
TECH TALK

Volume 31 No. 4 February/March 2004



President's message

Here we are near the end of another season with the first hints of spring struggling to show anew and for some of us it has been interesting. I pray that you are all happy with what you are doing and feeling fit and healthy during this past season of serious flu scares.

Looking back reveals that we had some exciting times together this year. The Founders Museum was a gem being polished right next door that many of us just drive by and the Thunder Bay Bookbindery had so much to teach that one trip may not be enough for many of those who attended. We had hoped to attend the library at the new hospital but a flood put the plans on hold for this year.

Attendance has been light this year except for the executive meetings. I suspect that this is because we generally had a supper or brunch so that out of town people did not have to stay out late in order to attend. It was fun and social but we still finished the business at hand.

Jingle Mingle was different this year. It was a dinner at the Welcome Restaurant. The buffet was much better than most expected for the price. Now we are heading into another dinner where I hope to see you all.

I just returned from Florida where I spent some time with a distant cousin (meant both ways) and she was teasing me about being a Library Technician and ragging on me that

all libraries in all schools should have librarians in charge. Americans just hate the idea of a Teacher-Librarian. After enduring this for a couple of days I found out that she had worked her whole career in a school library with a Masters degree in both guidance and social work but no library certificates. Boy did I get mine back after that.

I mention this because it brings to mind some things that we must think about before the final meeting. All kinds of professional people can learn to do the work if they are taught, or if they have to learn out of necessity. Therefore we must think about embracing more library workers that may not have a technician certificate if we are to continue to thrive.

We need people to run for office next year. We need to approve a new local constitution so that the Chapter can retain its legitimate status, and we need to expand our horizons because the idea of a Chapter allows for a broader interpretation for membership than the old regional system did.

So invite your friends, attend the dinner and come prepared to take on some official position. We hope to create a Chapter that will eventually touch someone in every library in the province. This is my hope. See you at the dinner.

Donald M. Henderson
President

**Treasurer's Report
February 12, 2004**

Previous Balance	\$2,205.99
Expenses:	
Postage	\$ 20.87
Postage & Envelopes	\$ 14.48
Music re: Jingle Mingle	\$110.00
Welcome Restaurant	\$200.00
Newsletter Costs	\$ 61.33
Regional Meeting Costs	\$100.53
Thunder Bay Book Bindery	\$ 50.00
Total	\$557.21
Balance	\$1,648.78
GIC	\$2,176.46
Total Net Balance	\$3,825.24
Membership - 2003/2004	
Institutional	1
Full Member	12
Retired	2
Student	1
Unemployed	1
Total	17
Submitted by:	
Trudy Mauracher	
Treasurer	



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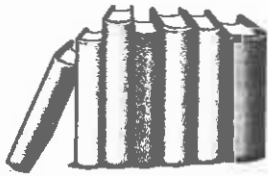
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**The basis of a book is glue : a tour of
Thunder Bay Bookbindery, Inc.**

written by Linda Bukovy

On Monday February 9, 2004 OALT/ABO Thunder Bay Chapter members took a tour of Thunder Bay Bookbindery, Inc., a bookbindery that was incorporated in 1977. Peter Sebesta, General Manager, gave a tour of the facilities. Peter learned his trade from his father, an immigrant from Slovakia, who also worked as Lakehead University's bookbinder. Peter's brother is also a bookbinder - he's continuing his father's job at the university.

Thunder Bay Bookbindery, Inc. binds books in four different ways : case, perfect, coil and periodical. They also repair and restore books. By the way, "perfect" is how paperbacks are assembled. The pages are collated, glued, and then a cover is formed and glued onto the spine.

In this tour, he brought us through a step-by-step assembly of a book according to Class A specifications which has over twenty steps (and none can be missed). Aiding him was his assistant Karen, also a bookbinder. The Bookbindery receives books with slips telling them how the customers want the book to appear, i.e. colour of binding, ribbons for markers, titles and call numbers to appear on spine, and in the case of periodicals, number of magazines assembled per volume (i.e. January to June, June to December).

Indexes are put at the back and old covers are ripped off. Staples are removed, the spines are trimmed back 1/8 of an inch using a giant automated paper cutter that can cut through 3 inches of paper. Not a good idea to try to see how quick your reflexes are...

It is then on to the sewing machine. This binds the pages together. Another method of binding the pages together is double-fanning. A very fine layer of glue is applied between each page, but for stability and endurance, oversewing is best. The machine punches small holes and weaves thread through. Karen feeds in small amounts of pages until all the pages are sewn together. After this, glue is applied over the sewn area and within a few minutes it sets. The sewn pages then return to the paper cutter and the pages are trimmed again.

Ever wonder how a book spine is rounded at the binding? Hit it with a hammer! The book then goes into a wedge machine which forms a ridge on both sides of the spine - the cover is affixed to these.

A cotton ribbon or headband is affixed to the top and bottom of the spine and protrudes about 1/8 of an inch - this finishes and protects the spine. A back-liner made of cloth is glued onto the spine - this holds everything together, and another glue coat is applied. While it rests, it is time to write the title and spine label that are to be printed onto the top end page. That way, when it comes time to affix the cover to the book, the right book gets the right cover. Imagine a family Bible getting a new cover saying Darwin's Theory of Evolution!

