

... In touch with TALTA

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

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SUMMER ISSUE

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From the Editor

Welcome to the June 1996 issue of ...In touch with TALTA. This is my first newsletter as editor and I hope that I will continue the newsletter's tradition of informing and enlightening you.

This issue contains the Annual Reports of the 1995/1996 executive. As you can tell by reading them, a great deal has been accomplished by these most hard-working members.

Susan Scholz has also contributed excellent articles concerning the two meetings that took place in January and February on technological change and its effect on libraries.

You will find in your envelopes the 1996 TALTA Salary Survey prepared by Joanne O'Driscoll, our outgoing President. This survey is prepared biennially and the results will be published in the next issue. Please complete and return it in the stamped self-addressed envelope by July 10, 1996.

The brochure "Library Technician: Is this a Career for you?" was produced by OALT/ABO. Additional copies are available for promotional purposes from the Public Relations Coordinator, OALT/ABO.

Have a great summer! I look forward to hearing from all of you!

Sally Gardian

ATTENTION 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 most welcome. Please mail your submissions to Sally Gardian, Editor, ...In touch with TALTA, Information Centre, 45th floor, Borden & Elliot, 40 King Street West, Toronto, Ontario, M5H 3Y4. The deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is August 15, 1996.

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President's Message

For those of you who were unable to attend our Annual Meeting and TALTA Election the annual executive reports are reprinted in this issue. With the exception of myself, the new TALTA Executive for 1996-1997 consists of all new members. They are as follows, Christine Weadick (Vice-President), Anne Morrell (Treasurer/Membership), Joy Wilson (Secretary), Sally Gardian (Newsletter Editor), Jane Sauder (Publicity Coordinator), Radikha Jaggernauth (Job Placement Liaison) and Jeff Corbett (OALT/ABO Board of Directors Representative).

Many thanks to the members of this past years executive. All your hard work was greatly appreciated. It will be a tough act to follow! One that hopefully won't be too difficult with people working together for the good of the association. I am looking forward to a challenging year serving as your president. Please contact me at home, (416-493-6019), if you have any questions or concerns.

Happy Holidays!

Aileen Fisher
President, TALTA

TALTA Welcomes These New Members -1995/96

Marg Godfroy
Seunghee Lee

Julie Lucas
Andrew Truong

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Tuesday, March 26, 1996

This year's Annual Business Meeting, attended by 30 members, began with a delicious light supper of sandwiches, salads and desserts. Joanne O'Driscoll, our outgoing President, opened the formal portion of the meeting with an appeal to all members to seriously consider participating actively in TALTA in order to maintain a strong and vital professional organization for all library technicians in this region. Without your energy, TALTA will lose its importance to our profession. The past two years have seen an increase in attendance and interest in TALTA, and several changes have been made by past executives to strengthen TALTA for you. But more has yet to be done in several areas, especially the Job Liaison position and the 1997 OALT conference being hosted by TALTA. *Your new ideas and enthusiasm are essential to TALTA's continuing growth and service to library technicians.*

Annual Reports from the executive members present (all except the newsletter editor and the publicity coordinator) were given and can be read elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter. Honorariums were presented to the past executive and to the In-Touch Committee members with much gratitude for a job well done. Elections were held for most executive positions this year. Last year's Vice-President becomes this year's President. The positions of

TALTA EXECUTIVE 1996/97

President:

Aileen Fisher (h) 493-6019
(w) 469-6011

Vice-President:

Christine Weadick (w) 351-3716

Treasurer/Membership:

Anne Morrell (h) 745-1506

Publicity Coordinator:

Jane Sauder (h) 588-1506

Newsletter Editor:

Sally Gardian (w) 367-6526
(fax) 361-2752
sgardian@borden.com

Secretary:

Joy Wilson (h) 267-9908

OALT Board of Directors

Representative:

Jeff Corbett (h) 905-452-1877
norcon@neocom.ca

Job Placement Liaison:

Radikha Jaggernauth (h) 975-4004
(w) 359-4587

Vice-President, Treasurer/Memberships, OALT/ABO Board of Directors Representative, Newsletter Editor and Secretary were acclaimed. Elections were held for the positions of Job Placement Liaison and Publicity Coordinator. The door prize of a one year free membership in OALT/ABO (TALTA) region was won by Geoffrey Patridge, a long-time TALTA member. Congratulations, Geoffrey!

