

TECH TALK



Volume 26, No 2. September 1998

President's Message!

Fall has arrived and time to prepare for a busy year of workshops and general meetings. Although fall is my favourite time of the year with its brilliant colours, I will miss those hot days of the past summer at our cottage running from the sauna into the lake! (With a bathing suit on, of course!)

A general meeting was held at Lakehead University followed by a tour of the newly renovated Chancellor Paterson Library. The meeting was well attended and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the library tour by Gisella Scalese.

Tentative dates have been scheduled for the October and November workshops as well as the general meeting / Jingle Mingle in December. The October workshop will be at Chapters book store. A flyer will be sent out to all members shortly. Hope to see you there.

The executive will do their best to provide interesting workshops and presentations throughout the year and look forward to meeting OALT/ABO members.

Reminder! Membership renewals are due September 30th.

Have a great fall.

Helen Hyvarinen

Provincial Report



The OALT/ABO Board of Directors and Executive meeting was held at 10 a.m. Saturday, September 19, 1998 at the North York Civic Centre.

A major concern to OALT/ABO is the closing of Library and Information Technician programs at various colleges. Fanshaw College only has 15 students enrolled in its course. Georgian College is not accepting new students and Sheridan College will be closing its Library and Information Technicians program in 2000.

The colleges have cited declining enrollment as the major reason for this decision. Also many students are unable to find employment in the library field upon graduation and often enroll in other programs to augment their skills and knowledge. This has prompted some colleges, such as Sheridan, to develop other programs. Sheridan stated that the closure of its Library and Information Technicians program was the first step in the transformation process. In the future

Sheridan will develop new postgraduate programming that will broaden the scope of the information field.

Nanci Abbondanza, OALT/ABO President, will meet with Marion Wilburn, coordinator of Sheridan's LIT program to discuss the closure and its implications.

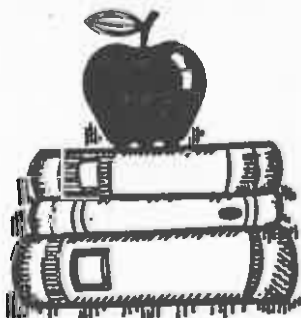
As Associations continue to experience declining memberships, some have decided to get together and discuss this extremely important issue. OLA has invited [Pg#]Nanci Abbondanza and Pam Casey, Vice President, of OALT/ABO to attend a Strategic Planning Workshop October 2-4 to give an OALT perspective on this topic.

Perspectives '99 will take place May 13-16, 1999, in Sudbury. The conference and accommodations will be at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel. Further details will follow. OALT/ABO encourages all members to try and attend. This is an excellent opportunity to meet your peers and exchange ideas and information.

Valerie Barten

1998/99 OALT/ABO Provincial Executive

President: Nanci Abbondanza (Halton-Peel)
Vice President: Pam Casey (Halton-Peel)
Secretary: Valerie Welsch (Thunder Bay)
Treasurer: Chris Carmichael (Huronian)
Public Relations: Gislaine Janveaux (Ottawa)
Ex-Officio: Penni Lee (Talca)



OALT/ABO REGIONAL EXECUTIVES

PRESIDENT	Helen Hyvarinen H: 767-3659 W: 343-4351
TREASURER	Georgina Harron H: 623-5112
SECRETARY	Kathy Walkinshaw H: 473-8074
PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR	Linda Bukovy H: 577-5430
NEWSLETTER EDITORS	Gwen Gamble H: 767-6124 W: 625-5146 Kelly Mahen H: 346-9301
REGIONAL DIRECTOR	Valerie Barten H: 344-1682 W: 473-9252 and 935-2692
ARCHIVIST	Helen Heerema H: 767-4987

Profiles for the new 1998/99 executive team...

Helen Hyvarinen - Our fearless leader has held a variety of positions on the executive including secretary, newsletter editor and regional director. She is employed at the Northwestern Regional Mental Health Library, Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital. Helen, a 1982 graduate of Lakehead University, has also worked at the Old Fort William Library from 1982-1988.

Georgina Harron - is a graduate from Lakehead University and has completed the Library and Information Studies program, as well as her Bachelor of Arts degree. Georgina keeps herself busy with her own business and being a grandmother.

Kathy Walkinshaw is married with two children, lives on a farm and enjoys family life. She has been employed by the City of Thunder Bay where she works as a Records Management Analyst in the Transportation & Works Department.

Linda Bukovy graduated from Lakehead University in 1988 with a diploma in Library Technology, and since then she has worked as a supply library technician for the Lakehead Public Schools. Linda has been a member of OALT/ABO since 1986 and has been a Tech Talk newsletter contributor over the last few years.

Gwen Gamble, a 1991 graduate of Lakehead University, is employed with the Lakehead District School Board where she works at the IMC in the Central Cataloguer position. This is her first OALT position and she wants to warn everyone that she will be looking for contributions to Tech Talk from all the members!

