

# ... In touch with TALTA

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TORONTO AREA LIBRARY TECHNICIANS ASSOCIATION - OALT/ABO, Toronto Region

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## *From the Editor*

Here is a question that is long overdue; What do you think of this newsletter? Personally, I would REALLY like to think that the newsletter is solid material as I truly enjoying piecing it together. I hope that everyone enjoys reading it and finds it informative and attractive. So, what do YOU think? Do you like the newsletter? Do you have any suggestions for it? Do you love it? Do you hate it? I would really like to know!

In the next issue I intend on having a Letters to the Editor section where you can vent your spleen.

However, this cannot come to fruition without your contribution. Don't be shy. We are all in the same boat and it would be nice to have a forum where we can share our common experiences in the world of information technology. Please feel free to drop me a line. I promise to spell your name correctly. Honest!

On the subject of contributions, I wish to thank everyone who has added some item to the newsletter. I especially wish to thank Geoffrey Patridge for his article on Voluntary Library Work. I am sure that you will find it an interesting and original view. I am also sure that you may wish to respond to his thought-provoking ideas. By all means, please do! Thank you, Geoffrey, on a job well done.

I am pleased to announce that Grace Lofters has volunteered to be the TALTA representative on the OALT/ABO Election Nomination Committee this year. Grace and other committee members will coordinate the nominations for the OALT/ABO provincial elections to be held at the OALT/ABO annual conference.

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When the next issue of ...In touch with TALTA comes out in early May, I hope that YOU may have a contribution. I have said before,

and I mean it, this newsletter is YOUR newsletter. It is your means of keeping in touch with TALTA.

**JOHN SMITH**, TALTA Newsletter Editor

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## ***President's Message***

The TALTA executive have been very busy since the last newsletter. In addition to our usual activities, we took the initiative of placing an advertisement in the Nov/Dec 1994 issue of the SLA Courier, the newsletter of the Toronto chapter of the Special Library Association. The ad promotes Library Technicians and the use of the TALTA Job Placement Service.

We are also reevaluating our budget in an attempt to give TALTA members the maximum value for their membership dues. We'll report our progress at the Annual TALTA Business Meeting in March and in the next newsletter.

The February TALTA meeting on Coping With Library Workplace Stress should provide relief to many of us who find ourselves looking for practical ways to combat an increasingly stressful work environment. The speakers, Jennifer Bayne, Manager of Library Services at Toronto General Hospital and Linda Eng, Library Technician at McCarthy Tetrault law library (a TALTA member) are two very organized and busy people. In addition to benefitting from the speakers' good advice, TALTA members will have the opportunity to share their own stress-busting ideas with each other.

TALTA elections are on the horizon. As TALTA members, it is your privilege to participate in nominating and electing your next executive. It is also your privilege to run for election. We are looking for motivated and reliable Library Technicians to join the executive. If you are interested in a position on the executive or would like to nominate someone, please contact me at (w) (416) 367-6373 or (h) (905) 896-4722.

The OALT/ABO Conference Interconnections '95 is at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay this year (May 24-28, 1995). Thunder Bay is a beautiful place, and the university campus is peaceful and scenic. The Thunder

Bay Region always puts on a wonderful conference so if you have the opportunity to attend, you'll find it very worthwhile. I personally always arrive home after an OALT/ABO conference feeling renewed, updated, and very proud to be a Library Technician.

Joanne O'Driscoll,

President (Acting)

### ***TALTA EXECUTIVE 1994-95***

President: Joanne O Driscoll (905) 896-4722 (h)  
367-6373 (w)  
361-2753 (f)  
jodrisco@borden.com

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Donna Ladouceur 920-6873 (h)  
393-7192 (w)  
393-7004 (f)

**Job Placement:**

Marilyn Meyer 236-2209 (h)

## ***A T T E N T I O N BUDDING WRITERS***

We need you. If you attended an interesting workshop or have started a new job, why not drop us a line? We'd like to hear from you!! Articles on any topic of interest to Library Technicians are welcome. Please mail your submissions to: John Smith, 59 Spadina Road, Toronto, Ont. M5R 2T2.



Deadline for next newsletter: April 15, 1995

## **TALTA MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**NOVEMBER 15, 1994**

On November 15, TALTA members participated in their first informal meeting of the new membership year. On site at Metro Toronto Reference Library, Joanna Wellheiser, Manager of Preservation Services, spoke to us about the preservation and conservation of library materials. We saw a series of slides taken at Metro Ref. of books in various states of deterioration, and some of the ways not to store or handle them, in an effort to ensure the longest life possible. Issues ranging from proper shelving, damage from food and drink (imagine a banana peel bookmark!), to water damage and fire were covered.

