
TECH TALK



Newsletter of Thunder Bay Chapter

Ontario Association of Library Technicians/Association des Bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario
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"Winter" - Watercolour with Guache - c 1991

D. J. James

*Seasons's Greetings
&
Best Wishes
for
2006*

Ontario Association of Library Technicians/Association des Bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario
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OALT/ABO

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President's Message

I would like to start off wishing everyone health and happiness in the New Year.

Our condolences go out to Judy Sennett who just lost her father. When I finally read the notice in the paper, I realized why Judy is such a remarkable person. You were lucky, Judy, to have such a wonderful father.

Our congratulations go out to Christina Snow whose mother has just moved to Thunder Bay.

This past fall saw two workshops presented by Marian Doucette, **Blogging for your Library** and **Searching Canadian, eh! @ Your Library**. Our chapter paid her plane fare... which worked out to \$51.00 per person. Expenses were held down because Kathy was able to book the ATAC computer lab for free and Marian stayed with me. I would like to have another Saturday workshop of this caliber next year so if there is anything you would like please let me know.

The **Jingle Mingle** turned out to be an executive meeting with lots and lots of food and wine. Maybe next year we will mingle more.

Margot is planning a tour of the Library at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine for 7:00pm on 25 January 2006. Notices with more information will be coming out in early January. Hope to see you there.

Kathy is planning the February workshop with Erica Maki. Further details on that workshop will follow.

All that before we wrap up the year at our ABM in March/April.

Valerie Welsch
 December 2005

**Thunder Bay Chapter
Secretary's Report
September 22, 2005**

As Secretary I attended the General Meeting held on September 22, 2005 at the Church of Latter Day Saints and recorded the Minutes.

I have also sent a sympathy card on behalf of OALT/ABO Thunder Bay Chapter to July Sennett on the death of her father.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Bukovy
Secretary

Coming Events

Library Tour

Northern Ontario School
of Medicine

Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.
January 25th

Handwriting Workshop
with Erika Maki

Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
February 23rd
at the
Airlane Travelodge Hotel Spa
(A nominal fee may be required.)

Upcoming ...

Year-End Dinner
Keep the last week in
March open...
More news to follow!

New Jazz Collection

The Louisiana Digital Library has assembled a number of online collections that draw on the many archives and institutions from around the state. One such noteworthy collection is the Louisiana State Museum Jazz Collection, which has been assembled with the assistance of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Drawing on the rich musical and cultural heritage of traditional New Orleans jazz, the collection contains close to 700 photographs taken over the past nine decades.

The collection was created with tools available in CONTENTdm, a complete solution to help libraries, museums, libraries and other cultural heritage organizations store, manage and deliver digital collections to the Web.

<http://louisdl.louislibraries.org/collections.html>

Association of Canadian
Archivists Annual Conference

"Living on the Edge"
***The Place of Archives in the
Heritage and Cultural
Community***

St. John's, Newfoundland

June 28th – July 1st
2006

ARL/ESRI

GIS Webcast

***Libraries and Digital
Mapping in the 21st
Century***

Thursday, January 27, 2005
3-4:30 p.m. EDT (12 noon-1:30 p.m.
Pacific)

Special Rate!

\$75 per connection license
(allows for individual or group
viewing)

Register online at:
<https://db.arl.org/training/webcast.html>

Registration Deadline:
Monday, January 24, 2004

Gratitude

All library folk should be grateful that they are employed and have a regular income. Otherwise we might be laying around all day on a sunny beach, reading. Let me rephrase that ...

-- A. B. Credaro

***Assessing Student
Learning Outcomes***

An ACRL/TLT Online Seminar
February 13 to March 4,
2006

Check out other Information
Literacy online events at:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlissues/acrlinfolit/infolitnews/news.htm>

Letter from the Editor

Well, it's the New Year, and to my surprise, I have now become a "blogger". Marion Doucette's November workshop "blogs and blogging for your library" was a real eye-opener for me. Never thinking blogs were worth any professional interest, I've certainly learned differently.

"Enter the *Web log*.
Quickly conjugated to *Weblog*.
The shift of space makes *we blog*.
And the shortened version is *blog*.
It has become the *in* technology of the moment on the Net.
Greg R. Notess, Reference Librarian, Montana State University

Blogs are valuable and versatile tools for dynamic communication and web publishing. They provide a vehicle for quick and easy interaction and require no technical expertise. Reader comments are published instantly and there is an automatic archiving of material when the main page is refreshed. They can be updated from anywhere; reduce e-mail overload; provide reviews, links, schedules, workloads; and are economical publishing venues. They can also be set up as an RSS feed (I've yet to cover that territory).

