

TECH TALK

Volume 25, No. 2 September 1997



President's Message!

Now that the lazy days of summer have passed ... we are all busy scurrying about our libraries with only thoughts of afternoons on the beach and evenings by the campfire.

I visited the first year class at the Department of Library and Information Studies at Lakehead University on September 8, 1997. It was an exciting time for all of us and I received many questions about the new positions in the elementary libraries at the Lakehead Board of Education. Although my head was spinning from my first two weeks at one of these new positions, I was able to answer most of the questions and it was wonderful to see so much interest in our organization and this new opportunity for Library Technicians in our community.

Your professional organization, OALT/ABO, has some great workshops planned for this new season. A presentations workshop will be held in October and a tour of the Thunder Bay Museum is planned for late November. December will bring our annual Jingle Mingle and in the new year we will present workshops on the Internet and writing resumes. It is always great to come out to a meeting just to chat with old friends and meet new ones. We'd love to see all of you attend as many events as you can.

Memberships are due soon as possible and forms are available from any of the Executive. We hope to see you at the next meeting ... until then ... keep smiling!!

Provincial Report



Valerie Barten, our new Regional Director, will be attending her first provincial meeting on September 20th in Toronto. She will report back to the membership at a later date.

Treasurer's Report

Statement of income as of Aug 31, 1997

Revenue:	
Memberships	\$ 480.00
Dinner Meeting Tickets	\$ 640.00
Total:	\$1140.00

Expenses:	
Provincial Reconciliation	\$107.79
Provincial Travel	\$ 41.96
Public Relations	\$706.64
Dinner Meeting	\$ 32.66
Office & Postage	\$ 28.05
Tech Talk	\$1287.10
Total:	\$1287.10

Surplus as of August 31, 1997	\$1128.19
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Assets:	
Cash in Bank	\$ 1128.19
G.I.C.	\$ 4120.66
Total:	\$ 5248.85

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Ontario Association of Library Technicians/Association des Bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario
Thunder Bay Regional Branch
P.O. Box 2305
Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 5E8



JUST IN PASSING -- It's Membership Renewal Time!! So bring along your cheque book to our next event or in the meantime ...perhaps grab one of executive members ... they will be more than happy to assist you. Please remember!! The DEADLINE is October 31st.

Introducing Your 1997/98 Executive Team ...

PRESIDENT - Carol Young
H: 475-9635
W: 623-6225 and 475-5412

Carol is continuing her career with the Lakehead Board as an Information Services Technician. She works at Isabella and Heath Park schools. Ask her about flood waters that invaded her library this past month.

SECRETARY - Margot Ponder
H: 767-6835
W: 343-8420

Margot seems to wear several different hats these days. Not only has she taken on a new role as an IST (McKenzie and Vance Chapman schools), she works Sundays at the Thunder Bay Public Library, but will also be teaching Adult and Technical Services for the Library & Information Studies Department.

TREASURER - Georgina Harron
H: 623-5112

Georgina is our newest executive member who is presently working toward her B.A. She is also involved in her family business at Supreme Auto Body keeping their books and accounts in order. In her spare time she thoroughly enjoys her role as a grandmother.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR - Kathy Crewdson
H: 345-6414

Kathy performs a dual role at LU. During the morning hours, she works in Bibliographic Processing as an Acquisitions Technician, while in the afternoon she is the "Library Technician" at the Northern Studies Resource Centre. Kathy occasionally free lances at the law firm of Murray Courtis & Johns.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR - Valerie Barten
H: 475-3668
W: 473-9252 and 935-2692

Valerie is also an Information Services Technician who must travel to three schools to perform her duties. These being Fourway, Kakabeka Falls and Crestview. She is enrolled in the Internet course at LU for the fall term.

ARCHIVIST - Helen Heerema
H: 767-4987

Helen has been employed by the Challis Resource Centre at Confederation College for the past 18 years. She is definitely no stranger to our organization as she has filled numerous executive positions over the years. These being, President, Regional Director, Newsletter Editor and Co-convenor of several conferences.

NEWSLETTER EDITORS - Tara Wyght
H: 473-9133

Tara is employed at the Faculty of Education Library, and is presently taking courses at LU working towards her MLS. In her spare time she works as a youth co-ordinator for her church group.

