

TECH TALK

Volume 27, No. 55, March 2000



President's Message

During the past year, five Executive meetings were held to plan workshops and General Meetings.

Ron Walker and I welcomed the new students enrolled in the Library and Information Studies program at Lakehead University in September.

The September General Meeting was held at Westmount School. After the meeting, Bev Proctor talked about her job in the library.

Valerie Welsch presented the Print Artist workshop at Ecole Gron Morgan in October. This was an excellent workshop and Valerie's enthusiasm walking us through the program was most enjoyable.

The December General Meeting/Jingle Mingle was held in the Education Services Department meeting room at Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital. After the meeting, members made bees wax candles as a Christmas craft.

In February, we had two workshops on a Saturday. In the morning, Subby Sztorszky presented "Introduction to Creating Web Pages" and in the afternoon, Val Gibbons presented "Advanced Internet Searching". Both workshops were excellent. The feedback about having workshops on a Saturday later in the winter (February rather than January) was positive.

It has been a busy year and the Executive hopes that members enjoyed as well as enhanced their library skills with the workshops that were provided throughout the past year.

Helen Hyvarinen



Library Jeopardy Answer:

This poet wrote the poem, "In the Library" which begins as follows:

*Speak low, tread softly through these halls
Here genius lives enshrined
Here reign, in silent majesty,
The monarchs of the mind*

Select one question:

- a. Who is Charles Scollard?
- b. Who is Francis Bennoch?
- c. Who is Anne C.L. Botta?
- d. Who is William Freeland?

**OALT/ABO
ANNUAL DINNER
MEETING**



The OALT/ABO Annual Dinner Meeting was held Thursday, March 23, in the Solarium at the Slovak Legion.

There were approximately thirty people in attendance and they enjoyed a delicious meal, good company and the opportunity to win one of the number of door prizes donated by the OALT/ABO Thunder Bay Region's Executive. After dinner, the Reports of the Executive were read, followed by the presentation of the OALT/ABO Branch Award, and finally the elections for the new Executive were held.

Congratulations to the new OALT/ABO Executive for 2000/2001

President: **Helen Heerema**
Secretary: **Christina Snow**
P.R. Coordinator: **Kathy Crewdson**

They will be joined by current members of the Executive, Ron Walker, Caron Naysmith and Valerie Welsch. We look forward to great things in the coming year from our new Executive. Good Luck!

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In February, the Thunder Bay OALT/ABO held an all day, hands on computer workshop at Lakehead University. We had noticed that attendance at January and February workshops had been on the decline over the past few years, so we decided to try offering one full day workshop rather than two ½ day sessions a month apart.

In the morning Szabolcs Szterszky, Multi-Media Specialist at the Communications Technology Resource Centre of Lakehead University, spoke to the group about creating web pages. Subby's role at the University is to create web sites for LU and provide workshops for staff and students. He is also responsible for video production. Accounts had been set up for OALT members in the main computer classroom in the Braun Building so that we could begin working on our own home pages. Subby walked us through the steps involved in creating a web site that is pleasing to the eye, effective at getting your message across and accessible to the majority of the surfers out there on the net. Subby recommended that we test viewing our newly created sites using several browsers to be sure that it is compatible. While developing our web page we learned a little about HTML as we practiced moving back and forth between HTML and our page to check on tags and HTML code.

The group adjourned to the cafeteria for lunch and then assembled again in the lab where Valerie Gibbons, Electronic Services Librarian at Chancellor Patterson Library

spent the afternoon leading us through an excellent workshop on Internet searching. In spite of the fact that both bulbs in the projector failed, Valerie took us on an excellent virtual tour. Valerie outlined the differences between subject guides, directories, and search engines. She talked to us about evaluating web sites and then moved on to teach us about search techniques such as Boolean searching. She provided us with a useful handout on refining search results and provided us with lists of some of the sites she has found most useful.

Thanks to Subby and Valerie for giving up their Saturday for us. Thanks also to Marsha (from the Office of Library & Information Studies) and to Carol Otte, who arranged for us to have use of the room and who set up our user accounts.

Submitted by
Kathy Walkinshaw

OALT/ABO Thunder Bay Region Award Winner - Jackie Holm

For seventeen years Jackie was employed at Ontario Library Service and during that time she completed her Bachelor of Arts in English. After taking some time off following the birth of her daughter, she returned to work at a local bookstore. It was during this time that she began to take Library Tech courses part time and a year later she decided to complete her diploma as a full time student. It is obvious for her career choices that she has a great love of books and libraries. Congratulations Jackie!

Treasurer's Report
Statement as of March 20, 2000



Citing Web Sources

Expenses

Postal Box Renewal	126.26
Provincial Travel	221.89
Honorariums	150.00
Public Relations	17.89
Newsletter, etc.	114.08
Craft Supplies	53.20
Bank s/c	.95
Total	840.27

Revenue

Regional Subsidies	633.00
Bank Interest	.38
Total	633.38

Assets

Cash in Bank	1289.74
GIC	1900.00
Interest on GIC	133.07
Total	3322.81

Membership Statistics

Graduates	27
Students	3
Institutional	3
Senior	1
Associate	1
Total	35

Why: Web sites, like any source, need to be cited should you use information from them in a project or essay.

How To: The format for citing a web document should be as follows:

Author (last name first). "Title of Item." Title of work. Date of document or last revision. Web address (date of access).

For example:

Tavares, Dan. "How to Build a Web Site." CBC4Kids. 1999.

<http://www.cbc4kids.com/teachers/chapter/4d/default.html> (5 April 1999).

