

D I M E N S I O N S

Proceedings of the
Sixth Annual Conference

of the

Ontario Association of Library Technicians/
Association des Bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario

New College, University of Toronto
Toronto, Ontario

May 24 - 27, 1979

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OALT/ABO
1980

DIMENSIONS
Sixth Annual Conference
of the
Ontario Association of Library Technicians/
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Introduction

The Toronto Area Library Technician Association hosted the Sixth Annual Conference of OALT/ABO held at New College, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, May 24 - 27, 1979.

Two hundred and seventy delegates from Ontario, Quebec, Prince Edward Island, Chicago and Australia attended.

Conference Schedule

Thursday

3:00 p.m. -	5:00 p.m.	Registration
5:00 p.m. -	6:00 p.m.	Tea with the Honourable Pauline McGibbon, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario
7:00 p.m. -	8:00 p.m.	Registration
7:00 p.m. -	10:00 p.m.	Reception

Friday

7:30 a.m. -	9:00 a.m.	Breakfast
8:00 a.m. -	9:00 a.m.	Registration
9:00 a.m. -	12:00 Noon	Business meeting
12:00 Noon -	2:00 p.m.	Lunch
2:00 p.m. -	4:30 p.m.	Workshop
4:30 p.m.		Free time, tours, films
7:00 p.m.		Cash bar opens
7:30 p.m.		Dinner and entertainment

Saturday

7:30 a.m. -	9:00 a.m.	Breakfast
8:00 a.m. -	9:00 a.m.	Registration
9:30 a.m. -	12:00 noon	Workshop
12:00 Noon -	2:00 p.m.	Luncheon and Guest Speaker
2:30 p.m. -	5:00 p.m.	Workshop
5:00 p.m.		Farewell reception

Sunday

10:00 a.m. -	11:30 a.m.	Brunch
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WORKSHOPS

ANGLO AMERICAN CATALOGUING RULES - SECOND EDITION

Given by: Gordon Bean, Instructor, Library Arts Department, Ryerson Polytechnical Institute

AACR2, SESSION A

A general session highlighting the changes in the second edition of the Anglo American cataloguing rules, particularly in the areas of entry, headings and descriptive cataloguing.

ACCR2, SESSION B

Focus on non-book materials and on special problems.
Prerequisite: Session A

COMPUTER SERVICES FOR THE LIBRARY

UTLAS

Given by: Nimira Harjee and Dale Biteen, Network Services Representatives, UTLAS

An explanation of UTLAS (University of Toronto Library Automation Systems) with major concentration of CATSS (Cataloguing Support System) and on what products users receive and who the users are.

INFOMART

Given by: Sally Granda, Representative, INFOMART

An ideal way of dealing with reference questions using a computer, while also explaining what a data base is, where it comes from and what types of data bases there are. Also, how to market your reference services.

UNIVERSAL LIBRARY SYSTEMS

Given by: J. A. Speight, President, Universal Library Systems Ltd.

A general description of library automation systems before focusing on circulation systems with a hands-on demonstration of the ULISYS circulation a bibliographic retrieval system.

ARCHIVAL RESOURCES

A walking tour aimed at people whose libraries are expected to keep archives or historical items, participants will tour the Archives of Ontario and behind the scenes at the Royal Ontario Museum to see what

the experts do, to hear how some of their techniques can be used in our work and to find out what help they can give us on a continuing basis.

THERAPY FOR GOV-DOC PHOBIA

MUNICIPAL DOCUMENTS

Given by: Mary Budd, Urban Affairs Librarian, North York Library

Who cares? Who dares? How come? Or how to keep a sense of humour despite adversity. An informal look at local documents sources and resources, how to identify and use them and what to do with the information once you have it.

PROVINCIAL DOCUMENTS

Given by: Gail Wamsley, Information Services Co-ordinator, Georgian Bay Library System

Provincial government publications: acquisition, organization and use.

FEDERAL DOCUMENTS

Given by: Gail Wamsley, Information Services Co-ordinator, Georgian Bay Library System

Federal government publication: acquisition, organization and use.