Karen Cocks
H: 475-0248
W: 577-6448 and 623-2289

Karen is one of several technicians who has taken on the new role of IST's with the Lakehead Board. She is at Agnew H. Johnston and McKellar Park Schools. She loathes cardboard boxes after unpacking two libraries and her house during the past month.





From the Halls of Learning

Looks like another school year is well on the way. OALT/ABO would like to take this opportunity to welcome new and returning students to our organization. We urge you to get involved and come out and make a difference in your local chapter.

Library & Information Studies has the following night courses in their **FALL** line up:

Monday evening from 6-9pm
RESEARCH ON THE INTERNET - LIS 2051

Tuesday evening from 6:30-9:30pm
INFO ACCESS & RETRIEVAL - LIS 3030

Wednesday evening from 6-9pm
CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULTS'
SERVICES - LIS 2110

Thursday evening 6:30-9:30pm
CHILDREN'S LITERATURE - ENGLISH 2907

These are the following **WINTER** courses:

Monday evening 7-10pm
BUSINESS - 1511

Tuesday evening 7-10pm
ADULT & TECHNICAL SERVICES - LIS
2070

Wednesday evening 6-9pm
ARCHIVES MANAGEMENT - LIS 3050

Library & Information Studies has a new face this fall ... **Marsha Porter** is their new **Library Technician/Secretary** who graduated from the program last May.

Margaret MacLean is back after her sabbatical

and as was mentioned in our last newsletter, she has agreed to share her adventures with us. So sit back and relax as she takes you along on her.....

TRIP TO GREECE AND EGYPT

One automatically envisions the Acropolis and the pyramids of Giza. Yes, these are incredible, historic landmarks, but there is so much more—the museums, the temples, the mosques, the alexandrian library! This trip was so awe-inspiring you will want to pack your bags and leave immediately. But wait. Don't go until July 1998 when the new Alexandrian library, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, will open it's doors.

Getting there, as with all international travel, is the hardest. The long waits at airports and the time changes all take their toll! We departed Thunder Bay on Thursday, April 17 with stops in Toronto and London's Heathrow, and arrives in Athens, Greece at 6 am. On Saturday, April 19. (Six in the morning and no drachmas—191 dr+\$1 Can.)! After a quick stop at customs, the baggage claim, the money changer, and the taxi stand, we arrived at the Plaka Hotel in downtown Athens. Although Athens is a huge, sprawling city, nearly everything of interest was within walking distance from the Plaka district (the old Turkish quarter of Athens). Since the Acropolis and Lykavittos Hill are always in view, it is virtually impossible to get lost. We checked out:

- the Hotel Grande Bretagne built in 1862 and Nazi headquarters during WWII and where in 1944 there was an attempt to blow up Sir Winston Churchill.
- the old royal palace built in 1836-42 and since 1935, the seat of the Greek parliament
- the Acropolis, the zenith of classical Greek achievement, is the most important ancient monument in the western world. Crowned by the by the Parthenon, it has stood sentinel over Athens for thousands of years. The site boast many wonders: the Beule Gate, the Propylaia, panathenaic Way, the Temple of Athena Nike, the Erechtheion with its much photographed Caryatids the theatre of Dionysius, the Ancient Agora, Hadrian's Library, the Arch of Hadrian, the Roman Stadium, and many others. One



remembers the Ionic Columns, statues, friezes and art work as well as the Doric temple built of Pentelic marble, all epitomizing the glory of ancient Greece.

We took a day cruise of three Saronic Gulf islands: Aegian, Proos and Hydra. All had their individual charm, but Hydra town with its white and pastel mansions stacked up the rocky hillside that surrounds the natural harbour, was the one with the most style. An artists' colony and retreat of intellectuals, it was a joy to walk through the narrow, stepped streets discovering the many cafes and shops of local artisans.

