

TECH TALK

Volume 28, No. 2, October 2000



President's Message

Greetings! I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable summer. I spent part of my holiday in Ottawa touring the Parliament buildings, museums, etc., and of course the National Library of Canada. The display in honour of jazz great, Oscar Peterson, was sensational -- a grand piano started playing as you entered the exhibit!

On September 11th I welcomed the new students enrolled in the Library and Information Studies Program at Lakehead University. Sadly, this is the last time our Association will be welcoming new students! With the demise of the Library and Information Studies program, Information Studies is now a minor in the Arts faculty.

The September General Meeting was held at Lakehead University in the Lab and Margaret Maclean provided us with an overview of the new Information Studies minor. She then answered questions from the membership.

In the June newsletter I failed to mention Helen Hyvarinen in my thank you to the outgoing executive. My humble apologies to Helen and to the membership. Helen Hyvarinen has been involved in the executive of the Thunder Bay Region since 1986! She was Secretary in 1986/87, Newsletter Editor in 1988/89 and 1989/90, Regional Director in 1993/94 and 1994/95, and President in 1998/99 and 1999/2000. She has been dedicated, and a tremendous asset, to our association in the last fifteen years and she deserves special recognition for her generous service and hard work. On behalf of the Association, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks!

Our next workshop is scheduled for October 17th, *Computer Hardware*. I hope to see many of the members participating in all the scheduled events this year. Also, if you have workshop suggestions please pass them on to one of the executive members. We may not be able to do it this year, but we could certainly plan for it next fall!

Helen Heerema

Provincial Report



The OALT/ABO Board of Directors and Executive met in Wentworth Libraries Board Room 30 September 2000 from 9:00am until 4:15pm.

There are still many problems with the centralized membership renewal system. The membership co-ordinator is going to present a motion at the November meeting that we hope will stream-line this operation.

The public relations co-ordinator has been asked to analyse the results from the PR survey and then assist the *Committee for Change 2001* to achieve their mandate. The public relations co-ordinator will once again host an informational booth at OLA's conference.

Due to the death of the chair (Judy Koenig) for the *Committee for Change 2001*, nothing has been done over the summer. Brigitte Gravelle has also resigned. I have volunteered to stand on the committee and Marian Doucette has agreed to stand as well. Maggie Weaver will now act as chair.

Discussion followed the presentation of Ottawa's conference report. They did make a profit of \$40.16. Pam Casey, provincial president, has asked for a more detailed financial report for the email meeting in November. The board also all took offense to the "Please do not release outside the board meeting of September 30" statement.

Sean Crowe, provincial vice-president presented Corporate Sponsorship Standards (draft by-law). Our association is still very viable thanks largely to corporate sponsorships. We have a discussion group and a web site (<http://www.oaltabo.on.ca>), thanks to rowecom Canada. We have a central phone (905-403-2561) and central fax (905-403-2453) thanks to Inco Canada. Glaxo Welcome helped with the printing to the salary survey and Lexis-Nexis with the printing of the membership directory. It was noted that our budget for the 2000/2001 year is heavily subsidized by our corporate sponsors.

Our next meeting is going to be an email meeting through a chat group. We have our first test run on Wednesday evening. Hopefully this works well and we can save on meeting costs.

Just a reminder - the minutes of the old and new business portion of provincial meetings is on the web site.

Valerie Welsch
Director, Thunder Bay Region

School Libraries understaffed, says report

Ontario's elementary school libraries are so understaffed that many are open only five hours per week, according to a study by an education advocacy group.

The People for Education Tracking Report 2000 found that 68 per cent of Ontario elementary schools have teacher librarians, but only 18 per cent are there full time.

"If nothing changes it will look like the Great Depression of books," children's author Robert Munsch said yesterday at a conference during which the report was released.

The study found more than 30 per cent of Ontario elementary school libraries are open less than 20 hours per week. Many are open for less than five hours a week.

Volunteers staff 40 per cent of the libraries for much of the school day and six per cent of schools report their libraries aren't staffed even when they're open.

Under the provincial education funding formula, the government funds the cost of one teacher librarian for every 769 elementary school students. However; only two per cent of Ontario elementary schools have that many students.

Larry Moore, of the Ontario Library Association, says teacher librarians are essential to teach students how to use a library, research, write papers and use computers and the Internet. People for Education says it has asked for a meeting with Education Minister Janet Ecker to discuss amending the funding formula to allocate more money for library staff.

The Canadian Press, The Chronicle-Journal, Saturday, Sept. 23, 2000.



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Upcoming Workshop

Thunder Bay Region of OALT is presenting a workshop on Introduction to Computer Hardware. As our guest, we will have Duncan Ruxton, Supervisor of IMC (Instructional Media Centre) Technical Services. Duncan will be taking us through a hands-on evening of discovering the "innards" of our favourite companion - the computer.