RESOURCES AND SOURCES

An overview of company or institutional information products and services available to requesting library centres or individuals.

MICROMEDIA

Given by: Barbara Hyland, Representative, Micromedia

NATIONAL LIBRARY

Given by: Gwenneth Evan, Head of Reference and Bibliographic Section
National Library

INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS: WHO CAN YOU INFLUENCE?

Given by: Judy Orlicky, Nursing Administrator, Psychogeriatric & Adolescent Programs, Queen Street Mental Health Centre. Formerly with Ontario Ministry of Health, Affirmative Action Programs.

Looking at the ways in which we communicate and how it affects others.
A work-oriented participatory workshop.

KEEPING THE BOOKS STRAIGHT: MONEY AND THE LIBRARY

Given by: Rick Brown, C.A., Instructor, School of Business, Niagara College

A basic introduction to bookkeeping in the library to improve your money management skills.

MESH YOUR LIBRARY WITH THE COMMUNITY *

Given by: Wendy Wright, Utilization Officer, TV Ontario and Free Lance Library Consultant

Covering such subjects as determining the needs and interests for decision-making for programs and services and making the approach that will open up communication with the community.

*This workshop had to be cancelled due to a death in the speaker's family.

GETTING INTO AV

NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA

Given by: Don B. Rogers, Distribution Officer, National Film Board of Canada

An informal discussion on the work of the National Film Board and its distribution of films to public libraries and to academic libraries. Several recent NFB productions will also be screened.

TV ONTARIO RESOURCES

Given by: Paul Avon and Jack Livesley, Utilization Officers, Ontario Educational Communications Authority

TV Ontario in the year of the child.

MULTIMEDIA LIBRARY MAINTENANCE

Given by: JoAnn Vano, Ontario Science Centre

Care, maintenance, storage and retrieval in a multimedia library.

FOCUS ON CHILDREN

OLD WRONGS AND NEW RIGHTS

Given by: Clare England, Professor, Faculty of Library Science, University of Toronto.

Old wrongs and new rights: an overview of censorship in children's literature, participation in an examination of problem materials for children and young adults.

CHILDREN'S BOOK CENTRE

Given by: Phyllis Yaffe, Director of the Children's Book Centre and Chairperson of the Project Funding Committee, National Commission for the International Year of the Child.

This workshop will discuss the services of the Children's Book Centre; ways in which Canadian children's books can be used in library programs and will also explore ways in which one can become involved in the year of the Child.

READING AND LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Given by: Rita Cox, Head, Parkdale Branch, Toronto Public Library.

The use of books to promote library programs; reading enjoyment for children beginning with the pre-schooler; the technique of reading and dramatization of storytelling.

ALTERNATIVES

ALTERNATIVES IN LIBRARIANSHIP

Given by: Susan Klement, for the past ten years a free lance information broker and consultant, and has been exploring the various roles within which the library worker may contribute his expertise.

Knowledge and skills of library workers can be utilized in a variety of settings besides libraries. This session conducted as an open discussion, is designed to introduce the attendees to the concepts of Alternatives in Librarianship.

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL PLANNING

Given by: Barbara Land, Head of Personnel, Brampton Public Library and Art Gallery.

This seminar will focus on the need for personal and professional planning and upgrading of skills in order to facilitate long term career objectives.

OUR COMMUNITY INFORMATION CENTRE: WHEN, WHAT, WHERE, OR WHY, WHY NOT GIVE IT A TRY?

Given by: Elizabeth Wray, Executive Director, Community Information Centre, Metropolitan Toronto
Angela Pritchard, Neighborhood Community Information Centre

Will analyze the need for Community Information Centres and how they service neighbourhoods.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

This year has been a period of amazing growth for OALT/ABO. Our membership has risen from approximately 340 to nearly 600 in less than one year. In addition, our eighth regional branch, Huronia, was formed and given provisional recognition by the Board of Directors.