Kelly Maheu graduated from Lakehead University with a Library and Information Studies diploma in 1997. I worked as an Information Services Technician (IST) in two elementary schools, Hyde Park and Kingsway Park for one year. I have now returned to school full-time to complete my degree.

Valerie Barten is in her second year as Regional Director. She is also an Information Services Technician who can be found working at three rural schools, Crestview, Kakabeka and Fourway elementary schools.

Helen Heerema is employed by the Challis Resource Centre at Confederation College. She is definitely no stranger to our organization as she has filled numerous executive positions over the years



Back row: Linda Bukovy, Gwen Gamble, Kathy Walkinshaw, Georgina Harron, Helen Heerema
Front row: Valerie Barten, Helen Hyvarinen, Kelly Maheu

\$

Treasurers's Report

Statement as of August 31, 1998

Revenue:

Memberships	\$120.00
Regional Subsidy	\$200.00
Total:	\$300.00

Expenses:

Provincial Reconconciliation	\$80.00
Printing Tickets	\$131.10
Newsletter	\$78.46
Postal Box Renewal	\$123.05
Chronicle Journal (25th Anniversary)	\$71.65
Total:	\$484.26

Surplus as of August 31, 1998: \$333.03

Assets:

Cash in Bank	\$333.03
G.I.C.	\$3206.48
Total:	\$3539.51

\$

Membership Fees

Graduate	\$60.00
Student	\$15.00
Senior	\$15.00
Associate	\$40.00
Institutional	\$82.00
Unemployed	\$30.00



Renew your membership now!

Membership Statistics

Graduates.....	34
Students.....	15
Associate.....	1
Institutional.....	4
Total.....	54

WORKSHOPS -- 1998/99

September - Tour of Lakehead University's newly renovated library

October - Chapters Bookstore

November - Cooking class

December - Annual Jingle Mingle

January - Digital Archives (tentative)

February - Children's Literature Round Table & tour of a Public Library (tentative)

March - Annual Dinner Meeting



25 Years of Excellence!

The Ontario Association of Library Technicians / Association des Bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario (OALT/ABO) celebrates its 25 year anniversary this year! Formed in 1973, this bilingual non profit association maintains a strong membership base, promoting the interests of Library and Information Technicians provincially. Consisting of seven regional branches, represented by a Provincial Executive and a Board of Directors, the OALT/ABO champions the cause of professional Library and Information Technicians. At the annual conference in May 1998, an anniversary luncheon honouring the past Presidents marked the celebration. Doug Wilford, OALT/ABO's first president, reflected on the Association's achievements and growth. For further information, visit the website at :

interlog.com/~oaltabo.

Submitted by
Gislaine Janveaux
OALT/ABO Public Relations

Tour of Chancellor Paterson Library

On September 15 after the general meeting, the OALT/ABO members went on a tour of the newly renovated Chancellor Paterson Library, Lakehead University, with Gisella Scalese, Orientation / Continuing Education Librarian. Previously, the library was tired-looking with cramped facilities, dingy-coloured walls, and worn furniture; the three architects that worked on it were faced with the restraining factor that the building could not be built upwards or outwards so the only option was to renovate the existing structure. Funding for the renovations had been provided during the provincial New Democratic Party government; the funding ceased when the Progressive Conservatives came into power but it has since resumed.

The Library has been renovated over a period of a three stage plan with Stage 1 being devoted to basement and fifth floor, Stage 2 to third and fourth floors and Stage 3 to the main and second floors. All renovations were done during university breaks (e.g. summer, Christmas, spring break) so there would be as few interruptions as possible. The number of materials that had to be moved was astonishing; for example, at one point 300,000 books from the third floor were moved to the ground floor to make way for wiring, carpeting and paint renovations.

As soon as we walked in, we could see the massive renovations and changes that have occurred in this building. New carpeting of muted grey and burgundy was under our feet and new light grey paint was on the walls. Furniture was pulled away from the existing banks of windows to allow the entry of natural light. Long rows of computers designated as L.U.'s online access machines are to the left of the reference desk which is the first access point that a person sees when entering the building and looking directly ahead. Right above this is a suspended ceiling which forms the shape of a dome. It gives the feeling of walking into a great centre of learning - what else is a university library? Recessed fixtures provide the lighting. Directly to the left of the entry is the circulation desk where people can take out books. This area also contains reserved materials that professors put aside for their students to use. On the main floor, beautifully paneled support pillars hide wiring for designated workstations such as Internet Access, Electronic Indexes, Firstsearch Chem/stn database and printing, multi-purpose machines and electronic sources at stand-alone machines. There are six large tables for students to use plus numerous carrels. The study carrels on the perimeter of each floor are wired for access to the Lakehead University Campus network. Electronic

Services (people can inquire about the Internet, Cd-ROMS and other electronic databases) and Interlibrary Loans Services are currently located in a side room where Government Documents were located - these are now housed next to the Reference section. There are also a number of offices in this room. In the north-west corner are electronic readers with microfiche, micro cards, microforms and microfilm storage areas nearby. Prior to the renovation, the Reference Collection was weeded of older, less used texts; these books have found a home in the storage area in the basement. The Reference Collection is housed in stacks that are staggered in height; this provides an area where students can rest books and read.

