

... in touch with ...
TALTA

"...in touch with ...TALTA" is published irregularly about 5 times a year by TALTA. Copies are available to all OALT/ABO TALTA members. Enquiries and articles should be forwarded to the address at the bottom of this page. Advertising space is available @ \$10.00 per half page and \$20.00 per full page.

OLD BUSINESS

Report on the Provincial Executive & Board of Directors Meeting,
by Helen Luoma

The OALT/ABO Executive and Board of Directors held an all day meeting on June 20th, 1981 at the Northern District Public Library in Toronto. The new executive, elected at the Annual Business Meeting, planned an extensive agenda which proved to be quite productive. The 1981-82 Provincial Executive will be a busy group over the next term. Raising the profile of the Library Technician to others, as well as keeping us abreast of all that can aid in our careers, seems to be a major goal.

Several projects including surveys and committees have been established and directed towards reviving the future image of library technicians. The Funding Committee has now become a Presidential Committee. This means that the OALT/ABO Executive is responsible for setting the new guidelines and then presenting them to the Board of Directors for approval. Once approved, the Executive again, will write up a proposal, bring it back to the Board of Directors and then a new committee will be devised.

The OALT/ABO Executive and the Board of Directors are hoping to have some input from individual members of the Regional Branches. We're willing to listen to any suggestions and we are always anxious for any feedback and support. At any time, should you wish to contribute, feel free to contact the TALTA Director who will relay your ideas at the next meeting. Individuals are also welcome to attend any Executive and Board of Directors meetings. Once again, contact your director for further information.

It is now official that the London Regional Branch has folded, unfortunately. Hopefully, at some point in time, it will reform, but until then we hope to keep in touch with the library technicians in that area.

Last, but not least, for those of you who would like to take part in the "Essay Contest" coming up later in the year, just put your thinking cap on early. We will publicize the contest later on with more details.

All in all, the meeting was a success. Just remember, we are working for you and we require your ideas to help your needs.

P.O. BOX 441, DON MILLS, ONTARIO

M3C 2T2

June Meeting

17 members attended on June 16th and voted to change the fiscal year to coincide with that of OALT/ABO. The fiscal year for TALTA was from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. It will now run from May 1 to April 30. Dues paid in January 1981 for this year will extend to April 30, 1982. The present TALTA Executive will hold office until then also.

Thankyou Pat Buczkowski for the following account of Ian Dutton's presentation at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute.

Summary:

The present market for Library Technicians is good. The current graduating class (i.e., 1981) has already been placed; largely in special libraries. Statistics for 1980 indicate that medium starting salaries for Library Technicians ranged from \$11,500 to \$12,600, with the highest being \$18,000.

In the past, there has been difficulty in defining librarians and library technicians. Librarians have subject expertise. They are involved in administration and management; they create and develop systems. Library technicians possess the technical skills. They are able to run and maintain the systems developed by the librarians.

The future promises a growing market for library technicians. They will require the following skills:

- 1/ bibliographical skills - ability to manipulate (i.e., retrieve and disseminate) textual information.
- 2/ communication skills - ability to analyze the material for the user, and therefore become a more active member of the problem-solving team.
- 3/ management skills - include budgeting and cost-control.
- 4/ technical skills - first level maintenance of equipment. This includes A.V. material, duplicators, photocopiers, computers, printers. The library technician should be able to operate these items to the fullest potential at the least cost.
- 5/ political skills - the ability to act as a liaison. (office politics)

Ryerson's existing Library Arts program will continue for one more year, with attendance being cut down. They are in the process of negotiating with the Institute, to phase in a new program. There are two choices:

- 1/ to phase out the program entirely, or
- 2/ to upgrade the two year certificate to either a three or four year degree.

In the second option, a name change will take place. Library Technicians will become Information Technologists. This title implies that the graduate is a specialist in technology (which is accurate). The other basis for changing the title, is that the term "library" technician conflicts with the interests of the Faculty of Library Science.