1978-1979 has also been a year of publishing for OALT/ABO. From the meetings between the Provincial Executive and the Board of Directors, a new format for the OALT/ABO Newsletter was designed. This format has been implemented by our newsletter editors. Our first membership directory was also produced this year, thanks to a great compiling job by Nancy Mack. In addition, our brochures have been re-written and printed, and a pamphlet on library technicians based on a similar publication of the Niagara Regional Branch, was produced. OALT/ABO conducted its first salary survey of its members this year.

All of the information compiled for our publications is vital in our effort to be recognized as the authority of library technicians in this province. We must be prepared to provide definitions on the role of, types of jobs performed by, places of employment of, and salary ranges of, library technicians to prospective and current employers of library technicians.

In addition, this year has seen OALT/ABO participate at the Ontario Library Association Conference in October 1978. Here five workshops were prepared and presented by library technicians to approximately 150 delegates. 1979 will see OALT/ABO organize a workshop for the Canadian Library Association Conference in June, and two workshops at the Ontario Library Association Conference in October.

OALT/ABO has also worked on internal organization this year. The meetings between the Provincial Executive and the Board of Directors were re-structured in an attempt to increase communication between the regional branches and the executive. As President, I was able to attend and speak to members of three regional branches of our association.

In an attempt to help the regional conference hosts, a Conference Procedures Manual Committee was established, and the results of their efforts will be published early in the new fiscal year. This year's executive members have also produced a job description manual to be used as a guide for new executive members.

Finally, after several years of problems and promises, OALT/ABO was incorporated in February 1979.

This highlights the activities of your association in the year 1978-1979. I

am sure you will agree that a great deal has been accomplished at the provincial level, and judging by the regional branch reports, a great deal more was accomplished at the regional level.

I would like to thank the members of the Provincial Executive--Janet, Nancy, Susan and Jocelyne--for the hours of work, ideas, and dedication that they have shown this year, and in years past to OALT/ABO. Without their help the list of OALT/ABO achievements this year, would be very short indeed.

I would like to thank the members of the Board of Directors that we have worked with this year, and the members of the regional branches who have pitched in when we needed your help. Our aim of increased communication to the library world through an increased communication within our own association has become a reality.

As President, I am proud to see the work that our membership is involved in, and proud to have been able to meet so many of our members this year. Thank you for allowing me to serve you in this way, and the best of luck to the 1979-1980 executive.

Eleanor Irwin
President

REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT
(incorporating Publication Sales Report)

In the past year the majority of the Vice-President's duties have concerned the mail and Publication sales.

Forwarding the mail from the OALT/ABO post office box in Oakville is a time-consuming weekly task, but communication is a vital factor in our widespread association and the diversity of correspondence received never ceases to amaze me.

Publication Sales have been moderate this year with no new publications offered for sale and one of our publications, Bibliography of Library Technology, going out of print in July 1978.

In September the Board of Directors made the Vice-President responsible for the Newsletter. While no crises of an editorial nature have arisen, I have assisted the Newsletter Editors by relaying messages to the appropriate members of the Board of Directors and Provincial Executive.

I have enjoyed my year as Vice-President of OALT/ABO and would like to wish the incoming Executive a successful year.

Financial Statement 79.03.31

Receipts	\$15.00
Disbursements (Postage)	<u>12.19</u>
Balance	\$ 2.81

Janet Fear
Vice-President

PUBLICATION SALES REPORT

Financial Statement 79.04.06

Opening Balance		\$ 6.05
Receipts	\$ 137.74	
Less: Disbursements	<u>29.11</u>	
		<u>108.63</u>
Balance on hand		<u>\$ 114.68</u>

Note: Outstanding Accounts \$17.50

Publication Sales Figures 79.03.31

<u>Publication</u>	<u>Sales</u>
Bibliography of Library Technology	1
Graduate Library Schools and the Library Technician in Ontario	9
Salary Ranges of Library Technicians in Metropolitan Toronto	17
Statement of the Standards Committee	3
Newsletter Subscriptions	7
Conference Proceedings: 1977	1
1976	2
1975	2
1974	1

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS CO-ORDINATOR

My first year with the OALT/ABO as Public Relations Co-ordinator has been both rewarding and challenging.

