

TECH TALK



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President's Message

Another busy year has flown by. The executive has provided interesting and informative workshops throughout the year as well as starting to plan some workshops for next fall. If members have suggestions for workshops, please call any one on the Executive.

Gislaine Janveaux, Provincial Public Relations Coordinator, contacted Linda Bukory, Regional Public Relations Coordinator, asking for ideas for the display board the Provincial Executive purchased. Linda's idea was a sheet detailing the different work locations that library technicians are hired at, and as she said: "I was given the job!" This sheet turned into four pages listing the work places and locations as well as subdivisions with four categories: Elementary / Highschool libraries; College / University libraries; Public libraries; and Private sector / Government libraries. Gislaine emailed Linda that the list will be useful in the student package and has already been used on the display board at an OALT/ABO booth. The compilation of this list took much time, effort and research. Many thanks go to Linda for a job well done in promoting Library Technicians in the workplace!

A Reminder! The OALT/ABO annual dinner meeting is March 25th in the Verdi Room, Da Vinci Centre. Flyers are being mailed to all members. See you there!

Helen Hyvarinen

Provincial Report



The OALT/ABO Board of Directors and Executive held a teleconference on Saturday February 6, 1999.

OALT/ABO had a display at the OLA Super Conference in January. From all reports the display was well received. Volunteers manning the booth fielded many questions from interested Library Techs, CEO's and Institutions. Names and phone numbers were taken and sent to the appropriate regions. A discussion took place regarding the varying fees and privileges (how many delegates can attend meetings, vote, etc.) associated with Institutional Members. It was agreed to look at unifying this issue at the March meeting.

Another topic that resulted in a lot of discussion was the idea of having a centralized membership with a standard fee schedule handled at the Provincial level. The current process that has evolved over the past 25 years has become quite cumbersome. There are a lot of delays in receiving memberships (both by the province and by the members), a lot of errors being made and a lot of duplication. The proposal, which will be discussed at the March meeting and then presented at the annual meeting in May.

**Ontario Association of Library Technicians/Association des Bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario
Thunder Bay Regional Branch
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OALT/ ABO PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER EDITOR

There are a number of opportunities for the Provincial Newsletter Editor:
As newsletter editor you'll meet a number of very interesting, dedicated individuals who care about your provincial association and the direction to take it in. They want to raise the profile of library technicians in all fields of employment and in their communities. You'll learn the skills that are required, as well as the technology that is involved in producing a newsletter. You will be very proficient at E-MAIL, faxing and word processing by the time you have produced your first newsletter.

You need to be organized, dedicated, and be able to pay attention to detail. You're always on the lookout for errors, whether they're spelling mistakes, or errors in the actual setup or layout of the newsletter. Many changes will have to be made before the final product is sent to the printers. Being the provincial newsletter editor is a great learning experience in the following areas: prioritizing tasks, time management, working with volunteers and you are producing something meaningful which reaches hundreds of members in your provincial organization.

You will travel to Toronto four times to attend the provincial OALT meetings. While you are there you'll be able to have dinner at either an elegant restaurant, Planet Hollywood, or anything in between from American cuisine to cuisine from Zimbabwe. When dinner is finished you can enjoy whatever kind of entertainment you can imagine, such as going to a play on some obscure topic, or going to the ballet, opera, a musical, the theatre to see Phantom of the Opera, or you can attend a rock concert. You can participate in your association at the provincial level where the proceedings are a little more formal. You'll gain experience which you can use in other areas of your life, to volunteer or participate in other associations where you might have an interest in being a part of the decision making process.

You'll be able to attend the annual OALT/ABO Conference partially at OALT expense because the Annual business meeting is held near the end of the conference.

Your provincial organization is comprised of several regions of individual members which means, your provincial association is a reflection of you so get involved, participate in a volunteer capacity and consider becoming the next OALT/ABO newsletter editor.

