins!!!**

During the morning, I am busy doing circulation duties, helping students find information on the electronic encyclopedias, pulling back issues of magazines requested by student, helping students at the card catalogue or LIMMS computers, assisting the Teacher-Librarian in the preparation of library assignments and then photocopying the above (you get to know the operation of almost every type of photocopier under the sun ... and how to clear up paper jams), selling photocopy vendacards to students and helping them use the library's copier, shelving books, processing new books and incoming mail, entering new magazines into the Cardex and stripping those that seem prone to "walking"; all the while keeping an eye out for anyone who looks perplexed! Somewhere in here there's a 15 minute coffee break and a chance to put my feet up and relax.



BOOK TALK

As I was passing the New Book section of the Waverley Branch of the Thunder Bay Public Library, I noticed an interesting book entitled: "**Jobs For English Majors and Other Smart People**" by John L. Munschauer. (Peterson's Guides, 1991. 3rd ed.)

Now not all Library Technicians have their English Bachelor of Arts majors, but they are "*smart*" people in my view, so I picked the book up.

Written in everyday language, the book is organized by steps to take in pursuit of a job and/or career. At the end of each chapter are one page positive narratives, using the techniques and principles discussed previously. Although the book is American based, it has universal applications. Mr. Munschauer advises the individual to write a short autobiography to ready oneself for intensive interviews. Then he prepares you for the various types of employers and the job hunting process.

What I liked best were the chapters on "**Uncovering a Job: Marketing Yourself**" and "**Writing Resumes and Letters in the Language of Employers**". These two chapters make you consider *all* the possibilities. The resume chapter gives specifics on how to make personal data most effective.

If you get a chance, pick up this book!

It's extremely useful in this time of changing job markets, cut backs, and makes you think of the possibilities in the future ... and not despair in the past.

*Submitted by Penny Bower
Library Technician
Hammar skjold High School*

FROM THE GRAPEVINE



Tara Wyght is currently employed at City Hall as a Records and By-law Clerk. She will remain in this position until December 31st. Tara also works at the Faculty of Education Library three evenings a week. Good luck in your new job!

Our grapevine has not been very fruitful these days due to frostbite along with other winter like conditions. We are hoping that its condition will improve for our publication.



We would like to say a special thank you to those who contributed to our recent newsletter... Linda Bukovy...Marsha Porter and Penny Bower.

Read any good books lately and are dying to submit a review?? **Well now's your chance to get published and become immortalized!!** Yes in Tech Talk of all places!! Interested parties should contact their editors immediately!!

Remember...we are always on the look out for note worthy news on members and former grads! Drop us a line anytime!!

SEASON'S GREETINGS ... from your Executive