The first major task was the drafting and mailing out of the Conference news release to all interested parties. It was received positively and I experienced a sigh of relief that all had gone well.

With that over, membership loomed up to priority. Here with a lot of help from the Regions and the Provincial Executive, I was able to produce a Membership Directory containing all the information supplied on the membership form. The supply of 450 copies was exhausted by January 1979.

While the directory was progressing, the questionnaire for the salary survey was drawn up and included with the OALT/ABO Newsletter August 1978 issue. Unfortunately the French translation did not arrive in time for the mailing. The return of the questionnaire was adequate--129 plus some that have floated in since January 1979. The condensed results were published in the March issue of the OALT/ABO Newsletter. The complete text has been published as an OALT/ABO publication.

Upon reviewing the numerous brochures we had and how out-dated some of the information had become, it was decided to produce a new brochure in a bilingual format on cream stock with the logo on the front. The brochure was printed in April 1979. The remaining paprika, blue, green, yellow and white brochures will be used at various conferences, etc., until the supply is exhausted.

The exhibit booth at the Ontario Library Association Conference in October 1978 was very successful. People were interested in the role of the library technician and the Association. It was an experience for me in finding out what kinds of information people were most interested in.

A pamphlet published by the Niagara Regional Branch on the Role of the Library Technician was greatly admired by the Provincial Executive and the Board of Directors. From the pamphlet the Provincial Executive drafted, revised and translated a new booklet on the library technician which was printed in April 1979.

As a result of the various booths and displays that OALT/ABO participates at throughout the year, a triptych was built by Ed Williamson as a more convenient way of displaying our material. Its first test will be at our own Conference in May, 1979.

With an all-out attempt to increase our membership, I have sent out two types of letters. One is a follow-up letter to those who have requested information/membership concerning the association and in which we had no record of their joining. Since these have been sent OALT/ABO has had several new members join. Also, a letter was sent out to old members using an old mailing list to find out why they had not renewed their membership. The response has not been overwhelming as many have moved, but still some past members have rejoined so it was not all in vain.

Since a lot has happened since our Conference news release in June 1978, it was suggested that OALT/ABO produce a news release on a more regular basis, passing along information of things to come, events past, etc., to various interested parties. The second release was sent out with some response back which indicates this is a worthwhile program.

The yearly talk to the new library technician students went very well at all institutions that were done. The informal meeting held with the library students at the School of Library and Information Science at The University of Western Ontario in March 1979 was very well received. I would like to thank Sue Williamson for her hospitality and support, as well as Cheryl Horton, and Debby Holme for participating in the meeting. The response was excellent with wishes for us to continue with this kind of meeting in the future. The two sessions were taped, but the recording is not clear at all times, which is unfortunate due to the nature of the questions and answers.

Throughout the year I have been encouraging the formation of a new region of the OALT/ABO in the Simcoe-Grey-Bruce-Dufferin areas. Over the last three months a lot of time and effort has been put into play by Patricia Henry, who shared my feelings of a regional branch. The results, a new region, Huronia, will be seeking provisional recognition from the Board of Directors until the May conference.

In addition I am representing OALT/ABO on the 1979 Ontario Library Association Conference Planning Committee. OALT/ABO will be involved in two workshops: Reference, with Ann Marie Duff as chairman; and Stream-Lining routine library procedures (chairman as yet unnamed).

The last big event of the year will be our own conference. I will be handling the Business Meeting requirements for the executive as well as a display of our material. I am looking forward to using the triptych as well as the slide/tape shows.

In all it has been a busy and rewarding year. I would like to especially thank Jocelyne Boutin for all her translations, Eleanor Irwin and Janet Fear for their assistance, and Sue Williamson for her kind hospitality and help.

Nancy Mack
Public Relations Co-ordinator

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

At the time I am writing this report, 6 meetings of the Provincial Executive Committee and the Board of Directors have already been held and there are still two more scheduled before the end of my term. The minutes of these meetings have been compiled, typed and distributed. The agendas were also prepared and distributed.