Our five day visit was suddenly over and we boarded our flight to Cairo, Egypt, to join our Trafalgar "Highlights of Egypt" tour. The currency required was not Egyptian pounds (3LE=\$1 U.S). After haggling over cab fare 75OLE (others we learned later paid anywhere from 60-75LE), the luggage was strapped on the roof and we held onto each other for over an hour as our driver took off like the banshees of hell were after him. Not once did he slow down or stop at a red light. Drivers in Egypt hold the horn down and expect everyone else to get out of the way! Cars, taxis, trucks and donkey carts all vie for the right of way. We arrived at the Oasis Hotel amazed that we still had life and limb. Arriving early, we had a day on our own before we flew to Luxor to view the temple of Luxor and Karnak and the amazing two-mile long Avenue of the Sphinxes which once connected the two. Obelisks, pylons, the colossal granite statues, the carved hieroglyphics are all awe-inspiring. It was stated by our guide, Mahmoud, that Luxor contained the crowning achievement of Egyptian architecture built for the sun god Amun-Ra, and that Karnak was the most magnificent temple. It seemed that we were given the highlights by our guide and off we went to explore, take pictures, and try to get a feel for the ancient time. The largest pylon in Egypt, 370 feet wide and 141 feet high, is in the Temple of Karnak. Ramses II dominates both Pharonic temples. One is overwhelmed by the sheer size of everything, and one wonders how they carved such colossal statues and monuments. The following day our highlight was a visit to the valley of the Kings where the New Kingdom pharaohs were buried in tombs built into the Theban hills. Here is where Howard Carter in 1922, discovered the tomb of

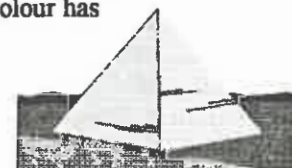
Tutankhamen. We visited the Temple of Medinet Habou, the Valley of Queens, and the Colossi of Memnon (18 meters high and weighting 1300 tons). Next was the breathtaking Deir el-Bahri, Queen Hatshepsut's impressive terraced and colonnaded temple. It is interesting to note that Queen Hatshepsut's tomb is not among the 80 tombs in the Valley of the Queens but among the 62 tombs in the Valley of the Kings.

Leaving Luxor, we began our four day Nile cruise to Esna, Edfu, Kom Ombo, and Aswan. Edfu Temple is Egypt's best-preserved and second largest cult temple, which was dedicated to the falcon god Horus. Two falcons in black granite grace each side of the entrance. Kom Ombo Temple stands on a promontory beside the Nile. The most interesting of the relief's showed the medical instruments used 2,000 years ago. In Aswan we sailed on a felucca to visit the Botanical Gardens on Kitchener's Island and the Aga Khan's Mausoleum. The last night of the cruise everyone dressed up for the Galabia party where we were entertained by a belly dancer and Turkish dervish.

In the morning we explored the High Dam, the Temple of Isis on the Island of Philae, and the massive Unfinished Obelisk, lying in the granite quarries nearby. After, there was a once in a lifetime opportunity to take an optional excursion (\$250 U.S.) to the magnificent Sun Temple of Abu Simbel, flanked by four giant stone statues of Ramses II. Both Philae and Abu Simbel were temples reclaimed from the dam and reconstructed in their present locations.

Aswan, 866 kilometres from Cairo, is where the Valley of the Nile and Egypt ends and Nubia begins. Here, the many feluccas can be seen gliding over the water, dotting the river with their enormous white sails. The ancient quarries which furnished Egypt with granite can be seen behind modern Aswan. The Unfinished Obelisk would have been 142 meters high and over 1300 tons in weight, but it was abandoned after a flaw was discovered and was never detached from the rock. Carved by hand, it was meant to be placed in front of a temple in Karnak.

The temple of Philae--pearl of Egypt--is truly a masterpiece of grace and enchantment, despite the fact that all the original colour has



disappeared. Philae, 400 meters long and 135 meters wide, was dedicated to Isis, bride of Osiris. One relief among those deeply etched into the granite demonstrates the Egyptian concept of the source of the Nile. Built over more than 700 years, the architecture and design are a perfect synthesis of the Egyptian, Greek and Roman Civilizations.

Abu Simbel lies 175 miles from Aswan. It was truly breathtaking to gaze upon this majestic sight from the air. This excursion was undoubtedly the highlight of the tour. The Temple of Ramses II honours the greatest pharaoh in Egyptian history. Two pairs of seated colossi of Ramses are 68 feet high and hewn into the cliff. The decorations on the walls celebrate the military glory of Ramses II. Statues of Nefertari and Ramses, their children standing between them. Inside, the colours of the figures are still visible. Never in Pharonic Egypt had the consort of a sovereign been represented at a temple entrance.