While this is setting, the cover is assembled. To make a hardcover, two pieces of binding

board are cut to protrude 1/8 of an inch past the length and width of the assembled pages. Binding board is made from press board which won't split, but has a grain that has to run up and down in the direction of the spine, not across; otherwise the cover may curl and warp. A spine board is cut to fit into the pages' ridges to an exact specification: too short, it will keep the book from closing; too big, there are folds along the spine. Buckram, a very strong cloth, is laid out with the spine piece and binding board on it. Again, there are specifications to be aware of and measured precisely with a 1/2 inch overlay (any shorter, it will pop off, any longer it will be unwieldy). When that is done, the buckram is cut out, then put through a roller which applies hot animal-based glue on one side. Within a few seconds and with the pressure of a bone knife (gentle on paper fibres), the buckram covers the boards and is put through a press to set everything up.

Now, remember the title? Off to see the hot-lead machine where stamps of lines of print are formed. Cabinets with different fonts and sizes of letters are nearby. Karen quickly pulls out letters spelling out the title (or words that would fit on one line across the spine), puts them into a holder, then inserts this quickly into the hot-lead vat - the lead reaches temperatures of over 500°. This apparatus also quickly cools the new stamp so that Karen can hold the new-formed piece in her hand less than 10 seconds later. The new line is then brought to a small press where it is inserted, and the newly made buckram cover inserted underneath. Karen makes a blind impression, and then lays foil over this. Again the stamp is lowered and now the title stands out. She does the same on the front.

It's time to assemble the book parts. The cover rests into the ridges, end pages are glued onto the cover and then the book is put into a hydraulic press; weight presses the glue, bonding it right into the cover. A day of resting on a book truck with weights applied on the cover, and it's ready to go back on the shelf.

If you're wondering about the title of this piece, just read through the article - animal-based glue is applied at almost all the stages. What's so special about this? First of all, it's not acid-based and will not damage the pages if applied properly. When it dries, it remains flexible and can stand up to normal usage. It has to be animal-based bookbinding glue; don't use wood or all-purpose glue (these dry, becoming brittle over time) and never use rubber cement (besides becoming brittle, this can really space a person out). And as for tape - Peter and Karen shudder - lots of work is involved in rebinding a book that's been repaired with this.

Many thanks to Peter and Karen for such an informative and enjoyable tour of Thunder Bay Bookbindery, Inc. For more information contact Thunder Bay Bookbindery, Inc. at www.binderysolutions.com, 623-3672 or psebesta@tbaytel.net



**OALT/ABO Annual
Dinner Meeting**

**Once again the
Thunder Bay
Chapter of
OALT/ABO is**

hosting their annual dinner meeting. It will take place on Thursday March 25, 2004 at the Slovak Legion, 801 Atlantic Avenue. Symposium at 6:30, supper at 7:00. Tickets are \$20.00. For further information contact Kathy Crewdson 343-5768 or Caron Naysmith 345-9572. The annual meeting and election of officers will follow. All positions are open and if you are interested in one of these positions please let any member of the executive know.

President
 Secretary
 Treasurer
 Public Relations
 Chapter Liaison
 Newsletter Editor



Brain Teasers

In the last issue of Tech Talk we included part of a quiz taken from The Reader's Digest celebrating the 50th anniversary of The National Library of

Canada. Here is another section of the quiz. Time to put on your thinking caps and figure out the correct definition for the following words.

Citation - A: excerpt B: word count C: critical comment D: overdue notice

Collate - A: to prove true B: put in order

C: estimate D: catalogue

Cursive - handwriting that is A: shaky B: precise C: flowing D: full of swear symbols

Disseminate - A: categorize B: ban C: spread widely D: thoroughly explain

Etymology - study of A: classifications B: word origins C: insects D: Tiny Tim and his effect upon the 1960's.

Turn to page 7 to see how you did!

Margaret Yussack Demillo had been approached to write an article for Tech Talk following the OALT/ABO conference held in Thunder Bay (2002 & You). However, due to unexpected circumstances, she was unable to submit her article until now. We are sure it will be of interest to our members and so have included it in this issue. Many thanks to Margaret for sharing it with us.

The Power of One

written by Margaret Yussack Demillo

We all know that librarians, library technicians, researchers, information specialists, etc., are dynamic folk. (Of course we are!) You needn't look further for a more dynamic and passionate person than Maggie Weaver. Maggie presented her Power of One: Tactics for One-Person Libraries seminar during the OALT/ABO Conference in May 2002 at Lakehead University.

Let me provide some background here: Maggie Weaver is my hero. You see, I spent four years as Business Information Officer with the City of Thunder Bay where part of

my job was to assist aspiring entrepreneurs with their market research for business plans.

I was constantly on the phone with my bosses in Toronto (two of whom were MLS grads), asking for a Canadian business sourcebook. No one knew of any and my job became increasingly more difficult. One day a flyer came in the mail offering The Canadian B2B Research Sourcebook.