For demonstration purposes, Marion used *Blogger* for the workshop. It has been bought out by Google and is very user-friendly.

I set up a 'blog', [tbayoalt](http://tbayoalt.blogspot.com), hoping we could use it for feedback and suggestions for chapter programming and the newsletter. It can be accessed at <http://tbayoalt.blogspot.com>. See you there!

Wanda Ewachow

Prayer for Librarians

*Lord, grant me the Serenity
to accept that the book is lost forever;
The Courage to refuse
a loan when there's an overdue book;
And the Wisdom to know
when it's time to take a break.*

-- A.B. Credaro, 2001

Check it out!

CARL's new
Web Portal on
Information Literacy

@

http://www.carl-abrc.ca/projects/information_literacy/information_literacy_e.html

Google's new

Newsletter for Librarians

@

www.google.com/librariannewsletter/1205

Library and Archives

Canada

Learning Centre

<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/education/index-e.html>

OCLC's

WebJunction

<http://webjunction.org/ds110me>

Searching Canadian, eh! @ Your Library

Ever feel overwhelmed by all the information out there on the Internet? You try to find answers to questions dealing with Canada and all you find are American sites. Or else you know there's information out there and you just don't know if the sites you find are factual or just someone's opinion. Well, Marian Doucette gave a presentation that addressed these points plus many more.

On Saturday November 5 2005, Marian Doucette, Information Trainer, led a workshop on Searching Canadian, eh! @ Your Library in the ATAC building at Lakehead University. Using a Power Point presentation and on-line examples, Marian showed the attendees many examples how the Internet can be used effectively. She reviewed the printed core reference tools needed in libraries and gave addresses for recommended websites giving the online version.

A rule of thumb is to examine the website carefully and establish the quality and accuracy of the information. Asking the workshop participants to do a search on a chemical compound, Marian led them to a specific site where the information looked fine, but upon closer examination, showed that this site was dubious in information quality and verification. A hint: look at the related links. If some of them are strange looking, be cautious. Use your judgment.

She stressed that a good research strategy is needed to narrow your search. A single word will bring up thousands of sites, but if you combine terms, this will be more precise. For example, linking the terms Ontario and maps will narrow the search more than searching for maps.

Marian provided a list of many helpful sites, and many were Canada and even Ontario specific. One site is ServiceOntario (www.serviceontario.ca) which gives quick access to straightforward information regarding provincial government services. She also included a myriad of sites that are educational and perfect for use in the school system ranging from creating a book, children's authors, and Canadian history and people.

To sum up, it was a totally enjoyable and informative workshop. Many thanks to the OALT executive for bringing Marian Doucette in to lead this workshop. Now I'll be able to fine-tune my web searches and find more Canadian-specific sites!

Submitted by **Linda Bukovy**

*From OCLC***The top 10 Web design mistakes of 2005**

Jakob Nielsen, a software engineer and consultant who authors the Web usability e-column *Alertbox*, asked his readers to nominate the usability problems they found most irritating. The top ten were:

- Legibility problems.** Bad fonts won by a landslide.
- Non-standard links** that violate common expectations for how links work.
- Flash.** Flash should not be used to jazz up a page.
- Content not written for the Web.** Make text short, scannable, to the point.
- Bad search experience,** which will require better software to fix.
- Browser incompatibility.** Don't turn away customers because of platform.
- Cumbersome forms** that feature many unnecessary questions and options.
- No contact or other company info.** A physical mailing address is important.
- Frozen layouts with fixed page widths.** Let users resize any windows.
- Inadequate photo enlargement.** When users ask, show them a big photo.

Jakob Nielsen's [Alertbox](#), October 3, 2005

<http://www.useit.com/alertbox/designmistakes.html>

*Skill Set Requirements for School Librarians***People Skills**

Must be able to work with all personality types including passive-aggressive, paranoid, sociopathic, psychotic, and just plain nuts.

Must be able to accept lame excuses from teachers regarding books that have been borrowed 'in their name', although they have never heard of - or seen - the item in question. And then say nothing when they bring it back three weeks later.

Must be able to teach a lesson with no preparation time while rebooting three computers, finding a lost book and answering a phone.

Must be able to read minds and anticipate - then meet - all needs.

Must be willing to instantly drop everything you're doing to help teacher plug in a VCR.

Must have all new textbooks in stock even if the department chair doesn't tell you to order them.

Must smile and maintain a sense of humor in all situations.

