

TECH TALK



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President's Report

As I write the eulogy for Thunder Bay Chapter OALT/ABO, I thought I would start with our history.

In May 1970, the Canadian Library Association sponsored a two day workshop on the Library Technician. The workshop was held in Thunder Bay and attracted participants from the United States and Canada. Its theme was **The Library Technician at work: theory and practice.**

Library technicians took an active role in this workshop and at its conclusion; some 30 graduates discussed the need for and the relevance of an association for technicians all across Canada. A decision was made to form an association and temporary headquarters were set up in Thunder Bay. The co-ordinator was Lois Petney, a 1969 graduate of the Lakehead University Technician Program who was then employed at the Port Arthur Collegiate Institute Library. Membership would be open to all technicians and students across Canada. Membership fees were \$2.00 and students were free. Within the first year, membership in the Canadian Library Technician Association grew to over 150 members. A constitution was drafted but launching was slow. The CLTA never succeeded due to geographical and financial reasons. However the seed was sown for the future development of the Ontario Library Technician Association.

On October 26, 1973, twenty-six Library Technicians met at Humber College to further ideas presented at the May seminar - **Where are we going and why?** And OALT/ABO was formed. Major items for discussion were a

constitution and plans for a conference. Some branches were already formed, as a result of the CLTA. Lakehead University Library Technicians Association, for example, was one of the original five. By 1975 there were eight regional branches.

On February 1, 1979, OALT/ABO received the "Letter Patent" officially incorporating our association. Our Ontario Corporation number is 392353.

Closure of this historic chapter occurred on April 17 2008 as the few remaining die-hards of this region's association unanimously voted to dissolve Thunder Bay Chapter OALT/ABO. Our chapter has followed Sudbury, Huronia, and London's example: the Library Technician course folding, no new "blood" in the groups, and the older members growing weary. However, our chapter continued to vote in a full executive and continued to grant its members some professional development in the form of workshops and tours right to the end.

I graduated from Lakehead University and proudly became a member of OALT//ABO in 1986. Since then I have met hundreds of Library Technicians, attended copious workshops and tours, and attended numerous conferences (although not as many as I would have liked).

Finally, I would like to thank the executive and all our members for keeping our Chapter so active and productive. Thank you for all the memories.

Valerie Welsch, Past President.

If you're wondering why this issue is so thick, here's the reason. This issue is jam-packed with articles of tours and workshops that took place between September 2007 and May 2008. Enjoy!

A New Facelift and A New Moniker for Confederation College Library

Linda Bukovy

Nothing to start off a new OALT/ABO season like a tour, and after the October 2007 General Meeting, members toured the brand-spanking-new Paterson Library Commons at Confederation College. The old Challis Library, long, long overdue for a facelift, was gutted during the summer: books packed into boxes, shelving and furniture taken down and carpeting torn up. Major renovations took place from May through August. It's opened up now with a new floorplan, furniture and flooring, new colour scheme (dark cherry, blue/grey slate, ochre and caramel) and comfortable seating and studying areas and a new moniker honouring the main donor: the Paterson Foundation.

Helen Heerema showed the members the Library's new web page designed by a student in the College's Multi-media program. An excellent feature allows students to link onto web databases on their home computers by using their library student card number and password (PIN) provided by the SIRSI database. In addition, Carmun (associated with Facebook) helps people create proper bibliographies using the "Killer Bib Tool" that converts information into different proper bibliographic formats. A link to Second Life provides regional students with a virtual tour of the Confederation College. "Ask a Question" allows students to email questions to library staff. Although the staff

don't directly answer research questions, they suggest aids and assistance. Another link is "Quick Search" which will sort, filter, merge, and provide abstracts from the Library's subscription databases and catalogue.

Special "path finder" brochures are part of the Library's on-going quest to provide specialized tools for the different programs offered by the College, and each full-time Library Technician is responsible for two to three specific programs.

On the Main floor, there is a silent study room (with wireless capacity), administration offices, circulation and information desks, photocopier area, serials and government documents, the main book collection, reference, and audio-visual materials along with on-line catalogues and banks of computers for student use.

The bottom floor is open for students and is equipped with twenty-four computers with room to expand to four more. There is a sitting area with comfy chairs situated around a fireplace, (each chair equipped with a small tray that can hold a lap-top), a children's area, five study rooms that can be booked on-line, regional newspapers, some paperbacks, storage cabinets and the offices of the library staff.

Many thanks to Helen for allowing us to view the Paterson Library Commons.

Jingle Mingle and Be Merry (not so...)