Our first day back in Cairo was to be a full day of sightseeing. This was to be the only day arms and legs would have to be covered. Our first stop was the Citadel of Salah al-Din, a spectacular fortified complex dominating Cairo's skyline. Then we visited the Sultan Hassan Mosque and Mohammed Ali's Alabaster Mosque with its highly decorated and ornate interior. In Old Cairo we visited the hanging Church of St. Mary above the old Water Gate. Our last stop discovered by Howard Carter in the Valley of the Kings in 1922. Having seen the King Tut exhibit when it was in Toronto at the Art Gallery of Ontario in the 1970's, I was really disappointed with the display at the Egyptian Museum. Actually I wasn't all that impressed with the Museum, its gift stores, or its cafeteria. Perhaps I am too accustomed to the North American, British, and French Museums which obviously know how to display artifacts and artworks and how to entice visitors to purchase souvenirs.

Finally, the day of the Pyramid excursion! First, off to Memphis to see the limestone Colossus of Ramses II (carved from a single block 4.5m high

and 8m long) and the giant Alabaster Sphinx. Then on to Saqqara where the Step Pyramid heralded the start of the pyramid age. Then the truly breathtaking experience that made our spines tingle, as we marvelled at one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the Great Pyramids of Giza, and the Sphinx, which casts its enigmatic gaze across the timeless sands of the desert. Here we had the obligatory picture on a camel and we slowly climbed to the burial chamber in the Pyramid of Khafre. Although not allowed near it, we saw the entrance to KV5 the supposed burial place of the sons of Ramses II, at the bottom of the Valley of Kings. All were experiences we will long remember.

Our final day in Cairo, we visited a papyrus museum, a perfumiere, and carpet school where children spend half their day darting tiny fingers into silken threads weaving the most elaborately designed silk rugs. Our Egyptian tour had come to an end. The next day we left the group for a four-day side trip to Alexandria, Egypt. We decided to take the train to Alexandria and return by bus, thus viewing two different landscapes. The main reason for this visit was to see the site of the New Alexandria Library (GOAL), picked us up at the Renaissance Hotel, gave us a grand tour of the city, and took us to the site of the Library.

In development since 1991, Dr Zahran outlined the implementation schedule of negotiations, collection development, human resources recruitment, etc. The Bibliotheca Alexandrina lies alongside the University of Alexandria Faculty of Arts complex, in Shaty, and overlooks the Mediterranean Sea. It is almost the same site of the ancient library-museum complex then known as the Brocheum. Built in the 4th Century B.C. it became the world's first University and it made it possible for Alexandria to be the world's intellectual and commercial capital and metropolis. The great library, which had a catalogue of over 700,000 manuscripts and enjoyed "legal deposit rights" of today's national libraries, was destroyed by fire 1600 years ago.

In 1993, the Snohetta/Hamza Consortium began

the design of the building--a simple circle inclined towards the sea, partly submerged in a pool of water. The inclined roof allows indirect daylight and a clear view of the sea. Designed as an arrow, an elevated passageway links the University of Alexandria to the Corniche. The building will be surrounded by a wall clad with Aswan granite engraved with calligraphic letters and representative inscriptions from the world's civilizations. A planetarium and a conference centre with 3200 seat capacity and five translation booths completes the picture. The logo comprises these elements: the rising sun, the sea, and the Pharos Lighthouse.

The project was into its second and final phase of construction when we arrived. For 24 hours a day, three shifts of workers will be at the construction site until June 1998, with the official inauguration of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina on July 26, 1998. During our four day visit we met the architect and various personal associated with the project. Phase I saw the completion of the foundations and the diaphragm wall--1.2 meters thick and 40 meters below sea level. My husband, Don, truly enjoyed this library tour. He was shown the blueprints for all phases of construction and the conversation turned zero tolerance, HDPE, vortex, reinforced concrete, water pumps, and dewatering wells, polyethylene, etc. They were soul mates when I wanted to discuss manuscripts, serials, staff, databases, the International School of Information Science (ISIS). A 20 minute video showed the progress since construction began in May 1995. The cost of this international project is approximately five and a half hundred million dollars. I was disappointed to hear that Canada is one of the few countries that has not contributed to this international undertaking. Our four days over, we travelled back to Cairo to fly to Athens and then London, England. Here we were to spend five days visiting our favourite haunts and then back to Thunder Bay.