Watch Out For: The format for a citation differs slightly when you are referencing other Internet documents, such as e-mail, software or FTP documents. See the link below for help.

Check This Out: For more information regarding the citing of electronic documents, visit the *Columbia Guide to Online Style* at:

http://www.columbia.edu/cu/cup/cgos/idx_basic.html

<http://cbc4kids.ca/teachers/chapter/4/default.html> (31 March 2000)

<http://home.istar.ca/~allegrow/library&cataloguinglinks2.htm> (March 31, 2000)



Read these actual reference queries reported by American and Canadian library reference desk workers of various levels.

"Do you have any books with photographs of dinosaurs?"

"I need to find out Ibid's first name for my bibliography."

"Why don't you have any books by Ibid? He's written a lot of important stuff."

"Do you have a list of all the books written in the English language?"

"I was here about three weeks ago looking at a cookbook that cost \$39.95. Do you know which one it is?"

"I am looking for a list of laws that I can break that would send me back to jail for a couple of months."



In Memoriam

Ruth Rilling passed away on December 28, 1999, in Victoria, B.C. after a battle with cancer. Thirty-one year old Ruth graduated from Lakehead University in 1990 with a Library and Information Studies diploma. She was formerly employed at Lakehead University's Circulation Desk. Our sympathy goes out to Ruth's family, friends, and fiancé.

Director's Report



As promised at the Annual Dinner meeting, I will provide instructions to subscribe to the Listserv.

① *To subscribe send a message addressed to: oaltabo-request@faxon.ca*

Leave the subject line blank and write - subscribe in the body of your email

OR

② *Send a message addressed to:*

majordomo@faxon.ca

Leave the subject line blank and write: subscribe in the oaltabo in the body of your email

You will receive an email message confirming that you are subscribed to the listserv. To post a message address it to: oaltabo@faxon.ca

Maggie Weaver was hired as our facilitator for the 1 April 2000 strategic planning session. Each regional director was given five minutes to say something positive about the Huronia proposal and/or direction that we want our association to go. Then comments from the floor were permitted. Several regions liked one newsletter with regional

sections. This newsletter would be edited by a paid staff member. People would like to see summaries of regional programs. This newsletter could be supported with paid advertising. Others wanted us to broaden our membership base to any and everyone who works in a library (which would entirely change our association). Some of the smaller regions could “buddy” with the larger regions. Several of the regions liked the idea of Provincial taking over the annual conference planning but still move the physical location of the conference around from region to region. They felt that if the conference was handled provincially there would be more consistency. It was also suggested that our conference piggy-back on OLA’s conference. It was suggested that we have an anniversary membership or if that didn’t fly at least pro-rate the membership. We should be more visible provincially and regionally. We should also sponsor events within our communities. Develop a lean innovative organization. Continuing education with informal support group. It was suggested that we check out Ontario Library Service’s Excel program. I remember writing a report on the Excel program years ago when I was a student and then Excel was a “dirty” word and held in disdain.

The strategic planning session closed with the setting up of a Task Force for Change 2001 whose mandate is to investigate items discussed at the strategic planning session of 1 April 2000 to be passed on to the Committee for Change 2001. Their objectives are to investigate the current Excel program to see if we can be involved; to investigate external sources

of funding such as the Trillium Foundation; and Find a copy of "Document for Change" done in the 70s or early 80s. Step two was the setting up of a Committee for Change 2001 whose mandate is to provide a blueprint for change based on the strategic planning sessions of April 1999 and April 2000. Their objectives are to produce a document with recommendations for change to be voted on at the ABM in 2001. This committee's task is to be completed by 31 December 2000.

And yes, the address for our web site is to be <http://www.oalt/abo.on.ca> as I had written in my annual report!

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EDITORS' MESSAGE

If you have stories or information (library related or other) you'd like to share, please contact Caron. If possible, please send any articles via Email to:
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I have enjoyed the two years I served as the Co-Editor of Tech Talk. It was great learning experience! I'm sure Caron will continue to produce great editions of Tech Talk but it would be great if someone would volunteer to work with her. If you need any help Caron just let me know!

Gwen Gamble



The Library and Information Studies Program

By Allison Miedema

As you all have probably heard by now, the Senate of Lakehead University voted to cease enrolment in the Library and Information Studies program. This was a grave disappointment as I had worked hard for several months trying to prove the worth of the program to the university. I had contacted several people who were all very supportive. Perhaps the most supportive person was Michael Gravelle (M.E.P.P.) who wrote a very passionate letter to President Gilbert and to each senate member. Taras Kozyra was also a great support and offered several suggestions to me. I was also successful in receiving responses to my emails from Mike Harris (who quickly 'passed the buck' so to speak) and Roch Carrier, our national librarian. Mr. Carrier was somewhat more supportive than Mr. Harris but did not have any real input.

In the course of this adventure, I did manage to get an article published in the Chronicle Journal and in the university student paper, The Argus regarding the potential closure of the program. The response to these two articles was favorable and I believe they brought the issue into the light. We also showed support for our program in the Senate Chambers as several of the LIS students were there for the meetings. I have written a letter to the editor regarding the shortsightedness of this university administration and I am hoping they will publish it sometime soon. I have also submitted a paper regarding my experiences to the C.L.A. student article contest (cross your fingers for me!). Advocating for any cause is really a process that must be strongly planned and carried out and it really is never finished.

To me, there is still a lot of work to be done....people really need to be more informed about the role library tech's and librarians play in this information age.