Time: 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 17

Place: Ecole Gron Morgan

Bring a #1 Phillips screwdriver if possible and be prepared to get down and dirty since we will be taking apart and rebuilding computers.

For further info contact Valerie Welsch.



Through the Grapevine

Congratulations to former Thunder Bay resident, **Josie Fiorenza** who recently became engaged to her boyfriend, Dino Milito, a native of Ottawa. Josie moved to Ottawa in December or 1998 and is employed as a Library Technicians with the Ottawa-Carleton Catholic School Board.

Penny Bower has recovered from her car accident and is back to work full time with Lakehead Public Schools. She is now the] IST at Claude Garton. Welcome back!

Congratulations to **Lynda Scarnati** who just became a permanent employee of Lakehead Public Schools. Lynda is the Library Technician at Hillcrest High School.

LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY'S LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM 1966-2000

In 1966, the School of Library Technology, Faculty of Professional Studies at Lakehead University, developed the first program for the training of Library Technicians in Ontario, and the second program of its kind in Canada. Lakehead adopted the two-year program for its students. In 1988, The School of Library Technology became the Department of Library and Information Studies, Faculty of Arts and Science offering a three-year Bachelor of Arts Degree with a major in Library and Information Studies. In 1990, due to the government's decision not to fund the B.A. program, the Department discontinued the B.A. and offered a two-year Diploma in Library and Information Studies, with the option of continuing into the third year of a B.A. Degree program. Students with a B.A. Degree could take the fourteen LIS credits during a further year of study and receive the Diploma in Library and Information Studies. Whatever the program graduates were qualified Library Technicians.

The Library and Information Studies Diploma program at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay was unique, in that it was housed in a university. LIS students were admitted on the same basis as any other student pursuing a university undergraduate degree program; many scholarships and awards being available. Since our students were taking degree credit liberal arts subjects, upon graduation from the Diploma program, they were allowed into the third year of a B.A.; students with a B.A. already having

completed the liberal arts component of the Diploma, could complete the two year Diploma in one further year of study. LIS graduates were well versed in technical library skills as well as having obtained a well rounded liberal arts background which furthered their employability. Many of our students having completed their Bachelor of Arts Degree continued to the Master of Library Science Degree offered at University of Western Ontario, University of Toronto, Dalhousie University, University of Alberta, etc. Although the objectives and basic structure of the Library & Information Studies Diploma at Lakehead University have changed little, the course content has been continually revised in response to the changing needs of the library profession - public, school, academic, special, and emerging information marketplace. Despite financial pressures and space restrictions, the Department managed to maintain its learning laboratory collection of professional journals, books, multimedia products, and databases. This is due in large part to the publishers who are sending library schools free books and materials, demonstration disks, and "classroom" programs, which have allowed the introduction of new services at minimal or no cost to the Department. The first Library Technician program in Ontario, was developed at Lakehead University by Dan Sudar to fulfill the need for trained library staff on a para-professional level in Thunder Bay and Northwestern Ontario. Since 1966, one of the main objectives of the program was that the School/Department offer its program off campus. Maintaining program enrolment in the program over an extended period of time has been challenging. The need for fully

qualified and trained library personnel in the region is as important today as it was in the sixties. During the 34 years of the program, students came from all over the world, and likewise Lakehead's graduates found employment worldwide. The Department recognized the importance of life-long learning for a professional in today's ever-changing and technologically advanced world. Since 1998, the Department offered a variety of cost-recovery workshops for students in the program and library professionals in the field. These workshops included CDROM searching, AACR2, DDC20, MARC records, Dialog searching, Security Systems, Video Cataloguing, Computer-Assisted Research in Law, Careers for LIS Graduates, Reference, and Quick Law Database Searching, etc. These one to two day workshops were Facilitated by professionals from outside of Thunder Bay. Cost recovery workshops were discontinued in 1994.

In 1990, Senate approved 3.5 full course equivalent Library & Information Studies courses as Degree credit open to all university students as academic electives for their BA. Degree programs. These courses are the ones which now make up the Minor in Information Studies being offered for the first time in September 2000.

In 1994, Lakehead University launched its world wide web site. The Department of Library & Information Studies was one of the first departments to have a link to the Lakehead University home page. In 1999, the first web-based LIS course was available for delivery. The Department now has two web-based courses available to students both

on and off campus.

At its Senate Meeting of April 2000, the University decided to discontinue the Diploma program at Lakehead University and at its meeting of June 2000, to begin a Minor in Information Studies effective September 2000. A minor concentration in Information Studies, consists of three full course equivalent courses from the Department of Library and Information Studies.

