



Ontario Association of Library Technicians Toronto Area

VOL. 7 NO. 4

Professor Kurmey-The Effect of Mini and Micro Computers on the Library

Recently TALTA invited Professor Wm. Kurmey of University of Toronto's Faculty of Library Science to speak on the topic of micro and mini computers. Prof. Kurmey is a knowledgeable and enthusiastic man who is able to condense this huge and complicated field into an interesting and informative lesson. He first explained the basic components of the minis and micros and then compared the differences between the two types. Then he discussed some of the applications and related their impact on the library scene.

Libraries are known as the warehouses of information and the community's reference tool, but the advent of computers is challenging this primary function. We are seeing an attempt by computer manufacturers to use all of the nation's population as a potential market for information service, thereby replacing the library as a central dispenser of information. It is obviously far more lucrative to deal with 23 million patrons than 2300 libraries.

Companies exist today, and will grow in numbers, that have extensive subject databases of interest to their subscribers. Information is knowledge, and knowledge is power, therefore, access to the latest, most complete information is crucial. Libraries cannot keep current with the printed format but on-line databases can.

Librarians and library technicians need not feel left out in this area. There are great avenues of career development to be explored in the information storage and retrieval field. Information must be processed which involves selecting, indexing, annotating and accessing on an even greater scale than before. With training, a librarian or library technician can access the material stored in the computer on a specific subject with ease, efficiency and speed by using key word combinations. We already have some of this skill from our cataloguing experience. At home, mini computers can tie the user into central databases, but not every user will have the special ability to effectively search for what she wants. We can act as consultants, trainers, and service technicians in making the pursuit of information a rewarding process.

Angela Rose

December Meeting

Tuesday December 4 Northern District Library Room 224A 7:30

Dean Tudor, chairman of Ryerson Polytechnical Institute's Library Arts Department, will be speaking on new proposals in library arts, continuing education for working technicians, and the technician's responsibility to the community.

Business meeting and wine and cheese will follow.

Meetings

TALTA has a problem in trying to get members to come to the meetings. Out of 148 members, 24 people usually come to the meetings. Muriel Armour will not be phoning people to remind them of meetings. When you get the newsletter, mark your calendar the dates of future meetings, that way you will not be missing meetings.

Courses at RPI

Please note, the prerequisites for Ryerson's evening courses Non-Book Materials and Technical Services Update need the Library Technician certificate. They are non credit courses and only open to graduate technicians and librarians.

****You can get half your education by taking our books from the library--for the other half you have to take out the librarian****

Conference 1980

Conference information is being sent out by the Ottawa Association. If you haven't received anything please write to:

Inforama 1980
OALT/ABO-ORB/SRO
P.O. Box 5182
Station F
Ottawa, Ontario.

or call Danielle Amat 1-613-995-2441 8:30-3:00.

Fee Structure

The fee structure for TALTA has been amended. Dues paid Jan 1-June 30:

Institutions	25.00
Grad. Techs	20.00
Associates	20.00

Dues paid July 1-December 30:

Grad. Techs	13.00
Associates	13.00

Students and retired technicians 5.00.

The OLA Conference, 1979

The Ontario Library Association's 77th Annual Conference (October 25th-28th), which had the theme: The 80's: Meeting the Challenge, was a success for the organizers and the participants.

The conference theme was enhanced by a wide variety of informative workshops. The most popular ones dealt with illiteracy, mini-computers and on-line reference services, and management and personnel evaluation.

More Library Technicians were in evidence than last year, as has been the trend for the last several years. This was an encouraging sign along with the fact that once again a number of sessions included in the roster were designed for and presented by Library Technicians e.g. Skills: Library Technicians in Reference and Refer Yourself to Your Next Job: Techniques of a Job Search for Library Technicians.

The OLAT/ABO has a very attractive information booth in the exhibits area co-ordinated by Nancy Mack.

Sue Radder

Student Awards

TALTA will be giving 25.00 awards to a deserving second year student from both Ryerson and Seneca. The decision was made at the last meeting. Criteria for selecting the students are necessity and skills.

ANNUAL TALTA

WORKSHOP

Theme:

"MANAGING YOUR OWN..."

Time

Personal Finances

Library Budget/Accounts

Stress

People (Supervisory Skills)

Seminars will be presented on the above.

DATE: Saturday, Jan. 12th, 1979.

9:00 am - 5:00pm

LOCATION:

Northern District Library

40 OrchardView Blvd., Toronto

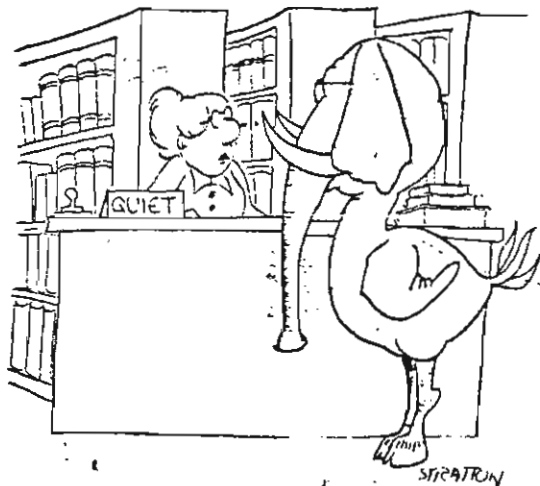
Rooms 224 A, B, & C.

Full brochure, agenda and registration forms will be mailed out soon.

Register early - workshops will be open to all OALT members & non-members.

TALTA business meeting and annual ELECTIONS will follow workshops.

Contact D. Hansen or S. Radder for further information.



"Well, you might start with Darwin's Origin of Species."

SPECIAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

PRESENTS

A REFERENCE WORKSHOP

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 23rd AND SATURDAY NOVEMBER 24th

A series of 8 concentrated seminars. You may choose any 6 of the following for \$50.00 (SLA members) or \$60.00 (non-members) :

1. CISTI (Canadian Institute for Scientific and Technical Information) - Advances in scientific, medical and technical information will be discussed, including an introduction to new data bases e.g. ELIAS (from Environment Canada) and new services e.g. Can.-OLE3 (a knowledge source index). Speaker will be Mary Van Buskirk from the Research and Reference Division of CISTI in Ottawa.
2. GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS IN THE ROBARTS LIBRARY - a seminar that will explore basic reference government sources that are not all that well known especially federal government documents. Speakers will be Librarians from Robarts.
3. INFOMART - a discussion of online information services. Presented by Sally Grande.
4. WHAT IS THE LAW AND WHERE TO FIND IT - Mary Alice Neal from the McCarthy and McCarthy Law Firm is the speaker.
5. MICROMEDIA - Barbara Hyland from New Canadian Patent Services and Disclosers Inc. will lead this seminar.
6. NTIS (National Technical Information Service) - an overview. Speaker will be Ted Ryerson from Springfield, Virginia.
7. U.S. CENSUS - a discussion on the different types of data available in the 1980 census. Tim Jones from the American Data Service will bring data samples to facilitate his talk.
8. RESEARCHING CORPORATIONS - a seminar on how to research corporations, government agencies, the press, security dealers and trade and professional associations. Speaker will be Amanda Robinson from Wood-Gundy Limited.

ALL SEMINARS WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE FACULTY OF LIBRARY SCIENCE.

Registration required by November 12th. Please make cheques payable to the SLA Toronto Chapter and mail to:

Carolyn Werle
Records Information Management Service
283 MacPherson Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M4V 1A4

For further information call Carolyn Werle, Mondays or Thursdays at 968-1357.