Your 1996/1997 TALTA Executive are:

President - Aileen Fisher

Vice-President - Christine Weadick

Treasurer/Membership - Anne Morrell

OALT/ABO Board of Directors Representative - Jeff Corbett

Newsletter Editor - Sally Gardian

Job Placement Liaison - Radikha Jaggernauth

Publicity Coordinator - Jane Sauder

Secretary - Joy Wilson

Congratulations to all of you! Watch for a photograph of this super group in the next issue of the OALT/ABO Newsletter. The Annual Business Meeting was adjourned almost on time at 8:06 p.m. Thanks for a great year. We'll see you again in September 1996. Look for another issue of ...In Touch with TALTA till then. Have a great summer.

Susan Scholz

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

March 26, 1996

The theme the executive followed this year was one of Quality, Communication, and Continuing Education. We worked hard to put our executive house in order, straightening out issues involving the archives, 10 year members awards, and mailings to new members.

In the area of communication, we worked to increase our understanding of the provincial executive, and to better communicate TALTA's concerns. We also sought to create a more vibrant connection between the TALTA executive and the TALTA members, putting special emphasis on the importance of the ...In touch with TALTA newsletter as a vehicle of informing members of issues and our planning process. We continued to summarize general TALTA meetings in the newsletter for members unable to attend, and we have added regular columns from our OALT/ABO Board of Directors Representative and the 1997 OALT/ABO Conference Chair. Our education program this year has emphasized technology and dealing with the change it brings. We have also added continuing education articles and information to the newsletter.

Finally, with a view to the future, the 1995/96 executive identified three areas needing change. First, the role and perhaps title of the Job Placement Liaison needs to be reworked to reflect the current job situation. The executive discussed this issue in some detail and suggests that the position shift towards career development. Another area we had identified was the newsletter cost, format, and publishing schedule. Finally, we identified a need to better liaise with Seneca College, perhaps to again set up a joint educational or job skills workshop that both Seneca students and TALTA members could attend, as has happened in the past. We hope our ideas and initial explorations of these issues will provide a foundation for change.

We appointed an excellent Conference Chair, Theresa Kennedy, to head the 1997 OALT/ABO Conference Committee. Theresa has the planning for the conference already underway, but will need the support and efforts of the TALTA membership so please consider what contribution you can make, and let Theresa know you are available to help. The biennial TALTA salary survey will be mailed in June with the results summarized in the next newsletter.

For my own part, I have learned many things by serving on the TALTA executive, and feel enriched by the experience. I have truly enjoyed working with the other members of the executive, and have appreciated the opportunity to speak to TALTA members and Seneca students during my term as President. I have learned to cherish our association, and I hope I can continue to contribute to its success.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne O'Driscoll
President, TALTA

VICE-PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

March 26, 1996

Serving as your Vice-President proved to be a challenging though interesting experience. I have enjoyed the opportunity it gave me of getting to know so many of our members.

The theme of our program this past year has been change. I felt that TALTA should be presenting some of the major issues that face technicians today. Judging by the positive feedback and attendance we met with your approval.

At the September meeting, Jenny Reiswig, Manager of the Health Sciences Library at Toronto East General, provided us with an introduction to the Internet. She then discussed its impact on libraries today.

Then in January John Jackson, Senior Technician at the Ontario Cancer Institute, discussed technological change and its impact on libraries. At our last meeting in February the topic was coping with change. Here a panel of library technicians talked about the impact of budget cuts and the new technology on their respective libraries. Later they presented their strategies for dealing with these changes.