The following is a graphic illustration of options available to Ryerson:

<u>Ideas (Input)</u>	<u>Program Options</u>	<u>Exit Options</u>
Grade 12	2 year certificate	certificate
Grade 13	3 year diploma	certificate or diploma
Post Secondary	4 year degree	certificate, diploma or degree*
- CAAT	3 year degree	diploma or degree
- Univ	2 year degree	degree
Mature (includes experience)		

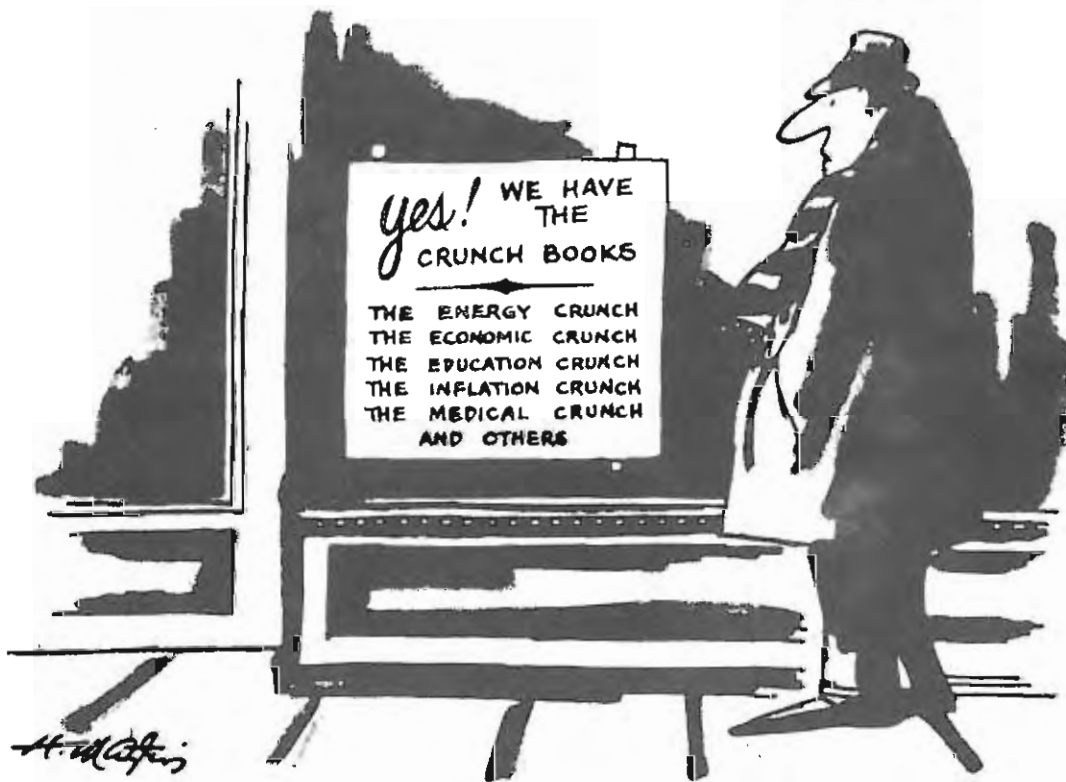
* Students would have the option of exiting after 2 years with a certificate; after 3 years with a diploma; or after 4 years with a degree.

Attendance Options

- Full-time day
- Part-time day
- Part-time evening
- Distance Education (Correspondence)

At the moment, Ryerson is seriously considering either the Grade 12 plus a 4 year diploma option, or the Grade 13 plus a 3 year degree. However, either programs will take approximately 3 years to implement.

Past graduates will be offered the opportunity to upgrade themselves. Each applicant will be interviewed to determine his/her level (i.e., in the program). Education and past work experience will be considered. The applicant will then be able to select the necessary credits for a degree in "Information Technology".



"RAISING THE PROFILE OF THE LIBRARY TECHNICIAN"

The Committee on Library Technicians (Role and Education) sponsored an inspiring workshop this year at the 36th annual C.L.A. conference in Hamilton. Speakers included Jean Weihs (Course Director, Library Techniques Program, Seneca College), Dorothy Kew (OALT/ABO), Linda Plexman (Manitoba Association of Library Technicians), Joanne Thompson (MALT) and Deborah Udy (British Columbia Association of Library Technicians). Of the 49 participants, 37 were library technicians, 8 were instructors, 2 were students, 1 was an employer of library technicians and 1 was attending for interest's sake. It was interesting to note that of the 37 library technicians present, 17 were supervisors in their work place.