Linda Bukovy

A cold stormy evening brought seven stalwart members out on December 3, 2007, to Kathy Crewdson's house for a meeting and the annual Jingle Mingle. Minutes from the October 11 2007 General Meeting and Executive reports were handed out and accepted. In January,

Kathy Crewdson along with Moira Davidson will present Library 2.0 at Lakehead University. In February, Kathy Walkinshaw will present a workshop.. Membership forms have been sent out from Provincial. Reminder: membership now covers January to December. Travel expenses are covered for a person to attend the upcoming Conference to be held in Kingston. The person needs to show proof of purchased transportation tickets to Helen Heerema, Treasurer, prior to reimbursement.

New business: not enough interest is being shown in joining, participating or continuing the Thunder Bay Chapter, so a motion of intent to dissolve the Thunder Bay Chapter of OALT/ABO as of April 2008 was put forward and agreed upon by the attending membership. Valerie Welsch will send the Motion of Intent through the chapter's Listserve to current members so they are aware of it prior to the Chapter's Annual General Meeting in April.

After the meeting, members mingled and jingled (nice to see so many Christmas sweaters!) Many thanks to Kathy for hosting the Jingle Mingle.



"... Names Can Never Hurt Me"

Linda Bukovy

Is your work constantly criticized, trivialized or dismissed? When you walk into a room, do your co-workers suddenly stop talking and avoid eye contact? Is your new cubicle now located behind the photocopier, far away from co-

workers? Are you subjected to snide comments as you walk by?

You may just be under attack from bullying. But, bullying occurs and stays in the school yard, yes? People are aware of it and it's been stopped, right? Sad to say, it continues on. Jacqueline Cottingham of On Target Consulting presented a program called "Bullying in the Workplace" on February 25, 2008, to the Thunder Bay Chapter of OALT/ABO.

Jacqueline explained harassment as defined by the law, statistics involved, and bullying from three points of view: the bully, the victim and the bystander. In the case of the victim, bullying not only erodes the work environment, but affects the victim's homelife and personal health, leading to isolation, depression, anxiety, sleeplessness and in extreme cases, assault and, possibly, killing, of the bully as evidenced by the shooting that took place at the Ottawa Transit maintenance yard in 1991. The victim, a bus driver named Pierre Lebrun, had been teased unmercifully about a speech problem, and he finally broke under the strain, bringing a hunting rifle to work and killing four co-workers and then himself.

Jacqueline presented different coping strategies and resources. By telling us to think logically, use assertive skills, report bullying to others, write incidents down, and realize that simple points must be reiterated to the bully over and over (think "broken record"), she's given insight into breaking the cycle of bullying and allowing us to help each other, not hinder.

Many thanks to Jacqueline Cottingham for the presentation and to Kathy Walkinshaw on her help in making it happen.

“Setting Sail”
Kingston
OALT/ABO Annual Conference
May 6-10, 2008

**Using Camtasia (Sandra Halliday,
 MLIS - Public Services Librarian,
 Queen’s University)**

Helen Heerema

According to Wikipedia (April 15, 2008) a **learning object** is defined as:

- “Any entity, digital or non-digital, that may be used for learning, education or training”
- “Any digital resource that can be reused to support learning”
- “A digitized entity which can be used, reused or referenced during technology supported learning”

Camtasia is screen recording software. It records anything on your computer screen and the output is called a “screencast”. Once recorded, the screencast video can be edited and enhanced to include audio, callouts, quizzes, etc. The video can be shared with an audience on the web.

Camtasia can be creatively used in a library setting to provide online tutorials for databases, provide answers to questions that highlight a “click path”, on-the-fly answers at the Reference desk, staff training etc. One of the best instruction methods for distance learning is to create a learning object using Camtasia. This product allows for self-paced instruction and answers when the library is closed. The software is easy to learn, provides high quality screencast video and is easy to update or change. This product appeals to different learning styles and educational needs whether it be visual,

auditory, and/or kinaesthetic.

Steps to creating a screencast video are as follows:

- Explore ideas and select a project
- Create a script (screencast or powerpoint with or without narration)
- Prepare your computer screen (hide any toolbars you do not wish to show!)
- Rehearse your screencast
- Record your screencast
- Edit and/or add enhancements (e.g. title/end slides, callouts, etc.)
- Produce your screencast using the production wizard (file formats available include Flash, Quicktime, RealMedia)
- Upload your screencast to the web (maybe add to YouTube!)