Must be able to remember which child has which book out, its date due, and the amount of any fines payable. This will allow you to answer all questions about these issues when asked by a parent in the middle of a supermarket.

From: "Skill Set Requirements for School Librarians"

<http://www.warriorlibrarian.com>

How esteemed, indeed, is human contact!

From [Publib] Human contact

Dear Publibbers,

Yesterday I questioned whether pushing work off on to patrons -- via phone tree / phone menuing systems and self checkouts -- is good customer service. It strikes me that our use of these technologies is a case of "we'll improve OUR productivity and OUR convenience at the expense of YOUR productivity and YOUR convenience."

No sooner had I carped and whined in this manner than the item I reproduce below came over my electronic transom. I don't know how well it works, as I haven't yet tried it out, but the fact that someone took the time and trouble to assemble a "cheat sheet" to subvert IVR (interactive voice response) phone systems is, to me, telling. How esteemed, indeed, is human contact!

If I were the director of a library system (am not nor ever will be), I'd resist the temptation to erect an IVR wall, and ballyhoo the fact that my institution is one that, when you call on the phone, you get a human being. Not only would it be respectful of patrons, it would be terrific PR.

IMHO. (And it is humble indeed, as I am but one of the grunts and hod-carriers of the profession.)

Is there anyone who actually loves IVR systems and their kin, or do we all find them hellishly frustrating, time consuming, and Kafka-esque?

I thought so."

-- Joe Schallan

Thu Dec 1 10:27:07 EST 2005

See the "Cheat List" to contact a human at
<http://lists.webjunction.org/wjlists/publib/2005-December/094781.html>

**2006 OALT/ABO
33rd Annual Conference**

**May 10 - 14, 2006
Brock University
St. Catharines, Ontario**

Check the website for registration news!

**Now available --
PAIS Archive, Part II**

The PAIS Archive database on the OCLC FirstSearch service has been updated with a second installment (Part II). The PAIS Archive is a retrospective database chronicling global public policy and social issues from the early twentieth century through the mid-1970's, and complements the contemporary social sciences coverage of the PAIS International database on FirstSearch.

With the addition of Part II, the The PAIS Archive database now contains more than 850,000 records, originally published in the Public Affairs Information Service Bulletin, 1937 - 1976. The full file, including records for material published since 1915, will be available this winter and is projected to contain 1,000,000 records. Additional information about the PAIS Archive, including a Search Guide and list of Frequently Asked Questions, is available on the PAIS Archive Information.

Also newly available on OCLC's FirstSearch is The **Philosopher's Index** database, produced by the Philosopher's Information Center, a non-profit organization dedicated to serving philosophers.

"Truth is a matter of perspective, personality and sheer determination." -- A.B. Credaro

Library Wishes for the New Year

May your budgets be large, and your loss rates be small;
 May troublesome patrons not bother you at all.
 May you be blessed with management whose
 Decisions are fact-based, not 'judgment calls'.

May your reviewing journals be on the ball,
 So your fiction collection keeps readers a'thrall.
 May your reference shelves be well-stocked
 And stay information seekers' first port-of-call.

May the library graffiti be on paper, not walls,
 And chewing gum be restricted to shopping malls.
 May ideas be the only bouncing that's heard
 Rather than the thumping of basketballs.

May you be blessed with both vision and total recall,
 So whatever your height, you may stand tall;
 May you have the strength in your body and soul
 To face the inevitable administrative stone wall.

You might find you're behind the eight-ball,
 But your library needs you to stay for the long-haul.
 You'll need to be stimulating, creative and professional
 * With support that may total not much at all.

-- Amanda Credaro © December 2003

**Stan Berenstain, 82, passes away
 November 29, 2005**

Co-author with his wife Jan of over 200
Berenstain Bears books, his contribution to
 children's literacy and family values has
 been immense. He will be missed.

REVIEW

*Biblia's Guide to Warrior
 Librianship
 Humour for Librarians Who
 Refuse to Be Classified*

by
 Amanda Credaro & Peter Lewis

"[C]redaro provides just what
 the doctor ordered....Biblia's
 Guide to Warrior Librarianship
 is recommended for librarians
 who need a smile, a chuckle, or
 even a belly laugh. For those
 librarians who are humor-
 impaired (and you know who
 you are), please exercise caution
 if you open this book--it might
 induce a humorous reaction."
Library Journal

"...one person's terrorist is
 another person's freedom
 fighter"

-- Karen Mingst,
 "Essentials of
 International
 Relations" (New
 York: W. W.
 Norton &
 Company, 2001,
 second edition)