The main objectives of the Minor in Information Studies is to provide students with the ability to develop the strategies to locate, access, retrieve, evaluate, and use, information in all its forms. The key to a strong Information Studies program will be the successful integration of the program across the university curricula.

The Library & Information Studies Diploma program was unique, was one of high quality, was highly effective, and well-recognized in the library field. The decision to discontinue the program was based on the belief that Lakehead University should discontinue all diploma programs within the University.

The Department looks forward to the challenges of offering a Minor in Information Studies.

Submitted by
Margaret MacLean, Chair, Department of
Library and Information Studies



Ontario Public Library Week

In 2000, Ontario Public Library Week is October 16-22. This year's theme is "It's not by the book anymore".

Each year, during the third week of October, public libraries across the province celebrate Ontario Public Library Week. Ontario Public Library Week was first announced by the province in 1985, and has since become the annual focus for promoting library services in Ontario.

Ontario Public Library week recognizes the important contribution Ontario's libraries make to the economic health and quality of life in our communities through their role in preserving and providing access to information in all its forms.

Libraries are at the forefront of the information age. With more than 1,100 service points throughout Ontario, public libraries provide access to more than 29 million books for research, recreation and self-improvement. And now virtually every library branch in the province also provides access to electronic information through the Internet.

If you have other questions about Ontario Public Library Week contact:

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<http://www.gov.on.ca/MCZCR/english/culdiv/library/opiw.htm>

Treasurer's Report Statement as of August 31st, 2000

Expenses:	
Newsletter, etc.	52.59
Public Relations	30.31
Post Box Renewal	<u>126.26</u>

Total: \$209.16

Assets:	
Cash in Bank	959.98
GIC	<u>2066.40</u>

Total: \$3026.38



Membership Statistics

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

LIBRARY TECHNICIAN PROGRAM VS. UNIVERSITY HOCKEY TEAM: WHO WINS???

At the first general meetings held on September 20, 2000 at the Lakehead University's Library and Information Studies Lab, Margaret MacLean was invited to speak to the OALT membership about the proud history and shabby treatment of the Department of Library and Information Studies.

It first started out as the School of Library Technology back in 1966 and had its first graduates in 1967. It was aligned with the Department of Professional studies and offered a diploma program until 1988 when it became the Department of Library and Information Studies and received degree acceptance upon the completion of a third year of studies culminating in a Bachelor of Arts degree. The diploma and degree programs gave students not only a chance but a firm basis to achieve jobs in the city and this region since classes were also taught to people in outlying towns. The LIS program was one of the top ones to show that it produced graduates that can get jobs here in Thunder Bay and throughout Canada and the United States.

The news of Lakehead University's Library and Information Studies program's possible demise came as a shock to not only the students and Margaret MacLean, head of the program, but to the members of the Thunder Bay region's library community. This was done courtesy of the new president of LU, who, in 1999 when he arrived at this fair and noble university, stated that he did not agree with the ideas of diplomas offered at universities, since it did not correspond to his vision of putting LU on the Tier One level of universities. (University of Toronto is at this level). The Forestry studies diploma program

had been cancelled, and the LIS program was not far behind.

Alison Miedema, a first year student, was furious upon hearing this. She became an advocate for this program, going onto the National Library Listserve web page and writing a passionate letter of appeal. Positive reaction came back from the readers, and she wrote several letters to the editors of local papers. Margaret MacLean sent surveys out to members of the Library community asking for support.

An appeal with class representation was made to the Senate, and the first vote was approved. However, upon the second Senate meeting, the Senate decreed to discontinue enrollment (a polite, political way of saying - "let's cut the lifeblood from the program - no students enrolling, no need to continue it.") Margaret MacLean had suggested to the Senate that the LIS program become a Master of Library Science degree; the thought was to build upon the existing program, but it was not done due to the Senate concentrating on PhD and the hockey team - people can sure get jobs with these... So much for providing trained people for the region's job market.

Through the strong advocacy and negotiations of Margaret McLean, in June 2000 an agreement was drawn up. The year 2000 would be the last year for diploma courses, so there would be no new two-year students allowed (this would be for the diploma program).

Continuing students are allowed to finish the course. However, a student who already had a BA could register as a special student and pick up three Library Information courses that have already been in place in the degree program, thereby achieving a minor in LIS.

Margaret McLean has been a strong advocate for the LIS program in Thunder Bay and its region. After the question and answer period, she was heard to say that she will continue to teach classes to the existing LIS students in the outlying region.

Submitted by Linda Bukovy

EDITORS' MESSAGE



If you have stories or information (library related or other) you'd like to share, please contact me. If possible, please send any articles via Email to:

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Caron Naysmith