Those wishing to correspond or make contributions to the Alexandrian Library can contact: Dr. Mohsen Zahran, Director
General Organization of the

Alexandrian Library (GOAL)
116 & 163 El Horreya Ave, Shatby
Alexandria, Egypt

Many sites are available on the Internet.

"CURIOSITIES ET MERVEILLES"

Super sleuths Linda Bukovy and Penny Bower have infiltrated the training workshops for the new Lakehead Board Information Services Technicians that were hired to operate the elementary school libraries and the elementary in-school computer services. (We should add, that both of us will be going into elementary schools also; so much for sneaking around corners and eavesdropping around doorways!!)

We cornered the new Library Techs and posed this question to them: "How do you feel about this new job?" Here's what they said:

Bev: Finally off the supply list!

Caron: Excited, looking forward to it.

Debbie: Excited, looking forward to seeing my new library and finding similarities to the Lake Superior Board.

Gwen: Exciting and challenging, but I'm lucky because I'm stepping into some else's (specific) job.

Heather: Wait 'til January, then ask. I'll forget half of this by January.

Janice: (Speechless)

Josie: Too bad it's not full time for me! But close to my permanent dream.

Kelly: Lucky, really fortunate, overwhelming.

Margot: It'll be a learning experience (Sigh!)

Mary: Apprehensive but looking forward to it.

Ruth: It'll be a challenge because I'll be working at three schools.

Terri: The L.I.S.T. (Lakehead Information Services Technicians) will increase liaising between the Board and the schools in relation to the I.M.C. (Instructional Media Centre).

Johanna: A great boost for our profession and a great group to network with the schools

Valerie: It will be challenging and exciting.

Viviana: Really excited about it and eager to get started.

Linda: Excited and trepidation!

Penny: A new adventure, like cataloguing that book with the cover that gives no indication of the contents.

And as we left,

Jason: Was still thinking of something to say.

... and the consensus is that we are all still very excited after two weeks of training.

FROM THE GRAPEVINE

Anita Smith is now working in Armstrong for the Northern District Schools. Our hats are off to you Anita.

Trudy Mauracher, (a former graduate) received her MLS this past August. Needless to say congratulations are in order! Talk about stamina. Apparently she commuted from Orillia to London to accomplish this feat. She has also moved from Port Carling to BraceBridge and is now on her way to Sault Ste. Marie where her husband has been transferred.

Carol Aitken is now the Acting Chief Librarian for Thunder Bay Public. Good luck in your new posting!

Congratulations to all who are now working for *the Lakehead Board of Education as Information Services Technicians*. Valerie Barten, Penny Bower, Linda Bukovy, Karen Cocks, Jason Ducharme, Darlene Hacey-Bilmer, Helen Hakala, Kelly Maheu, Margot Ponder, Mary Mckinstry, Heather Miller, Josie Fiorenz, Ruth Murdoch, Janice Mutz, Caron Naysmith, Beverly Proctor, Carol Young.

Internet Sites

Sink or Swim: Internet Search Tools & Techniques
<http://www.sci.ouc.bc.ca/libr/connect96/search.htm>

Internet Search Engines, tools and Metasearch Engines
<http://www.capecod.net/schrockguide/yp/ipysearch.htm>

Library Job Postings
<http://http2.sils.umich.edu/~nesbeitt/Canada.html>



EDITORS CORNER



PLEASE SUBMITT any interesting, engaging, engrossing, fascinating, informative, enlightening, captivating, absorbing, arresting, and riveting articles or tidbits of information to your newsletter editors for future publications of **Tech Talk**. (P.S. Aren't thesaurus' wonderful?)

We would like to thank Margaret MacLean, Linda Bukoy and Penny Bower for their current submissions. Without your generous contributions there would be no Tech Talk.