The second floor houses the photocopiers (both coin-operated and copycard activated) and the periodicals, both current and back issues. The old Copy Services room is currently being renovated as the Current Issue room where the newest issue of each periodical is kept. The ideas are to facilitate browsing and also keep the year's issues in order (less shuffling). Comfortable chairs and tables are in this room. In the main part of the floor are shelves filled with bound issues of periodical back issues. Each periodical title is issued its own Library of Congress number, and this number is assigned to the spine label of the bound collection. Back volumes of the current year's issue are separated from the back issues by a divider stating "Current Magazines". As on the main floor wired carrels along the perimeter and tables in different locations are provided.

The third and fourth floors are designated as the locations for the main collection: A-L on the third and M-Z on the fourth. These floors also have wired carrels, and the fourth floor has rooms along the south wall that can be reserved for the study groups of up to six people.

The remaining two floors were not on the tour: the basement and the fifth floor. The basement houses the library's storage area and an area for classrooms and offices of the Library and Information Studies program; the fifth floor houses the Northern Studies collection and other offices.

The tour itself took about thirty minutes. Various comments of approval were heard amid the OALT/ABO members who were pleasantly surprised by all of the changes in the renovated building. Many thanks to Gisella Scalese for showing us around the renovated facility. With the renovations to the Library, it has become a place that is much more inviting for patrons to spend some time, and I fully intend to do so.

Written by Linda Bukovy

OALT/ABO Membership Survey Results

Number of surveys sent out: 52
Number of returned completed: 8
Number of returned blank: 3
Total participation: 16%

Summary:

The memberships varied from 1970 to 1990. The main two reasons for discontinuing with memberships were "no time" and "not what they expected it would be like". The majority of people who answered were working in a library setting. Some people expressed that they would like to be informed about upcoming meetings in a variety of forms (phone calls, personal contacts, fax, etc.). Among improvements about OALT/ABO were the content of meetings and guest speakers.

Recommendations:

Areas of concern:

1. a) Content of meetings
b) Guest speakers at meetings
c) Educational workshops
2. a) Announcements of meetings:
 - phone calls
 - personal contacts
 - fax
 - advance notices
 - place for announcements

Suggestions:

Do a quick survey at the first meeting or hand out suggestion cards at meetings in order to try and establish what people want from their association.

Also, ask people to fill out cards on how they would like to be notified of upcoming meetings.

Submitted by
Ron Walker & Kathy Crewdson



Trudy Mauracher is now the CEO of the Medicine Hat Public Library.

Terry Badiou has completed her M.L.S.

Joanne Morgan moved to Schreiber where she is working half-time as a Library Technician at Lake Superior High School. She is also working for Contact North as a Local Tele-Conference Assistant. Congratulations!

After working in a contract position for the Lakehead District School Board, Jodie Cataldo has secured a permanent Information Services Technician position at Whitefish Valley School. Since this is only a half-time position, Jodie also does supply work for the Thunder Bay Public Library.

Debbie Squier-Bernst is the new editor of the OALT/ABO provincial newsletter.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

October 1 Valerie Welsch
October 7 Kathy Walkinshaw
October 27 Debbie Squier-Bernst

When's your birthday? Let Gwen know!

LIBRARY VS. INTERNET

Library:	Internet:
Clear organization by subjects	No clear organization
Subject headings assigned to information	Finding things require a keyword search
Library staff available to help	No internet experts: people have to find things for themselves
Library staff selects materials to suit users	Organizations post their materials; some subjects might be neglected
Resources limited by physical space	Resources almost unlimited (just add new servers)
Information can be out of date	Can include very latest information
Sometimes closed when you need it	Sometimes too busy ; info may have moved to another site

Heide & Stilborne. *The Teacher's Complete & Easy Guide to the Internet*, Toronto : Trifolium, 1996, p. 137.

Everything you've heard about Library Technicians is true, except the part about wearing glasses, buns and being boring!



After a fun and relaxing summer it's back to the grind! As we worked on this newsletter reality began to sink in -- with the fall season upon us, our busy schedules have returned!

We'd like to thank everyone who made contributions to this newsletter. If you have anything you'd like to share either give us a call or drop us a line via email:

ggamble@lhbc.edu.on.ca

maheuk@alr.on.ca

We hope to see you all soon -- or at least hear from you!

*Heide
&
Kelly*