The theme this year centered around raising the profile of the library technician. Jean Weihs stressed the importance of excellence and exposure; excellence in the work place and exposure to other library personnel and to the general public.

Exposure can be attained by:

- 1) joining other associations and by attending and participating at meetings (e.g. O.L.A., C.L.A., S.L.A. , etc...)
- 2) electing representatives that a) have the ability to communicate well; b) have good writing skills; c) have good research skills and d) dress professionally (i.e., they epitomize technicians), to sit on committees, such as the C.L.A. Committee on Library Technicians. Technicians' opinions are needed in formulating policies in library services.
- 3) attending several workshops/seminars that would be of interest to technicians.

Ms. Weihs acknowledged that the two major stumbling blocks in achieving this kind of "publicity" were time and money. It is difficult for technicians to get time off work and the necessary funds to attend the various committees and workshops. It is therefore, most important that representatives a) be willing to make sacrifices (re: time and money) and b) work with employers to enlighten them on the role of the technician in the library world and the importance of attending workshops, seminars and committees.

The panel discussion was based upon the following suggestions brought forth by Glenda Gagne at the 1980 C.L.A. Conference in Vancouver:

1. Instructors in the Library Technician programs should encourage a "professional" attitude among technicians. They should be encouraged to seek professional development by attendance at courses, workshops and seminars sponsored through the other local library associations. This requires membership in professional organizations (preferably C.L.A.). Does this happen in your province? Should it?
2. We should approach the Deans of Library Schools and ask them for permission to give a talk on the role of library technicians in libraries. Is this a plausible request? Has it been tried in your province?
3. Library Technician associations should get together and seek some sort of liaison with the C.L.A. (something like the ASTED/CLA arrangement) because belonging to two professional organizations is too costly. Perhaps if C.L.A. was benefiting financially from a large number of Library Technicians joining, then the Association would be more willing to assist in providing various workshops, bursaries, etc. Is this a good idea?
4. Perhaps the technician associations should approach the colleges and offer to send experienced techs in to talk to the class. Preferably just prior to graduation. Has your province done this? How successful was it? What items were presented? Should this type of exchange be mandatory?
5. We should strive to get more items of interest to techs in library journals. Some considerations might be a series of articles on library technicians across Canada and/or some information on graduation classes. Does this now happen provincially? Could maybe a national association of library technicians with a liaison with C.L.A. (as in item #3) help support this cause? Is provincially enough?
6. Is publicity of library technicians necessary? How (brochures, newspaper articles, library journal articles, career day speakers, etc.)? To whom should we be publicizing to? Provincially? Nationally?
7. Other concerns/problems/solutions to raising the profile of the Library Technician: employer's problems (misunderstanding of education and role of tech); Library Technician instructor's problems.

Professionalism is reflected in work, attitude and speech. It was the general consensus of all present that not all instructors nurtured professional attitudes among technician students. This then, was the task of the provincial associations.

MALT has encouraged all technician students to join, by making it mandatory that they become involved with the Association during the 2 year programme. Response to date has been good. Graduate technicians speak to both first and second year classes. Last year two techs were on the executive of the Manitoba Library Association. At the present time three techs are running for office for the M.L.A.

OALT/ABO has published a statement on ethics and professionalism. Each region provides workshops for its members throughout the year, and sponsors a conference once every seven years for the provincial membership. Graduates have been encouraged to speak to second year classes by the instructors. In the past, OALT/ABO representatives had approached the Library Schools for permission to speak to library science students regarding the role of library technicians in library services. The initial reception was for the most part hostile, due mainly to the misunderstanding of the role and education of technicians. Once this was resolved, the students were quite receptive.