In conclusion, I have been a member of TALTA since 1981. However, it was not until I served on the executive this past year that I realized just how much work goes on behind the scenes in order for an organization to function effectively. Why not consider becoming part of the team that will ensure that TALTA remains a viable, vibrant organization?

Respectfully submitted,
Aileen Fisher
Vice-President, TALTA

PUBLICITY COORDINATOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

I have held this position for two years, taking over from Hana Frieder on March 1, 1994. During the 1995-1996 membership year, there were five general meetings. I produced flyers for all of them: the Technological Change Lecture, Holiday Social, Coping with Change, Annual Business Meeting and the discussion on What's Useful on the Internet for Libraries. Over the course of the last two years, I received a great deal of assistance from the In-Touch Committee which helped notify membership of all TALTA functions. I have enjoyed getting to know the executive and the membership. Good luck next year.

Respectfully submitted,
George Zandona
Publicity Coordinator, TALTA

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP/ TREASURER'S REPORT

April 1, 1995 to March 31, 1996

BALANCE FORWARD \$ 2732.51

INCOME

TALTA Membership Fees
(Number of Members=122) \$ 6570.00
Meeting Fees \$ 268.00
GIC Maturity (for 1997 Conference)* \$ 5950.78
Interest Income from GIC \$ 163.20

Total Income: \$12951.98

EXPENSES

Bank Service Charges \$ 72.00
OALT/ABO Fees Portion \$ 4074.00
Newsletter Printing (4 Newsletters)** \$ 1490.51
Postage and Mailings \$ 525.14
Meeting Costs (supplies, honourariums)*** \$ 495.70
Miscellaneous \$ 17.60

Total Expenses: \$ 6674.95

OPERATING BALANCE \$ 9009.54

INVESTMENTS

GIC \$6266.20 matures December 16, 1996 (5.0 interest - \$315.03)

NOTES

* GIC for \$5950.78 matured on January 15, 1996 and is reserved for loan to 1997 Conference

** Covers cost of 2 1994/95 newsletters (Spring 96/Summer 96 newsletters are o/s)

*** Meeting costs do not include cost of 1996 A.B.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Carito-Walmsley
Treasurer/Memberships, TALTA

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

March 26, 1996

The Spring issue of ...In touch with TALTA was released at the end of February. It would have been released by early-mid February, however the printer, Toronto Business Communications, had a large backlog of work.

The last two issues of ...In touch with TALTA have been photocopied, as opposed to being printed using the ink and printer method. The cost is considerably less using the photocopy method and only the most discerning eye can detect a difference in the letter quality from the two methods. However, the time of production was not appreciably faster due to the fact that the printer is in Mississauga, and TALTA operations are in Toronto. I discovered that one of the smaller photocopy services in Toronto, Printcom Graphics at 394 Bloor Street West, could do the full 150 copy run in about 20 to 30 minutes

TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP REPORT

April 1, 1995 to March 31, 1996

As of March 30, 1996 TALTA has 122 members. Membership breakdown is as follows:

Graduates	71
Associates	5
Seniors	1
Institutions	12
Students F/T	25
Students P/T	8

The full-time student category includes 12 Graduates who opted for the unemployed rate of \$30. Of these 122 members, 85 were renewals and 37 were new members.

Membership fees for 1995/96 are:

Graduates	\$ 60
Associates	\$ 60
Seniors	\$ 30
Students	\$ 30
Institutions	\$100

During the past year, TALTA has been successful in maintaining an operating balance over \$2000. Our GIC for \$5950.78 matured and has been reserved for loan to the 1997 Conference, to be held in Toronto.

The past year has been a rewarding experience for me. Serving as Treasurer has been an excellent learning opportunity and I have enjoyed answering queries about membership in TALTA.

