

TECH TALK

Volume 28, No. 4, February 2001



President's Message

Greetings! I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas. I certainly enjoyed the Christmas break. Unfortunately I was unable to attend the computer workshops at Hillcrest, but I understand that they were excellent. These are certainly the type of workshops that are under consideration for the 2002 Conference in Thunder Bay.

At our last executive meeting on January 24, 2001, we discussed plans for the computer workshops and the annual dinner meeting. We were a little disappointed in the low numbers attending the computer workshops as we thought the topic was timely and we had room for at least 8 or 9 more people. Our annual dinner meeting is scheduled for March 21st at the Slovak Legion in the Solarium. I will be calling the membership for volunteers to run for the positions of Treasurer, Newsletter Editor and Regional Director. Without volunteers our organization would be unable to function, so please consider giving of yourself and your time to assist the Association. We generally have four to five executive meetings during the year, three general meetings (which includes the annual dinner), and at least two workshops. Due to changes at the Post Office, we had to change our post office box. Our new address is P.O. Box 10208, P7B 6T7 and the box is located at the Thunder Bay Mail Processing Plant. Thankfully this change happened before the Conference. If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions for the executive please contact us.

The annual dinner is always a fun event, good food and good company! Come out and enjoy the evening with us.

Helen Heerema
President

Provincial Report



On Saturday, 10 February 2001, the Provincial executive had their second teleconference for the year. Once again we spent two plus hours touching base with all the regions and trying to accomplish provincial business. I, personally, would rather attend three face-to-face meetings that last from 10:00am to 5:00pm throughout the year than the present set-up. However, I do realize that presently provincial funds are tight and everyone is trying to save money while still providing services. Remember the minutes from the meeting can be found at our web site <http://www.oaltabo.on.ca>

What do you think of the changes Gerry Estrada has made to the site? All the directors are testing membership password control so more items can be placed on the web and save hundreds of dollars of postage each year. Also on the theme of saving postage - if you would like to receive your provincial newsletter by email, would you please contact me at:

vjwelsch@tbaytel.net or
vwelsch@lhbe.edu.on.ca

and I will compile a list to forward to your provincial newsletter editor.

The salary survey is the responsibility of the vice-president. It must be said that Sean Crowe has done a commendable job. Currently, the survey is on the web page. Go to <http://www.oaltabo.on.ca> and point your browser to the "What's New" section. There you will find two methods of completing the survey. The PDF link will download an Adobe Acrobat file containing the survey and then you can answer the survey and fax (905-403-2453) or mail your response. Or you can answer the survey on-line!! Since not everyone is on-line, a copy of the survey is also coming out with the next provincial newsletter. Sean asks that you just complete one version of the survey.

Ronn Cheney and Sean Crowe are monitoring every message on the discussion list in hopes of defeating the dastardly worm virus. This problem seems to be WWW wide, as other people at work have had their computers seize up. We have a firewall at work and Norton checks my computer at home. I cannot even get into my "egroups" so I do not know whether to be furious or envious of the minds that can create a worm.

I see that my name is on the Committee for Change, but we have not had a meeting

yet. An intense, all day session is being discussed and since everyone else is within driving distance, I may miss that meeting.

A conference reporting procedure is being set up. Directors will vote by email once they have all agreed with the procedure. The ex-officio is also updating the policy for voting by email.

The Board of Directors is once more trying to contract a translator. Our last translator, Magali did so well that she will be a hard act to follow. If you have any candidates, please let me know.

TALTA presented an action plan for the Association. I will be bringing a few copies to the Annual Dinner Meeting, but if you wish a copy before then just email Toronto's director, Marina Dranitsaris, mdranit@home.com - and she will send you a copy.

Valerie Welsch

OALT/ABO Conference 2002



Thunder Bay will be hosting the annual OALT/ABO Conference in May 2002. We are currently considering *Out of the Blue in 2002* for the conference's name / slogan but, we are also still looking for suggestions. If you have an interesting idea, please email your suggestion to Valerie Welsch:
vwelsch@lhbe.edu.on.ca

OALT/ABO REGIONAL EXECUTIVES

PRESIDENT

Helen Heerema
H: 767-4987 ; W: 475-6297
heerema@confederationc.on.ca

TREASURER

Ron Walker
H: 768-7810
r2walker@hotmail.com

SECRETARY

Christina Snow
H: 473-8074 ; W:343-4300 (ext 4266)

PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR

Kathy Crewsdson
H: 345-6414 ; W: 343-8728
kcrewdson@gale.lakeheadu.ca

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Caron Naysmith
H: 345-8827
cnaysmith@lhbe.edu.on.ca

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Valerie Welsch
H: 767-2177 ; W: 625-5240
vjwelsch@tbaytel.net

ARCHIVIST

Helen Heerema
H: 767-4987
heerema@confederationc.on.ca

**OALT/ABO
ANNUAL DINNER
MEETING**



Wednesday, March 21, 2001

Symposium: 6:30pm

Dinner: 7:00pm

Slovak Legion - Solarium

Menu:

Marinated Chicken Breast

Roasted Potatoes

Candied Carrots

Perogies

Pasta and Meatballs

Tossed Salad

Trifle for dessert

Cost for members = \$20.00

Cost for non-members = \$25.00

Tickets are available from any member of the executive.