Learning objects must be relevant to be effective and they must be short so that students can find the answers quickly. If an online tutorial is long, consider breaking up the information into modules. The [Bracken Health Sciences Library](http://library.queensu.ca/webmed), (<http://library.queensu.ca/webmed>) Queen’s University website, has a number of screencasts available, including off-campus access, e-journals, searching for reserves, explode a term, focus a term, and del.icio.us. The Camtasia software they used is available for \$179.00 U.S. (institutional) and the company does offer a 30 day trial. Give it a try!



**Building a Library
Collection with
Shrinking Dollars
(Scott Millard, MLS,
Halton Catholic
District School Board)**
Helen Heerema

It seems that every year, books costs rise and budgets shrink. In this workshop, Mr. Millard introduced seven main points for a librarian / library technician to consider when purchasing materials:

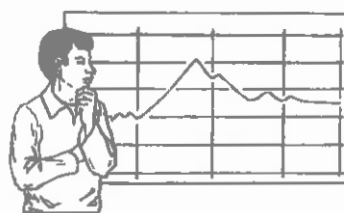
1. Technology and the impact on clientele
2. Internet access (what is freely available that is good, and does your clientele have access)
3. Multiple formats of same item
4. Don't try to be everything to everyone
5. Know your collection
6. Spend wisely
7. Share costs with a group (is this possible? Does it serve your community?)

If you do not have a collection policy, create one. Identify your collection; be concrete and comprehensive. Know the limits of your budget. Assess your library collection: what do you have and what is missing? Next, establish your needs: what do clients want and what is needed to provide access? Identify your clients: who are they and what do they want? Ensure you have all the documents that affect your operation, such as the Ontario Disabilities Bill, new curriculum being rolled out, long term agreements (i.e. databases) and revise your policy to reflect these documents. Then, repeat as necessary!

Now it is time to spend! Use professional resources if they are available to you. Check

with vendors: some will come to you, some will provide catalogues. And don't be shy about asking for a discount. Look at reader's advisories (i.e. www.readersadvisoronline.com). Choose the items you know your clients will always want and order pre-publication if you can (usually cheaper). If you still do not have enough money, consider a floating collection (share between branches), consider digitization (share electronically - useful for local history), look at vendors and balance who has the best service versus the best deals. Purchase wisely when deciding between hardcover and paperback (or Permabound). Sometimes a hard cover may be cheaper because it will last longer. If money is still a problem, look at donations, fund raising, "adopt a book" project, "birthday book" project and partnerships with commercial enterprises.

For interest's sake, check out the Library Garden blog - <http://librarygarden.blogspot.com>



**Statistics: They're not just for
breakfast anymore!**
(Jeff Moon, MLS, Queen's University)
Helen Heerema

Mr. Moon is the MAGIC man at Queen's, or the "go to" guy at the Maps Data Government Information Centre. He provided an interesting and dynamic presentation on statistics and how to find them.

He used a mapping tool to provide a visual look at the creation of statistics. They start with an:

1. "issue or situation"
2. move to measurement (i.e. Polling)
3. then "promotion" (activists, media, etc.)
4. on to general "public awareness"
5. and then to "opposition" (defence of policies, interests)
6. then back to the "issue or situation"

The statistical analysis reflects back to the tables, charts, graphs, microdata, etc..

Here are some interesting sites to view Canadian statistics:

- the Living Census
<http://thelivingcensus.statcan.gc.ca>
- Canada Year Books online
Note also the Canada Year Book (CYB) Historical Collection
http://www65.statcan.gc.ca/acyb_r00-eng
- E-Stat
<http://www.statcan.ca>
- CANSIM
<http://cansim2.statcan.ca>
- .IVT files that can be downloaded with Beyond 20/20 software (check www.statcan.ca for more information)

Queen's University and a number of other universities are involved in the Data Liberation Initiative (DLI) which has recently become the Research Data Network. It currently costs about \$3,000 per year but likely will be free in a few years. Many researchers are using this service to check data for their studies. In the past many universities created their own home-grown survey data systems, but since 2000, a data documentation initiative (DDI) has been used by

many to catalogue surveys, research data, etc. The universities have created "odesi", a virtual stats website which will likely be freely available in time.

Interesting sites:

Canadian Opinion Research Archive
<http://www.queensu.ca/cora/4papers.html>

Inter-University Consortium for Research for Political and Social Research
<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu>

Maps Data Government Information Centre at Queens
<http://library.queensu.ca/webdoc/>



Blogging URLs

Peter Sprenkle's **Ref Grunt** (working the reference desk)
<http://refgrunt.blogspot.com>

Research Buzz (info about search engines, databases and other information collections)
<http://researchbuzz.org/wp/>

Librarian in Black ("resources and discussions for the "tech-librarians-by-default" among us")
<http://librarianinblack.typepad.com/>

Rethinking Copyright (Jean Dryden, MLS)

Helen Heerema

Bill C-60 was introduced in Parliament in June 2005, but it died on the order paper when Parliament dissolved in November 2006. To be re-introduced in December 2007, it again was put on the back-burner when a Facebook group, Fair Copyright for Canada, criticized its content. The Copyright bill is expected to go through before Parliament breaks for the summer of 2008.