The following recommendations were made:

- 1) to upgrade admission requirements for technicians (e.g., personal interviews, personality tests, clerical tests, etc...) to ensure that only competent applicants are accepted into the programmes.
- 2) to inspire technician students, by sponsoring tours to libraries which are run by technicians.
- 3) to have graduate technicians approach community colleges and library schools for permission to speak to both first and second year classes.
- 4) to educate the public in regards to the role and education of librarians, technicians and clerks (such an article was published in the October 25, 1980 issue of the Winnipeg Free Press).
- 5) that stronger ties with the C.L.A. and other library associations are needed

The concept of a national library technician association was discussed and the following observations were made:

1. A national group of technicians would help those who do not have a provincial association.
2. Nationalizing library technicians through the C.L.A. will be looked into for next year.
3. The general consensus was that each provincial association should maintain its own autonomy, but should also meet with the other associations at the C.L.A. annual conference to exchange information and ideas.
4. Continue with the practice of exchanging provincial newsletters.

Many felt that more effort should be made in publicizing library technicians to a) other technicians, b) librarians, and c) the general public. The following suggestions were made:

- 1) publish articles of interest to library technicians. These compositions could be solicited from library schools, community colleges, and from the graduates themselves. (OALT/ABO is sponsoring an essay contest for this purpose.)
2. acquire and maintain a regular column in 1 or more library association journals/newsletters.
3. publish brochures for business and industry, explaining the role and education of library technicians.

Employment opportunities for library technicians in Ontario are excellent. MALT and BCALT also reported good opportunities, although there seemed to be more jobs in the interior.

Are job banks/hot lines useful? In Ontario, the major problem is the lack of communication. It has not been successful between the branches, mainly due to time lapse - most jobs are gone before potential applicants find out about them.

However, British Columbia has had excellent response to their job hotline. As of August 1980, the following statistics were available:

Total No. of calls to date:	9,831
Total No. of jobs advertised:	90
No. of people who hired a Jobline applicant:	50
No. of people who did not hire a Jobline applicant:	28
No. of people who did not know:	16
No. of people who would use it again:	51
No. of evaluation letters sent out:	90
* No. of evaluation letters received back:	86

Salaries were found to be reasonable in terms of training, experience and cost of living.

British Columbia - 1981 figures

Lowest (school libraries)	\$12,306
Highest (special government libraries)	16,896
Union	14,800
Non-union	14,560

Ontario - 1979/80 figures

Average	\$14,000 - 16,000
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Manitoba - 1979 figures

Highest (federal libraries)	\$13,000
Lowest (school or university libraries)	7,284
Average	10,000

Submitted by,
Pat Buczkowski

Pat Buczkowski

* From BCLA REPORTER July-August 1980

Mrs. Charmaine Sommerfeldt
11 Kingborough Cresc
Weston, Ont.
M9R2T8

May 19, 1981

Mrs. Pat Petruca, President
TALTA
P.O. Box 441
Don Mills, Ont
M3C 2T2

Dear Pat:

This is just a brief note of thanks to you and all of the other TALTA members for making it possible for me to attend "Branching Out 1981" in St. Catharines. It was a real honour to be selected by my classmates to attend the convention. The convention was both educational and enjoyable. Without doubt, I hope that TALTA will be able to send a graduating Ryerson and Seneca student to the OATL/ABO convention each year. I certainly plan to attend more conventions in the future.

The workshops I attended on children's programming, Fresh high school library service and supervisory skills were all directly related to my particular interests in library work.

Also, I had my first opportunity to meet OACT/ABO members from all over Ontario. I met many more people than I thought was possible. In addition, in closing, I have a special word of thanks for these TACTA members who helped make me feel welcome on the first day.

Yours truly,

Charmaine
Sommerfeldt



SR November 1980

NEW BUSINESS

Volunteers!

Please call Helen Luoma if you would like to help produce the provincial newsletter.

Directory Committee

They say the directory of TALTA members might be ready for members to pick up at the Saturday meeting being planned for October.

O.L.A.

The Ontario Library Association will be holding their "79th Annual Conference, Libraries Celebrate the Individual" on Oct. 29 - Nov. 1, 1981 at the Toronto Harbour Castle Hilton.

Current Membership

Welcome to the new members, Juliet Spear, Eloise Detta, and Gail Eaton. They bring our total membership to 134.

Job Hotline

According to Peta Shelton there must be a lot of satisfied technicians, because there are jobs currently available, but no applicants are calling her about them. If you need a job send your resume through the internal mail system of the nearest branch of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce to Peta at the head office.