Debbie Squier-Bernst
OALT/ABO Provincial Newsletter Editor



**NEWBERY
&
CALDECOTT
AWARDS
1999**



The **Newbery Medal** was named for eighteenth-century British bookseller, John Newbery. It is awarded annually by the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association, to the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children.

The **1999 Newbery Medal** winner is **Holes by Louis Sachar** (Farrar Straus Giroux).

"Holes" tells the story of Stanley Yelnats. The heir to his family's curse of bad luck, Stanley is convicted of a crime he didn't commit. He serves his sentence at Camp Green Lake, a dry, flat wasteland where the warden assigns each inmate the task of digging one deep hole every day. Hole by hole, Stanley and his friend Zero dig their destiny.



Committee Chair Virginia McKee said "Holes" is "masterfully unified in character, setting and theme. As timeless as folklore and as outrageously funny as a tall tale, "Holes" ultimately charts the heroic journey of two very real boys."

1999 Honor Book

A Long Way from Chicago by Richard Peck (Dial Books for Young Readers)

A boy, Joey, recounts his annual summer trips to rural Illinois with his sister Mary Alice, during the Great Depression, to visit their extraordinary grandmother. Richard Peck has created a memorable world filled with characters who are larger than life and twice as entertaining.

The **Caldecott Medal** was named in honour of nineteenth century English illustrator, Randolph Caldecott. It is awarded to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children.

The **1999 Caldecott Medal** winner is **Snowflake Bentley, illustrated by Mary Azarian**; text by Jacqueline Briggs Martin (Houghton Mifflin).

"Snowflake Bentley" takes children back to the days when farmers worked with ox and sled and cut the dark with lantern light. It introduces Wilson Bentley, a boy who loved snow more than anything in the world and is determined that one day his camera would capture the extraordinary and unique beauty of snowflakes.



Committee Chair Barbara Barstow said, "'Snowflake Bentley' has a beautiful and thoughtful design, a poetic and informative text,

distinguished illustrations, universal appeal and resonance. Mary Azarian, a Vermont artist who loves snow as much as Wilson Bentley, has created strong and skillfully carved woodcuts that portray sensible, sturdy characters and a timeless rural landscape."

1999 Honor Books

Duke Ellington, illustrated by Brian Pinkney. Text: Andrea Davis Pinkney (Hyperion)

In this brief recounting of the life of Duke Ellington, one of the greatest composers of the twentieth century, Brian Pinkney's illustrations float off the page, filled with color and movement. You are able to feel the music with every turn of the page.

No, David! by David Shannon (Blue Sky/Scholastic)

Five-year-old David is always doing things he should not be doing. "No, David!" is his mother's constant refrain. David Shannon portrays in colorful, lively, and action-filled illustrations everything that got him into trouble as a child.

Snow by Uri Shulevitz (Farrar Straus Giroux)

The radio says, "No snow": the television says "No snow." But in this charming tale, as snowflakes slowly come down one by one, a small boy and his dog delight in the whimsical changes snow brings to the city.

Tibet: Through the Red Box by Peter Sís (Farrar Straus Giroux)

In this very personal book, Peter Sís shares with us a glimpse into his exquisite world of dreams and memories. Beautifully detailed drawings tell the story of the illustrator's discovery of a red box that holds the secrets and treasures his father brought back with him from a journey to Tibet.



Cheryl Wardell, a 1992 Lakehead University grad, and a former OALT award winner, is the new Library Technician at the Armstrong Public School Library.

Originally from Sault Ste. Marie, Cheryl had been working in a variety of jobs since graduation but wanted a full time library position and decided to relocate in late November when this opportunity arose. Old friends may email Cheryl at:

Arms@cancom.net or
CherylWardell@yahoo.com

Valerie Welsch was recently in Toronto where she proudly went to see her daughter **Candice** called to the bar.