The proposed changes in Bill-C-60 are as follows:

1. Implementation of the WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization) treaty, which states that content is copyright-protected regardless of format. This includes sound recordings and/or performances, and there is legal protection for rights management: technology measures such as encryption hacking. This will also put the changes in line with United States Copyright.
2. The work of a photographer is protected and he/she is considered the author of the work. This includes ownership of copyright in commissioned work and the term of copyright is the life of the photographer plus 50 years.
3. Changes include ISP (internet service provider) liability. It will be a notice regime in that if a copyright holder notifies the ISP provider about an infringement, the ISP is required to notify customer.
4. Technology-enhanced learning (i.e. distance learning) is protected. Act will permit colleges to communicate lessons to remote students (but not if subject material infringes copyright without permission). An educational institution

with Access copyright licence will be able to provide digital copies to students, but they must take measures to prevent misuse.

5. In the Interlibrary Loan area, the Act removes the prohibition on providing a patron with a digital copy, as long as the library/archive/museum providing the copy takes steps to prevent further copying, or use beyond 7 days.
6. Use of the internet for educational purposes has not been resolved yet.

In the Public Interest: Future of Canadian Copyright Law by M. Geist was published in 2005 and is a good overview of Canadian copyright.

Jean Dryden feels that copyright law should move in the direction of expanded fair dealing. She is concerned about digital rights management and the ability of contracts to remove user's rights. The statements concerning photographers and their work will likely be in the next copyright act. Generally there is concern that the law remains balanced between the copyright holders and the users. And remember, there are no quantities in the Act that is specified in the Access Copyright License.

Specific Websites:

Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada - Intellectual Freedom

<http://www.aucc.ca/policy/priorities/intellectual-e.html>

Canadian Intellectual Property Office - Copyright

<http://www.cipo.ic.gc.ca/epic/site/cipointernet-internetopic>

copyrightlaws.com

faircopyright.ca

How I Spent my Spring Holidays: Planes, Trains and Taxis

Kathy Crewdson

(Kathy sent a great piece describing her trip to the conference, the fair city of Kingston and its sights. Because of its length, I've had to edit it down, but I hope that I give you all an inkling of what Kathy experienced. - Editor)

My partner and I inquired about the GO Train and within minutes we boarded. Eglinton was our stop since we were going to stay overnight with my aunt in Kingsway Arms Retirement Home. This is not the first time we stayed there, but this time was the craziest...

Next day after breakfast we took the GO train to Oshawa and then onto the VIA to Kingston. Our ride on the VIA train was quite interesting since the rails followed Lake Ontario part of the way; very picturesque, and I really had never seen the back of houses for awhile. Closer to the city we also saw green pastures with no condos. Real cows and I think a few horses.... wonders never cease to amaze.

We taxied to St. Lawrence, found our room and immediately left to walk to see Lake Ontario, only to be attacked by mayflies, dah! That night was the welcome reception, so I met lots of people and ate lots. I talked to an interesting mix of library techs from Kitchener/Waterloo, Barrie, and Toronto.

I told myself before the sessions that I would sit in the front row and take copious notes. I attended the following: **Using Camtasia** (to create short learning objects) presented by Sandra Halliday (Queen's), **Bloggng** presented by Heather Martyn (Kingston Frontenac Public), **Information Literacy By Design** presented by Cory Laverty (Queen's), **Copyright** presented by Jean Dryden, **Statistics** presented by Jeff

Moon (Queen's), **Motivate Employees** presented by Marsha Hunt (Halton Catholic School Board) and **Disabilities** presented by Davina Desroches (Carleton U.). **Camtasia** was extremely interesting and informative. You can use this software to create a video e.g. how to connect to your library. I enjoyed **Statistics** and **Copyright**, the two which I thought would be the most uninteresting.

Sightseeing

An acquaintance, local retired chemistry professor, George B., fills us in on Kingston. Queen's University's newest acquisition is the Women's Penitentiary. The plan is to have this building as an archive, but zoning and regulations on what can be done to the structure are not clear.

George tells us that a number of Scottish stone masons settled here after surviving the gruesome explosions and accidents blasting and hacking through the rock of the Rideau Canal, then the typhus epidemic that followed. They built in limestone and made the churches and schools to accompany the prisons and fortifications.