I would like to thank all members of the executive for their assistance and support over the past year. It has been a pleasure working with all of them.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Carito-Walmsley
Treasurer/Memberships, TALTA

at about half the price of the copy cost at Toronto Business Communications. This may well be worth investigating in the future.

This is my last report for the TALTA executive as my term as editor comes to an end. I am very proud that I managed to bring the newsletter back to life as a proper and regular newsletter. I have tried many new ideas, some that worked and others that didn't, and now the newsletter once more looks professionally done. I wish to thank all of the TALTA members who called me to say that they liked the newsletter. I wish my successor all the best and hope that the newsletter continues as a professional, forward-thinking forum for the members of TALTA.

Respectfully submitted,

John Smith
Newsletter Editor, TALTA

SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT

March 26, 1996

This has been my second year as TALTA secretary. I am stepping down today from the executive, with plans to get involved in other TALTA activities for the next few years. Being on the TALTA executive has been a very stimulating and fulfilling experience and I hope that more of you in the membership will seriously consider such involvement. One of the best perks, (and there will be more), is that you will be working with a group of dedicated and interesting individuals. My great thanks to the members of the past two year's executive committees.

There have been five executive meetings since the 1995 Annual Business Meeting. I was absent from two of them, for which Joanne O'Driscoll kindly took notes and wrote up and distributed the minutes for me. Thank you for that Joanne. I wrote up and distributed the minutes for the other three executive meetings and will do so for this one also. I wrote newsletter articles for the three membership meetings and Holiday Social offered this year, and I will be covering this meeting as well. I will soon be writing an article for the OALT Newsletter's fall issue profiling one of TALTA's long-time members. Other activities I have done on behalf of the executive include conducting telephone votes on issues that we did not decide on during our meetings, copying and distributing documents to the executive, making and mailing copies of the Constitution to requesting members and being involved in discussions by phone and at meetings about the various issues we tackled this year and making two-plus-one-to-come deposits into the archives.

Once again I must say thank you to my fellow executive members for the difficult but satisfying tasks we have accomplished together. I think that TALTA is now better poised for helping library technicians cope with the future trends in our profession. I hope that some of you will take up the task for TALTA as some of us step down. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Scholz
Secretary, TALTA

JOB PLACEMENT LIAISON'S ANNUAL REPORT

March 26, 1996

1995/1996 has been a grim membership year as far as job prospects and opportunities have been concerned via the job placement liaison's role. I have had a total of two job listings since last October, one of which was for a contract cataloguer to work on a special project in my workplace department that I posted. Based on my own findings, by the number of jobs that have been available on the OLA's hotline this past year, and just by the number of despondent phone calls that I have received from unemployed members, I urge that not only the name "job liaison" be changed, but also that the nature

OALT/ABO BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPRESENTATIVE'S ANNUAL REPORT

March 26, 1996

This has been my second year as TALTA'S representative on the OALT/ABO executive. This year the provincial executive met four times.

OALT/ABO has produced a brochure about library technicians. This brochure will be used by OALT/ABO's publicity coordinator to promote library technicians and the contributions they make to libraries. TALTA members will be receiving a copy of the brochure with this newsletter.

OALT/ABO has established an Internet Task Force consisting of a member from each region. The Task Force will arrange a presence on the Internet and will determine the best way to present OALT/ABO information on the Internet. I am representing TALTA on this Task Force and will contribute articles to ...In touch with TALTA on the progress of this Force.

Publicity kits have been put together by OALT/ABO's publicity coordinator. They contain a brochure, a membership form, a current newsletter, a fact sheet and a map of the regions. The kit will be mailed to anyone who inquires about the Association.

New membership forms have been developed and will be ready for the 1996/1997 membership year.

The OALT/ABO fact sheet was updated at the February 10th meeting of the provincial executive and will soon be ready to be included in the publicity kits.