Teacher Librarians & Library Technicians in School Libraries

From the Canadian Library Association:

Library Resource Centres in the elementary and secondary schools and school systems across Canada have entered a new era in their continued growth and development. As the nation's schools adapt to the changing needs of society, teachers, students, and parents alike have become increasingly dependent upon current and relevant information to meet their learning and living needs. Consequently, the School Library Resource Centre has become an essential operating component of the school, the school system, and the community in which it resides. As the Library Resource Centre shifts its position from the fringe to the centre of curriculum experiences, Canadian educators will need to place a high priority on the provision of quality Library Resource Centre programs in their schools. Teacher-Librarians, qualified Library Technicians and Clerical Assistants are not only desirable, but essential in achieving success.

The members of the Library Resource Centre staff must work together in interdependent, co-ordinated relationships, in order to accomplish the objectives of the Library Resource Centre program, as well as those objectives of the school; and the school system.

Due to government cutbacks the above scenario is not possible at the present time. The following two letters appeared in The Thunder Bay Post in November 1998 and February 1999 respectively.

An Open Information Letter to the Parents of Public Secondary School Students:

It is estimated that the Ontario government has spent close to six million dollars in anti-teacher advertising. These ads claim that the government

is thinking of the students first and increasing educational standards and quality in having teachers spend more time in the classroom. This is a fallacy. Here is the reality.

With reduced local funding and now the ratification of our local, public secondary school contract, the student services department of all our local high schools (guidance, library and special education teachers) were reduced by almost six full-time teachers. Furthermore, in September 1999, this department will be cut by another 3 full-time teachers. Specifically targeted for reduction by the system's administrators were the Teacher-Librarians. Our time table was reduced to half-time. The high schools, as of November 2, will only be staffed by qualified Teacher-Librarians for half a day. As such, only half of all classes will benefit from the expertise of Teacher-Librarians. Is this fair and equitable education for all?

The present government has divided teachers into two groups: classroom and non-classroom. Teacher-Librarians are considered non-classroom "teachers" and the library is considered a non-classroom. Nothing could be further from the truth. The school library is one of the school's main learning activity centres. It is a classroom accessible to all students and staff containing a wide range of learning materials from magazines to computers. Often, a student who enters the library, whether as an individual, or in a small group, or in a formally booked class, is taught important problem-solving skills in locating, retrieving and evaluating information. In this current era of information overload these skills are crucial. Add to this, this important local fact: there are now no Teacher-Librarians in our elementary school panel. The weak research and library skills of the students entering Grade 9 are already surfacing, and will not be improved upon by removing Teacher-Librarians from secondary libraries. As well, the school library may be the only library environment that many students have exposure to - especially rural students who live at great distances from the city libraries and must pay user fees. It is Mr. Harris's intent to have

Ontario's students trained in information technology. Who is now going to provide this training if funding cutbacks eliminate the jobs of those very teachers who have specialized, additional qualifications to teach research skills to your children?

Secondary classroom teachers with their larger classes, special needs students and increased supervision and in classroom time (due to Bill 160), will not have the time to prepare and teach relevant research lessons without the support of a qualified Teacher-Librarian. Library research time is a ministry requirement in many courses that require independent study components. Who will be responsible for teaching research skills? Who will be held accountable when students graduate without such skills? In addition, responsibility for the care, handling and security of library materials may fall now on many shoulders, this may not be the wisest practice.

We are very concerned about this situation as both teachers and parents. This is not quality education. This is not putting students' needs first. It is all about money.

Lakehead District 6A - Public Secondary Teacher-Librarians Association

The Editor:

This is in response to an article written by Steve Chyrl ... [et al] in the Post, November 17, 1998 — Reality of Education Cutbacks in High Schools — "In this current era of information overload these skills are crucial. Add to this, this important fact: there are now no Teacher-Librarians in the elementary school panel. The weak research and library skills of the students entering grade 9 are already surfacing, and will not be improved upon by removing Teacher-Librarians from secondary schools". I assume Steve Chyrl, his colleagues

and parents are referring to Library Technicians who have begun working in the elementary school libraries in the past year. The following is quoted from our Past President, Carol Young's editorial, Post, July 16, 1996, regarding our qualifications as Library Technicians: "Lakehead University offers a 2 year diploma program in Library and Information Studies from which Library Technicians graduate. During those two years, students learn advanced library skills to prepare them for work in any type of library. Information retrieval deals with computer skills of on-line searching, CD-ROM use and accessing Internet. Courses such as reference, cataloguing, children's literature, records management, government documents, business and current issues, teach students valuable library skills for the workplace. A course on media presentation includes the use of audiovisual equipment, graphics and desktop publishing."