I had a few dollars left in my budget; I could justify this purchase. About a week later, the book arrived. It has never left my desk since, it is my Bible. I could go on and on about the Sourcebook, but it's really something that, until you need it, you can't fully appreciate it. For anyone out there who assists business with research, it's the best investment you will ever make.

One typical work day, my desk swamped with information requests, to-do lists and business directories, my phone rang. A slight British accent asked for me, explaining that she was a private consultant on contract with Industry Canada, yadadyadadyada (yes, I was tuning out). Then something clicked. She was still explaining her project and I rudely interjected, "Is this THE Maggie Weaver? The author of The Canadian B2B Research Sourcebook?" She said, "yes" and I was awe-struck. After some conversation, a face to face meeting and a ton of correspondence via e-mail, I jumped at the chance to see my hero deliver a seminar at the OALT conference.

Maggie delivered "The Power of One" with her unique passion for libraries and research. The seminar was geared to those of us who work alone, who manage resource centres with no staff, no support and usually with a

manager who doesn't really understand what it is that we do. Her talk began with some pep talk, giving hints like talk the language that others will understand and you are not alone. She spoke of the need for the solo information specialist to focus, to keep a positive mental attitude, to apply an entrepreneurial zest to his/her work and to conduct an internal audit to help profile one's life cycle and SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats). Of course, time management is an issue for everyone, and Maggie stressed the importance of budgeting time for communication: If you don't budget your time for communication with your boss, you are guilty of insubordination. How true! The highlight of her presentation included the marketing of the one person in that one person library. Few of us ever consider our profession in terms of customer segmentation, positioning, product/service design, people, pricing and promotion of ourselves.

Maggie's seminar helped lift my spirits; she validated my experiences and fears as a solo professional, and she helped me identify ways to help reinvent myself, my role and responsibilities and my corporate worth. We need more champions like Maggie! And we need organizations like OALT to help champion these champions!



Brain Teaser Answers

citation - A: excerpt, quote. E.g: A citation about your topic from a learned authority is sure to impress your listeners. Latin: citatio.

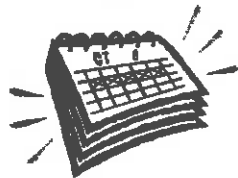
collate - B: put in order or assemble. E.g.: Before binding the manuscript, please collate the pages.

Cursive - C: flowing or joined together, e.g. cursive, not printed. From French cursif.

Disseminate - C: spread widely, e.g. The printing press allowed information to disseminate through the literate population.

Etymology - B: word origins and development., e.g. The Oxford English Dictionary is a great source for etymology. Greek etymon (literal sense of a word) and logia (study of).

Important Dates



MARCH

National Craft Month
Red Cross Month

2nd Sunday in March - Commonwealth Day,
Canada

Last full week of month - National Clutter
Awareness Week

Mar 2 - Geisel, Theodor "Dr. Seuss" b. Mar 2, 1904, d. Sept 24, 1991 - writer of The Cat in the Hat and other children's stories

Mar 3 - Bell, Alexander Graham - inventor - Mar 3, 1847 d. Aug 2, 1922

Bethune, Norman - doctor b. March 3, 1890 d. Nov 11, 1939

Hockey is played indoors for first time - Montreal, 1875

Mar 6 - Michelangelo de Lodovico Buonarroti Simoni - artist b. Mar 6, 1475 - d. Feb 18, 1564

Mar 8 - U.N. International Woman's Day
U.N. International Working Women's Day - first proclaimed in Helsinki, Finland in 1910 - to honour women, especially working women

Mar 9 - Panic Day - tell everyone you can't handle it anymore

Mar 16 - St. Urho's Day

Mar 17 - St. Patrick's Day

Mar 20 - First day of Spring

Mar 21 - U.N. International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - March 21, 1966 - to remember those who have fallen victim to racial injustice and to promote efforts to eradicate racial discrimination

Mar 22 - As Young As You Feel Day

Mar 26 - Frost, Robert - poet b. Mar 26,

1874 d. Jan 29, 1963

Mar 29 - British North America Act - March 29, 1867 Dominion of Canada established - Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick - Manitoba joined in 1870, B.C. in 1871, P.E.I. in 1873 and Alberta and Saskatchewan in 1905

Mar 30 - Van Gogh, Vincent - painter b. March 30, 1853 d. July 29, 1890



Internet Sites

Here are a few internet sites you might find interesting.

Ancient Civilizations

www.crystalinks.com/ancient.html

Canadian Encyclopedia

www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com

Free Translation

www.freetranslation.com

Search Engine Guide

www.searchengineguide.com

Library Spot

www.libraryspot.com

School Library Journal Online's Best Site for Librarians

www.slj.com/links/bestsires.asp

If you have a favourite site that may be of interest to others please let us know.



The Lohania Chapter of OALT/ABO is hosting the 31st Annual Conference. The theme is Phoenix to emphasize the new start of our association with our new constitution and our new beginnings.

The conference site will be the University of Western Ontario, London May 12-16, 2004.

Conference packages should be out shortly so watch the mail for yours!

Spring and Daylight Saving Time is just around the corner. Remember to turn your clocks ahead 1 hour on Sunday April 4, 2004.