I prepared a list of library journals in which the 1979 conference should be announced and submitted it to the Conference Planning Committee.

I handled correspondence throughout the year; for example, letters were sent to various publishers of directories in order for them to update their information on the OALT/ABO; a number of thank-you letters were sent.

The Constitution and By-laws were revised according to the amendments voted upon at the 1978 OALT/ABO Annual Business Meeting. I translated the Constitution and By-laws into French and had it revised by a professional translator at a cost of \$25.00. 450 copies of the Constitution were printed English on one side, French on the other side, at a cost of \$137.21.

The list of job placement contacts throughout the province was revised and distributed to all the persons concerned. Five letters were sent to employers advertising positions for library technicians in order to clarify with them the definition of a library technician by enclosing the statement prepared by the Standards Committee.

As of April 7, 1979, \$50.47 was spent for stamps and envelopes.

I have very much enjoyed my year as secretary of the OALT/ABO. It being my first experience at serving the association at the provincial level, it has given me insight as to all the work that is accomplished at this level in order to make the OALT/ABO a better vehicle for promoting the library technician profession.

Jocelyne Boutin
Secretary

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

This year has been a very eventful and successful one for me, as Treasurer of OALT/ABO.

My involvement besides keeping the books for the Association have included:

- a) Preparing a panel/workshop for CLA in June in Ottawa, on certification, involving Library Technicians from MALT, ASTED and OALT/ABO.

- b) Sitting on a panel at the School of Library and Information Science at The University of Western Ontario. This involved two sessions, with members of OALT/ABO telling SLIS students about Library Technicians and their role in the library field.
- c) Talking to a class of library science students from SLIS about OALT/ABO and its differences from a union. This class was a seminar on Communications with libraries so our discussion also included relationships between technician and professional library staff as well as channels of communication at all levels of the library.
- d) Assisted in the preparation of the manual on conference planning being prepared by past, present and future OALT/ABO conference planning chairpersons.
- e) Participated in a workshop for OLA on Alternative Careers for Library Technicians in October 1978 in London.

I have attended all Board of Directors/Executive meetings held by OALT/ABO this year. I have also been successful in keeping the books balanced for 1978/1979. We have been in excellent financial shape all year, with the exception of January and February 1979, when membership fees had not yet come in. Because of our healthy budget we were able to complete many projects this year, thereby making OALT/ABO more visible to the library world.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of OALT/ABO for giving me this year on the executive to work for the Association, and I wish the in-coming treasurer the best of luck in 1979-1980.

Susan Williamson
Treasurer

CONFERENCE PROCEDURES MANUAL COMMITTEE 1978-1979

The Conference Procedures Manual Committee of which I am coordinator is well underway in completing its mandate. Using the work plan I have submitted to them, the members of the Committee have sent me their suggestions as to the procedures they wish to see included in the manual. After the compilation is completed, the Committee will hold a meeting in order to prepare the final draft of the manual that will be submitted to the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors.

Conference Procedures Manual Committee Membership

Ottawa:	Jocelyne Boutin, Co-ordinator
Thunder Bay:	Donna Fossum
London:	Susan Williamson
Halton-Peel:	Janet Fear
Toronto:	Peta Shelton

Jocelyne Boutin
Co-ordinator

REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Proposal for an OALT/ABO Statement on Ethics and Professionalism

Library technicians as individuals and as a group should maintain professional job attitudes and work performance. They should be accountable for their actions, since it is by these actions that they and their fellow technicians will be judged.

The OALT/ABO encourages library technicians to use the following guidelines:

1. Relationship to the public

Library technicians have obligations to the public they serve and to the larger community. One of those obligations is recognizing the patron's right to information, limited only by the internal regulations of the organization served. Library users should be treated impartially; their transactions with library technicians should be confidential.

2. Work relationships

Library technicians should be aware of and adhere to the applicable written or understood policies regarding conditions of employment, such as punctuality, sick leave, appearance appropriate to the position and methods of redressing grievances.

Library technicians should have a sense of obligation when accepting an offer of employment; they would normally expect to stay for a reasonable period of time (at least a year); they should give reasonable notice of termination of employment (e.g. one month).