After the slideshow and the question/answer session that followed, Ms Wellheiser took us on a tour of her very impressive preservation laboratory where books, maps, etc. of the Metro Ref were restored. We learned about tried and true methods and materials, mostly very simple, that we can use in our own libraries to extend the life of our collections. Ms Wellheiser gave us advice on an expert scale and we thank her for her time spent sharing her knowledge and expertise.

About 20 TALTA members were present to enjoy the meeting which included refreshments (as usual), and a social time for chat before and after the formal portion. In response to suggestions from our survey earlier this fall, name tags were supplied to members and executives to facilitate our efforts to get to know each other better. People who were strangers before could, and did, more easily strike up conversations. Thank you to all those who turned out. We hope to see you back, plus many of you who could not join us for this informative and entertaining meeting.

Susan Scholz

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## **COMMITTEE NEWS**

### **In-Touch Committee**

The 1994/1995 In-Touch committee needs your help. If you are moving or changing your telephone number, please let us know so that we will make sure you receive your newsletter and kept abreast of upcoming events. If anyone is interested on joining the In-Touch Committee, please contact Anna-Liisa Frantilla at 927-1074 or George Zandona at 920-4698.

The 1994 In-Touch Committee:

Charmaine Sommerfeldt.....223-6113  
Geoffrey Patridge.....487-0633  
Theresa Kennedy .....(905) 855-0650

## **TALTA CHRISTMAS SOCIAL**

**DECEMBER 14, 1994**

The 1994 TALTA Christmas Social featured the co-owner of Toronto's Sleuth of Baker Street mystery bookstore, J.D. Singh, as our guest speaker. As TALTA members enjoyed a buffet dinner, Mr. Singh gave an eloquent presentation on the subject of mystery and detective fiction, and described in detail some of its various sub-genres. For instance, we found out that a mystery/detective book can be classified as a "cozy" if it leaves the reader with a comfortable, safe feeling at the end. In a "cozy" mystery, there is no graphic description of the crime violence, and the villain is always neatly apprehended.

Mr. Singh recommended the book *Encyclopedia Mysteriosa* (New York: Prentice-Hall, approx \$39.00 Cdn) as a useful reference source for mystery book information. This one volume encyclopedia lists mystery book awards, definitions of mystery terms and sub-genres, and information on popular mystery writers.

The Sleuth of Baker Street mystery bookstore has a complete range of British, American and Canadian crime and detective fiction (including hard to find titles). The store is located at 1600 Bayview Ave., Toronto, ON M4G 3B7. Telephone: (416) 483-3111.

After Mr. Singh's presentation, the TALTA Executive distributed copies of popular and unusual mystery books as door prizes. Congratulations to all those who were lucky winners.

Internet users who are also mystery buffs may want to subscribe to the dorothy LISTSERV discussion group. (Address your internet e-mail to [listserv@kentvm.bitnet](mailto:listserv@kentvm.bitnet). In the message area type sub dorothy followed by your first and last names. You should receive confirmation of your subscription.)

Joanne O'Driscoll

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## **TALTA WELCOMES THESE NEW MEMBERS**

Patty Campbell  
Ronn Cheney  
Jane Osborne  
Linda Peppiatt  
Rhonda Lee Perry  
Donna Suzanne Smith  
Joyce Stirling  
Janet Wencer

## **VOLUNTEER LIBRARY WORK**

In these difficult times a lot of library technicians such as myself remain unemployed due to the competition for those salaries library positions which become available.

However, another source of library employment is the Volunteer Position, which is occasionally advertised. I have applied for several part-time positions, and on my acceptance I have discovered there have been few, if any, other applicants. It occurs to me that out-of-work library technicians are missing an opportunity here.

Of course, volunteer positions do not pay one's rent and grocery bills, and one might consider that they interfere with the job seeking process. However, my experience is that the pro's of taking such a position are greater than the con's which I have mentioned.

Working as a volunteer has made a great difference to my morale. Any of my readers who have been unemployed know how depressing it can be to be out of work. The few hours one may spend as a volunteer each week need have little effect on one's job search. Having a workplace to go to even for a few hours makes a lot of difference in one's state of mind. This can significantly affect the impression one may make in a job interview. Furthermore, such work keeps library skills honed and gains experience. I have acquired much useful experience in library automation which can only be found on the job.

Also, even unpaid volunteer jobs can provide one with references and contacts which can open doors in the workplace that might otherwise be closed. Finally, there is always the chance that your part-time volunteer work might change into a full-time paid one.

Geoffrey I. Patridge.