We are trained in all aspects of library work including responsibility for the care, handling and security of library materials, as many library technicians are in charge of one person libraries.

Children utilizing the local public libraries in most instances are shown how to use the Internet, CD-ROM, and research/retrieve information for their school projects by a Library Technician!

It is time for Teachers, Teacher-Librarians, and Library Technicians to work together to provide the best library experience for all students.

Helen Hyvarinen

President

Ontario Association of Library Technicians

Thunder Bay Region

Commonly Asked Interview Questions

Why did you decide to enter the field of library and information science?

Why did you decide to apply for this position?

What are your strengths and weaknesses?

List three of your most important/proudest accomplishments.

What kind of work environment do you prefer?

How are you qualified for this job? OR What qualifications do you have that make you think you will be a success at this job?

What else besides your school and job experience qualifies you for this job?

What is your experience with automated systems and with computers in general?

What have you read lately, and what are you reading now?

What are the personal characteristics and qualities that you would bring to this position that would be particularly helpful in fulfilling the responsibilities of this position?

What professional groups are you a member of, and how active have you been in those groups?

You have just had a short tour of this library. Did any aspect or anything you saw or heard about this library surprise you? Would you change anything about this library?

What do you see yourself doing five or ten years from now?

How will your other experiences outside of librarianship aid you in this position?

What experience have you had using the Internet?

Do you have the skills necessary to create and maintain our WWW home pages?

What do you see as the future of the Internet as a reference tool?

What do you see as the budget implications of increasing use of electronic resources in libraries?

Can you install software on computers and perform basic maintenance on them?

Do you prefer working alone or in groups?

What do you have going for you that might make you successful in such a job?

What motivates you to put forth your best effort?

What types of experiences have you had in dealing with difficult customers?

Describe a problem person you have had to deal with. What did you say or do?

What important goals have you set in the past, and how successful have you been in working toward their accomplishment?

What things give you the greatest satisfaction?

How would you describe yourself?

Why do you think this library should hire you?

PRESS RELEASE

Contemporary Canadian Law & Legal Research LIS 3050

The Department of Library & Information Studies at Lakehead University is pleased to offer "Contemporary Canadian Law and Legal Research" beginning May 3, 1999, Monday-Thursday from 6-9 p.m. through May 20.

From murders to medical malpractice to motor vehicle accidents, learn not only how the law touches us all but also how to understand legal materials. Erik Knutsen, H.B.A., LL.B (May 1999), brings a fresh and practical approach to the study of the court system, the law, and legal research. Topics to be studied include Courts, Lawyers, Legislation, Public Law (Criminal Law and Constitutional Law) and Private Law (Contract, Tort, and Property Law.) Students will learn methods of legal research including electronic research, Case Law Reporters, Statutes, Legal Academics, and Government Documents.

For more information, contact the Dept. of Library and Information Studies, 343-8398.

EDITORS CORNER



We'd like to thank everyone who contributed to this edition of TECH TALK! If you have something you'd like to contribute please contact us via phone or email.

ggamble@lhbe.edu.on.ca

Hope to see you all at the dinner meeting at the Da Vinci!

Gwen & Kelly

**GOOD BYE KELLY
WE'LL MISS YOU!**

Since this is my last edition of Tech Talk I would like to add that this has been a wonderful experience. It has been great working with Gwen and all the executive members. Whoever chooses to work with Gwen next year is in for a lot of fun! Thanks for a great year.

Kelly