Friday afternoon on the day before leaving to go back to Thunder Bay, we had some time to discover Kingston on foot. The first sight we see is The Pen (Kingston Penitentiary) where a historic sites marker assures us that the Pen is a testament to Canada's love of law and peace. Here are kept the worst monsters who would not last in the general prison population.

Across the street we discover the Church of St. Dismas, The Good Thief. Leaving him peering out of his castle at the dismal prospect of the Pen, we recommence our march along King Street into town. The third edifice among the squat grey stone houses is the Orange Hall. Backing onto Lake Ontario, it seems to form a

solid weight of Scots-Irish souls to balance the Catholic souls at St. Dismas. Further on we tour “Belvedere”, the Italian-inspired house of Sir John A. Macdonald, our first Prime Minister, and visit the gardens.

The guidebook says that Kingston is historic. It was and is a dynamic force in the law, medicine, finance, politics and the military. Kingston remains a strategic lynchpin for Canada, situated at the east end of Lake Ontario where it still stands on guard behind its ramparts and stones. Fort Henry and the Royal Military College are at the centre of the fortifications, which historically is what Kingston is all about. It’s the home of the elite officer class of Canada: Canada’s Sandhurst and West Point all rolled into one.

Homeward bound

Finally it is time to leave. Another taxi takes us to the station, where we find that the train is going to be another 15 minutes late. Everyone picks up their baggage and troops wearily into the station. The VIA pulls in and everyone races back outside. Without a hitch we climb aboard and stow our gear in the bins at the end of the car. Gone are the days of the porter and the mysterious baggage car. Gone too the dining car, and gone too even a cart bearing dried sandwiches. When we arrive outside Union Station, we find that life is fast. Everyone and everything is in a big hurry, including a flock of pushy sparrows who demand to have their share of a Polish sausage in a bun that I gobble down. Cab drivers hurl vicious, blood-curdling threats and obscene curses in foreign accents. It’s raining hard now, the cloud ceiling down to a few hundred feet. Off we go to Pearson Terminal One in a diesel bus, its windshield wipers slapping time. Next stop the forest and home.

In conclusion I thank Thunder Bay Chapter of

OALT/ABO for their part in making my conference trip happen.

If you would like more information on the workshops held at the Kingston Conference, please refer to oaltabo.on.ca. Links to workshops / notes will be posted shortly.

A Light at the End of the Tunnel?

At the Provincial Annual Business Meeting (May 10, 2008) in Kingston, I was given an opportunity to bring forward the sad message of the recent dissolving of the Thunder Bay chapter. During the discussion, the provincial board proposed having Thunder Bay remain a chapter similar to the current status of the “book” chapter. If we agree, provincial would like us to continue subscribing to a “Thunder Bay” chapter (or we could rename it “Lake Superior”??). We would not have to maintain an executive or bank account, but the \$20.00 we each pay towards the chapter would be set aside for providing us with professional development, a dinner meeting, etc., at least once per year. It seems like a reasonable proposal as it allows us an opportunity for an event without having to formally operate as a region with elections and a bank account. We currently have 9 individual members and 2 institutional members. If you wish to discuss this option and/or are interested in maintaining a regional status please let me know.

Helen Heerema
heerema@confederationc.on.ca
 807-475-6297

Editor's Comments

Sadly, I regret to tell you that this is the last Tech Talk newsletter that the Thunder Bay Chapter will be producing. Because of the decision to close our chapter, there is no further need for a regional newsletter.

I'm going to be reflective here. A quick look through my back issues of TechTalk showed that the editors and contributors were diligent in providing information to our members. Here are some examples of the different topics: marketing skills, "A Day in the Life of..." (personal memoirs of individual library techs describing a typical working day), tours of different libraries regional and provincial, pertinent internet addresses, book reviews, awards, government funding affecting libraries, our local university cutting the Library Technician Program in 2000 from its programs, effectively killing our chapter (yes, I'm letting my feelings come through on this, being a graduate from the program), provincial reports from the Regional Director, reports on workshops attended (lots of pertinent info), news about members ... oh my, the list goes on and on, and I'm just skimming.

In conclusion, I thank the past editors, writers, contributors and instructors for sharing their knowledge and information to all of the Thunder Bay Chapter's members. It kept us informed and made us feel united.

Good news: Kathy Crewdson will maintain our chapter's Listserve at oaltabotbay@hotmail.com. Also see Helen Heerema's article on the possibility of continuing Thunder Bay as a "virtual" chapter.

Linda Bukovy, Contributing Editor