Through the Grapevine

Kelly Rankin (nee Maheu), a 1997 graduate from the Lakehead University Library Technician program, is now living in North Bay and attending Nipissing University, in the B.ED program and loving it. A former Library Technician with Lakehead Public Schools and a former OALT/ABO newsletter editor, Kelly would like to say hello to everyone and can be reached at krankin@sympatico.ca





Treasurer's Report
Statement as of January 15, 2001



| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Expenses | |
| Bank Charges | 3.10 |
| Total | 3.10 |

| | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Revenue | |
| Regional Subsidies | 20.00 |
| Total | 20.00 |

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Assets | |
| Cash in Bank | 916.23 |
| G.I.C. | 2066.40 |
| Total | 2982.63 |

Membership Statistics

| | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Graduates | 20 |
| Students | 3 |
| Senior | 0 |
| Retired/Unemployed | 2 |
| Institutional | 1 |
| Associate | 1 |
| Total | 27 |



**Test your knowledge of the
Dewey Decimal System**

www.thrall.org/dewey/levels.htm

Detect the Sound-Alike Words

Exercise your mind by thinking of a word that's spelled the same, pronounced the same and fits both meanings in each description:

1. A vital computer part or a pest.
2. What many computer users do and most editors use.
3. What customers may say about the cost of something or a mountain slope.
4. A body of water or allowing something.
5. An observer or a computer peripheral.
6. A durable substance or the only evidence your boss will accept.
7. A beverage or what your sales letters should have.
8. The kind of work you may do or a viewpoint change.
9. Something that may be in your food and in your phone lines.
10. What you may have for lunch or what you may make of a project.

Answers:

1. Mouse
2. Type
3. Steep
4. Brook
5. Monitor
6. Concrete
7. Punch
8. Shift
9. Fiber
10. Hash

Predictions for 2001

28 December 2000



Andy Oram is an editor at O'Reilly & Associates (a premier information source for leading-edge computer technologies) specializing in books on Linux and programming. He has made nine technology predictions for the 2001. One in particular should be of interest to those in the Library field.....

The field of Library Sciences will become the next hot career path. The current buzz about XML and related specifications is like getting excited about a new device for cutting glass. It won't be long before companies go to the next stage and realize they need to hire people who can create stained glass windows. (If medieval builders were as focused on technology as we are, tourists would be looking at a bunch of transparent dodecahedrons instead of the Sainte-Chapelle.) So, corporations using new schemas to index and organize information will suddenly discover the importance of expertise in that field. Even as public libraries continue to shrink, new schools of Library Science will pop up and salaries for librarians (perhaps with new monikers like "information architect") will skyrocket.

www.oreilly.com/news/predictions_1200.html

Creating through Desktop Publishing and the Web

On February 3, 2001, a one-day workshop was put on by OALT/ABO (Thunder Bay region). Conducted by Phyllis Dalgleish, Business Department Chair of Hillcrest High School, the two part workshop consisted of Grabbing Graphics - Desktop Publishing, and Creating Web Pages.

Ever hear of the saying "Half the fun is getting there"? Entering the side door of the school, participants were greeted with a sign "OALT Workshop - up the stairs, WAY UP". Yes, three long levels of stairs to climb up to the sixth floor - Hillcrest has staggered floor levels. We arrived slightly breathless to plunge headlong into the world of desktop publishing using Corel Wordperfect. Basic design foundation was covered; for example, in a poster, the maximum number of typefaces used are three, but two is the best (typefaces can be changed i.e. bold, underlined, and *italicized*). Watermarks (lightening graphic images behind the print) was discussed, and we created two or more posters illustrating the different techniques.

Off to lunch (one group headed to the local Tim Horton's), then back for part two. Going back up the stairs helped burn off the calories.

For the second workshop, we used Netscape Composer to formulate our trial web pages. We learned how to capture pictures from free graphics websites, create URLs and links, and save all files (that when located under the index.html, creates the webpage that the server would locate). Although we did not send our fledgling webpages into cyberspace, we were shown sites where we could upload them. Phyllis reminded us

that the cardinal rule for webpage design is to check, recheck and check again that all links would work and that the webpage is easily navigated by users.

A quick overview on Claris Web Page Designer for school board employees (a number of whom were attending) put the final touches on a fun and informative day.



Submitted by
Linda Bukovy

Editor's 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:

cnaysmith@lhbe.edu.on.ca

Caron Naysmith