## **TALTA Presents**

### **Coping With Library Workplace**

# **STRESS:**

### **A Practical Session**

**Tuesday February 21, 1995**

Beeton Auditorium (West Side)

Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library

789 Yonge Street (one block north of Yonge & Bloor)

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

### **Guest Speakers:**

*Jennifer Bayne,*

Manager, Library Services

Fudger Health Sciences Library

Toronto General Hospital

*Linda Eng,*

Library Technician

McCarthy Tétrault Library

**FREE** to TALTA members

Non-members: \$7.00

Light refreshments will be served

**RSVP** by February 17, 1995

AnnaLiisa Frantila (416) 927-1074

George Zandona (416) 920-4698

**TALTA**, P.O. Box 441 Don Mills, Ontario M3C 2T2

### **Request for Change in Membership Record**

Name of Member: \_\_\_\_\_

phone: Home  Work

#### **REQUESTED CHANGES**

New #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: Home  Work

\_\_\_\_\_

Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail To: TALTA, 78 Glenview Ave. Toronto M4R 1P8

## ***FLIS CE***

The Faculty of Library and Information Science, U of T, has changed its name to the Faculty of Information Studies, or FIS. FIS will be offering the following noncredit workshops. For further information contact Marcia Chen at 978-7111, or FAX at 971-1399. Please specify which course brochure you want.

### ***Indexing: A Hands-on Workshop***

Instructor: Michele Hudon  
Friday February 17, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### ***The Internet - An Introduction***

Instructors: Patrick Gignac & Gwen Harris  
Saturday February 18, 9 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

### ***Internet Basics***

Instructors: Michael Gold & Rita Vine  
Saturday February 25, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

### ***Understanding Financial Information***

Instructors: Maggie Weaver & Helen Katz  
Friday March 3, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

### ***Internet Basics***

Instructors: Rita Vine & Sandra Wood  
Friday March 3, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

### ***WorkSmart #1: Time Management***

Instructor: Lynn Howarth & Joanne Marshall  
Friday March 3, 9 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

### ***WorkSmart #2: Paper-less Solution***

Instructor: Lynn Howarth & Joanne Marshall  
Friday March 3, 1 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

### ***Internet Intermediate***

Instructor: Laine Ruus & Michael Gold  
Saturday March 11, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

### ***WorkSmart #3: Effective Meeting***

Instructor: Lynn Howarth & Joanne Marshall  
Friday March 17, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

### ***WorkSmart #4: Effective Meeting***

Instructor: Lynn Howarth & Joanne Marshall  
Friday March 17, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

### ***How to Find Out What People Really Want to Know: A Workshop for Librarians and Other Information Providers***

Instructor: Catherine Ross  
Friday March 17, 9 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

### ***Software & Bibliography: An Overview***

Instructor: Sandra Alston  
Friday March 17, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Internet Basics  
Instructor: Laine Ruus & Michael Gold  
Saturday March 25, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

### ***Re-engineering the Library:***

What Works and What Doesn't  
Instructor: Linda Leff Karninsky  
Friday March 31, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

### ***Copyright***

Instructor: Francois Hebert  
Friday April 7, 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

### ***Internet Intermediate***

Instructor: Laine Ruus & Michael Gold  
Saturday April 8, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

### ***Internet Basics - Focus on Law***

Instructors: Ann Morrison & Rita Vine  
Tuesday April 18, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

### ***Fundamentals of Records Management***

Instructor: Caroline Werle  
Thursday April 20, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. &  
Friday April 21, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

### ***Public Library Funding:***

#### ***Where the Money Comes From and Where It Goes***

Instructors: Anna Lau, Donald McKenzie, David Reddin  
& Barbara Quinlan  
Friday April 21, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### ***New Age Information Tools***

Instructor: Michael Ridley  
Friday April 21, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### ***Internet Basics***

Instructors: Laine Ruus & Bruce Wood  
Saturday April 22, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

### ***The Internet - An Introduction***

Instructors: Patrick Gignac & Gwen Harris  
Friday April 28, 9 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

### ***Operating Your Own Information Brokerage Business***

Instructors: Jacqueline Hapulka & Beverley Walters  
Friday April 28, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

## ***JOB PLACEMENT UPDATE***

### *How to list with the service:*

Contact Marilyn Meyer, Job Liaison Contact, at (416) 236-2209, her home telephone number after 6 p.m. At this time, she will discuss existing job opportunities, and procedures for either faxing or mailing of resumes. To date the jobs have been largely of a contract nature in special library settings with an average requirement of a 2 to 3 year range in work experience. Contract work seems to be a generally growing trend with many knowledge-based workers similar to technicians. Marilyn feels that such work could prove to be quite viable, and is keen on talking to interested TALTA members about available opportunities.



*... In touch with*  
**TALTA**

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P.O. BOX 441, DON MILLS, ONT. M3C 2T2

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