This year I have made two submissions to ... In touch with TALTA to ensure that members are aware of OALT/ABO activities. Although I will not be running for the position of Director, I would recommend that the new Director continue to make submissions.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Ladouceur
OALT/ABO Board of Directors Representative, TALTA

of the role be made radically different. Perhaps it can be merged with another executive position, or made into more of a referral and support-type function.

Regardless of what I say or have to report, I feel that this role must be revamped as members' expectations are not being met, and that the reality of our economic times is too much of a burden for the person who has volunteered for this executive position to bear. On a happier note, I have enjoyed the contact that I have had with members, and the sense that we are, in fact, a close group when placed in difficult circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Meyer
Job Placement Liaison, TALTA

TALTA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, January 23, 1996

"Technological Change and its Impact on Libraries"

We were treated at this meeting to a most thought-provoking presentation. John Jackson, Senior Technician at the Ontario Cancer Institute, delighted us with a history of technological change and its reception through the years, intrigued us with his account of recent changes that have affected us all and the possibilities yet to come, and challenged us to accept that change is an ongoing process that necessitates ongoing evaluation and follow-up. We as technicians should look positively on the opportunities technology can bring. In order to thrive as information providers and to grow as individuals we were urged to seize these opportunities, becoming part of the process of change, rather than being alienated by it and falling behind. Mr. Jackson gave all 38 of us in attendance much to contemplate, especially in regards to the electronic age of information that has grown so rapidly in recent years.

After his presentation, members engaged him in a lively question and answer session that presented more practical ideas for consideration. Thank you very much, John Jackson, for your time and your timely words to TALTA. We were very fortunate indeed for the opportunity to hear you. As usual, light refreshments were available and conversation between members rounded out the evening. Thanks also to Aileen Fisher, our Vice-President, for the idea and arrangements that produced this stimulating evening. The next meeting three weeks from now will be a follow-up to this evening's presentation.

Susan Scholz

Tuesday, February 13, 1996

"Coping with Change: A Panel Discussion"

About 20 TALTA members attended this panel discussion which was a follow-up to the previous meeting on "Technological Change and its impact on Libraries" featuring John Jackson of the Ontario Cancer Institute. The panel, representing a cross-section of library types, consisted of Douglas Willford of Humber College, Charmaine Sommerfeldt of the Ministry of Citizenship, Jane Sauder of Women's College Hospital, and Mary Lloyd of the Richmond Hill Public Library. Each discussed the changes their library is undergoing and the techniques and attitudes they have found effective in dealing with them. A very lively and interesting question and answer session followed the discussion and refreshments and one-on-one conversations rounded out an excellent evening.

Douglas Willford told us about the 20% budget cut and job losses in his library, and of similar cuts occurring in the rest of the College. He made it clear that all of us

must expect change in our workplaces and to change along with it by looking for opportunities to increase the library's role in the organization, by maintaining the library's vitality, e.g. by providing up-to-date technology, workshops, increased customer service, implementing user fees, soliciting support from Friends of the Library, sharing resources within the organization, joining planning committees, and ensuring that library staff continually update their skills.

Charmaine Sommerfeldt has recently undergone change in her own job due to her lay-off and redeployment to a totally different department which is still being downsized. She has had to put her library research and reference skills to use answering telephone inquiries about various social services available to the public, information that is available to her online. In the past, she was laid off from a position in the private sector and had to find new employment. Her advice for anyone facing such a drastic change in their lives is to be proactive about it: have a revised resume ready, network amongst colleagues informing them of your situation, look for other applications for your skills, and be willing to redirect your career, taking up any new challenges with a positive attitude.

Jane Sauder's hospital library has only half the staff it formerly enjoyed, but she feels that the new technologies allow for smaller staffs. However, it is necessary for small library staffs to possess a variety of skills and to stay on top of the technology, via continuing education courses, in order to provide even better customer service. In her experience, the Internet is as yet too unorganized to be an efficient tool for her library to rely on. The Toronto Health Library Consortium is the best tool for finding and sharing information, resources, and technological innovation in health libraries. She also advises prioritizing work, working as a team, and initiating fees for service. Last but not least, maintain a sense of humour for laughter is a great stress reliever.