Continuing Education Courses

Seneca is offering the following Library Techniques courses this fall term starting September 8th:

- 110 - Books, Libraries & Publishing
- 112 - Circulation & Publicity
- 113 - Audio Visual Techniques
- 311 - Organization of Nonbook Materials
- 312 - Reference I
- 313 - Data Processing

Through Seneca Jane Dysant of the Royal Bank Library is giving a course on Special Libraries. For more information call her at 865-2780.

Ryerson is offering the following Library Arts courses during their Fall/Winter terms starting September 14th:

- XLBY 014(c) - Basic Reference
- XLBY 013(c) - Circulation and conservation of materials
- XLBY 011(c) - Introduction to the Library
- XLBY 012(c) - Technical Services
- XXTV 814 - Technical Services Update

		(work)	(home)
T	President	Patricia Petruaga	978-8619 691-5440
A	Vice-president	Rita Piazza	965-9174 928-3296
A	Representative to OALT/ABO	Helen Luoma	595-6144 481-5050
L	Treasurer & Membership	Donna Stulgys	978-3080 532-9007
T	Secretary	Valerie Walton	364-3744 923-9202
T	Newsletter Editor &	Sally Clark	592-2714 224-5581
A	Publicity Coordinator		
	Job Placement	Peta Shelton	862-3352 1-895-5780

GREETINGS FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Hello! As you go through this month's newsletter you will see that a portion of it is dedicated to TALTA's meetings. Organizing meetings, as you know, is the main function of the vice president.

It has always been my intention to increase member participation and attendance at our meetings. I have often felt that library technicians should be involved in being aware of new trends in libraries and educational development of library technicians. Members of TALTA can easily accomplish this by attending our monthly meetings.

Our two meetings this year have highlighted such topics as:
A) Management B) Possible new educational developments in the information field.

For future meetings I would like to have technicians speak on topics relevant to technicians. Topics such as:

- 1) Library Technicians as supervisors
- 2) Library Tours given by technicians of their library
- 3) Subject Talks (e.g. technicians working in special libraries or collections, discuss the subject area of their library)
- 4) Specialized library functions (e.g. preparation/cataloguing/organization of special materials in a library, for example art, maps, x-rays, architectural materials etc.)

The most important aspect of all this is that we need technicians to discuss these and other topics of interest.

If you are interested in any one of these topics and wish to speak to other technicians about them, PLEASE CALL me at 965-9174 (B)

The association can only perform if you perform.

Thanks and I hope to see you at our next meeting.

Rita

QUESTIONNAIRE

A number of our members have commented on the days that TALTA's meetings are held and on the hours that they commence. Members want to attend, but these two factors cause problems. To better determine the most convenient day and time for the meetings, PLEASE fill in the questionnaire and return to:

Rita Piazza
250 St. George
Apt. 1105
Toronto, Ontario
M5R 3L8

THANK YOU!!

- 1) What day would you like TALTA meetings to be held?
a. Mon. b. Tues. c. Wed. d. Thurs. e. Rotate evenings
- 2) What time would you like the meetings to begin?
a. 6:30 pm b. 7:00 pm c. 7:30 pm
- 3) How often should meetings be held?
a. monthly b. bi-monthly
- 4) A) Would you like to see more workshops?
a. yes b. no
B) On what topics? Please comment.
- 5) Would you be willing to pay for workshop(s)?
(as minimal an amount as possible)
a. yes b. no

COME JOIN OUR SEPTEMBER

COME JOIN OUR SEPTEMBER
TOURS

TO
TOURS

LEGISLATIVE TO LIBRARY

GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO
LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY
MAIN PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

OR

TO

TOUCHE ROSS

MANAGEMENT/ACCOUNTING FIRM
LIBRARY

12TH FLOOR FIRST CANADIAN PLACE

SEPTEMBER 22, 1981

7.00 P.M.

CUT HERE

CUT HERE

PLEASE INDICATE WHICH TOUR YOU WILL BE ATTENDING AND SEND TO:

R. PIAZZA
250 ST. GEORGE APT. 1105
TORONTO, ONT M5R 3L8 Bus. no. 965-9174

LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY _____

TOUCHE ROSS LIBRARY _____