Mary Lloyd has worked at her library for 17 years, during which time many changes have taken place, including a move to a new building. After the move, the size of the collection doubled, and the circulation and reference statistics quadrupled - all with very little increase in staff. To cope with budget cuts, branch hours were shortened and surplus staff was moved to the central branch to serve the increased numbers of patrons there. A hiring freeze is presently in effect due to the recent provincial budget cuts to public libraries, cuts that especially affect the checking in and reshelving of material. Fortunately, Richmond Hill is a growing, progressive community whose council values its library and has been very supportive to date. A new automated system and CD-ROM databases were approved before the cuts and have not been postponed or cancelled. Recently, the library's management was restructured in anticipation of future changes in its service to the community.

Susan Scholz

FIS CONTINUING EDUCATION

The University of Toronto Faculty of Information Studies, or FIS, will be offering the following non-credit workshops. For further information contact Marcia Chen at 978-7111, or fax at 971-1399. Please specify which course brochure you want.

Authoring Your Own Web Page Using HTML

Instructors: John Bradley & Patrick Gignac
Friday, July 19, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Authoring Your Own Web Page Using HTML

Instructors: John Bradley & Patrick Gignac
Friday, October 18, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Preservation Planning

Instructor: Karen Turko
Friday, October 18, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Internet Basics

Instructors: Henry Mandelbaum & Rita Vine
Friday, October 25, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The ISO Document Tidal Wave: The Impact on Document Management

Instructor: Gerry van Houten
Friday, October 25, 9 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Outsourcing Technical Service Functions: Issues and Approaches

Instructors: Bonnie Campbell & Deborah Wallace
Friday, November 1, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Web Design and Management

Instructors: Gerry Oxford & Marion Press
Friday & Saturday, November 1 & 2, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Fri.) & 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (Sat.)

Advanced Search Tools on the Internet

Instructors: Gwen Harris & Sandra Wood
Friday, November 8, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

From Librarian to Cybrarian: Taking Charge of our Future

Instructors: Jane Dysart & Bonnie Preece
Friday, November 15, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Building a Winning Team

Instructors: Susan Geary & Faye Marcotte
Friday, November 15, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Internet Basics

Instructors: Rosalie Waller & Bruce Wood
Saturday, November 16, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Not Just Another Pretty Page: Business

Strategies for a Web Presence

Instructors: Stephen Dengler & Ulla de Stricker
Friday, November 22, 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Designing and Delivering Effective Internet Training

Instructors: Rea Devakos & Laine Ruus
Friday, November 29, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Dewey 21: Changes and Updates

Instructor: Clare Beghtol
Friday, November 29, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Authoring Your Own Web Page Using HTML

Instructors: John Bradley & Patrick Gignac
Friday, December 6, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Operating Your Own Information Service Business

Instructors: Bonnie Burwell & Jacqueline Halupka
Friday, December 6, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Internet Basics

Instructors: Laine Ruus & Bruce Wood
Friday, December 13, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

OALT/ABO CONFERENCE 1997

TALTA is hosting the 1997 OALT/ABO conference which will be held at the University of Toronto during the weekend of May 8-11th. The theme is TRANSFORMATION - as society is transforming from a book world to a computer-linked world, the role of the library technicians must also transform.

The committee needs ideas on the type of seminars that will be held - something for everyone - special, public, school/academic and government libraries as well as for those that do not work in a traditional library setting.

I am interested in hearing from anyone that wants to help out in any way be it large or small. Please contact me at (416) 365-1110 x2345 (work) or (905) 855-0650 (home) or e-mail me at kennedyt@weirfoulds.com.

Thank you.

Theresa Kennedy

Chair, TALTA Conference 1997

... In touch with
TALTA

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

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