In case of dismissal, library technicians should make every endeavour to discuss cause with their employer.

Library technicians should use discretion and diplomacy, and maintain active communication in all working relationships.

Library technicians should strive to be creative and flexible beyond their assigned role, willing to undertake special and emergency duties. However, library technicians should not be expected to undertake unrecompensed overtime or special duties on a regular basis.

3. Professional development

Library technicians should have interests beyond the narrow definition of library work. They should belong actively to library oriented organizations, attend workshops of value to their position, and consider further educational opportunities, including those offered by the employer.

4. Professional attitudes

Library technicians respect themselves and the comprehensive training they have received. They are a highly skilled group, capable of functioning in both a supportive and an independent role, with a sense of self-discipline, courtesy and dignity.

NEWSLETTER REPORT

Three newsletters have been published since June 1978 when we assumed the duties of co-editors for the OALT/ABO Newsletter/Nouvelles.

Up to this time we have tried to keep up with the schedule set in the past: 3 newsletters a year, appearing approximately in March, June and November.

There were a few initial problems that hopefully have been ironed out to everyone's satisfaction. One was the new format of the newsletter. Due to its more compact size, it has been necessary for us to edit most articles--in some cases quite drastically, in order to be sure there was ample space for them. In some cases this meant that we only included items which would be considered of importance or interest to the majority of library technicians. One other small point is the time element, when submitting an article for inclusion in the newsletter. One month prior to publication is the absolute minimum requirement for receiving articles, since we have to allow for time to have articles translated, edited, typed, and reduced before the final printing.

Newsletters have been centrally mailed, and since this has not posed any problems, we will continue to use this setup. We have been kept aware of new members and address changes through the Public Relations Co-ordinator.

Therefore, everyone that is a member should be receiving their copy of the newsletter.

Since the number of members has escalated quite rapidly in the past year, we are constantly thankful that there are two of us to handle the 'longer' mailing list! This leads to the next point which is the budget. The increase in members has meant an increase in expenses, so that we have had to spend more than our original allotment of \$700.00. Since we have had to print from 150-200 more newsletters, there is the increase in printing costs, the number of mastheads, the number of stamps and envelopes, and the postal rates have also increased.

All in all it has been quite an experience for us. Though relatively new at this type of work, we hope that we have managed to keep most technicians informed and in touch. Our biggest satisfaction comes from the wonderful response we received from people volunteering to help with the translating. We greatly appreciate their help. Newsletter deadlines have been easier to meet because of the promptness they have shown in returning articles to us.

We will end by thanking everyone who has submitted articles and other information, and we hope to continue to hear from you in the following year.

Financial Report 79.04.01

Opening Balance		\$700.00
Disbursements:		
Postage	\$227.87	
Printing (3rd issue not included)	263.60	
Supplies	120.40	
Telephone	50.37	
Miscellaneous	<u>3.10</u>	
		<u>665.34</u>
Balance on hand		<u>\$ 34.66</u>

Anna Marchione
✓ Jackie Druery
Newsletter Editors

ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF LIBRARY TECHNICIANS/
ASSOCIATION DES BIBLIOTECNICIENS DE L' ONTARIO

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

Period June 1, 1978 to May 5, 1979

Bank balance, June 1, 1978.....			1,796.33
Receipts:			
Fees - regions and memberships.....	5,144.00		
Conference profits.....	647.72		
Sale of newsletter and miscellaneous.....	<u>188.05</u>	5,979.77	
Disbursements:			
Audit.....	100.00		
Bank charges.....	29.47		
Copying costs.....	295.73		
Honoraria.....	270.00		
Membership budget.....	280.00		
Membership fees.....	55.00		
Newsletter budget.....	900.00		
Office supplies.....	192.63		
Postage.....	40.00		
Public relations budget.....	425.00		
Publicity budget.....	300.00		
Telephone.....	113.87		
Translation of constitution.....	25.00		
Travel.....	<u>1,865.62</u>	4,892.32	
Excess of receipts over disbursements.....			1,087.45
Bank balance, May 5, 1979.....			<u>\$ 2,883.78</u>

AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of
Ontario Association of Library Technicians/
Association Des Bibliotechniciens De L' Ontario:

We have examined the statement of receipts and disbursements of the Association for the year ended May 5, 1979. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests and other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, this statement presents fairly the receipts and disbursements of the Association for the year ended May 5, 1979 and its cash position at that date in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Hamilton, Ontario,
May 11, 1979.


CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS.

HALTON/PEEL REGIONAL BRANCH REPORT

1978/1979 was a smash hit for Halton/Peel. During this year, Gisella Smithson, managed to get out three excellent newsletters, and the membership has almost doubled from the previous year.

May 24 - 27, 1978--Halton/Peel hosted the OALT/ABO Fifth Annual Conference, at Erindale College, Mississauga.

June 20, 1978--A post-conference bash (dinner meeting) was held at the Holiday Inn, Oakville. Three representatives from TALTA were present to share our experiences and to pick up some tips to aid them in hosting the next conference.

September 1978--Susan Klement, a free-lance librarian, spoke to the membership on alternatives in librarianship.

October 21, 1978--Two workshops were held on a Saturday morning:

1. Audio Visual: a hands-on demonstration presented by Linda Norris, library technician, Mississauga Library System.
2. Statistics Canada

November 22, 1978--A buffet dinner meeting with a film "The Speaker" was to be held at the Holiday Inn, Burlington. Unfortunately this had to be cancelled due to lack of response from the membership.

January 20, 1979--Two workshops were presented simultaneously on a Saturday morning, Sheridan College, Oakville.

1. Information Retrieval: presented by Lois Watts, librarian, Burlington Public Library System.
2. Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Childrens Service in the Public Library, But were Afraid to Ask: presented by Ingrid Keuper, Librarian, Mississauga Library System.

February 27, 1979--The Annual Business/Election meeting was held. The new 1979 Executive are as follows:

President	Virve Tremblay
Vice-President	Judy Kellond
Treasurer	Trish Radcliffe
Secretary	Mary Jennings
Publicity & Planning	
Co-ordinator	Ann Marie Duff
Director	Mary MacKinnon

Judy Kellond
Vice-President

LONDON REGIONAL BRANCH REPORT

President	Nancy McCormick
Vice-President	Heather Chisnall
Secretary/Treasurer	Linda Bone
Student Representative	Nancy Tait
Employment Contact	Cheryl Horton
Director	Jacquie Jessup

This year was a well-planned and co-ordinated year right from the start. The executive scheduled a series of interesting meetings on a variety of nights in order to attract as many participants as possible. The schedule (mailed out in September) for the whole year was as follows:

April	Irma McDonough, from the Childrens' Book Center and editor of "In Review" offered us her views on motivating children and their love of books.
July	An outing to Grand Bend and the Huron County Playhouse.
September	Wine and Cheese Get-together, Huron College, Eleanor Irwin, President of OALT/ABO, spoke to the group.
October	Wallaceburg Bookbindery representatives demonstrated their product. Since the meeting was held at Trinity Lutheran Church we were also able to explore the Church Library operated by one of the members, Deborah Holme.
November	Childrens' Book Week brought Ted Harrison, the jovial writer/illustrator from the Yukon to London.
December	Bonnie Gray gave us a Christmas tour of the Lake Erie Regional Library System.
January	Heather Gordon showed us the resource center at the Robarts School for the Hearing Handicapped.
February	Two Workshops: Anglo-American Cataloging Rules II and User Advisory Services, Statistics Canada.
March	Annual Meeting--a dinner meeting was a great way to end the year.

A monthly newsletter was mailed to all members giving them a brief description of the meeting, and announcing the next meeting along with any other news. We held a raffle at most meetings for the gamblers among us. Our membership was greatly boosted in the fall by the students, after Nancy and Eleanor went to Fanshawe to speak with them. Also, many of our members were able to participate and help with the OLA conference which was held in London in the fall. On the whole it has been a very good year. The new London Executive for 1979-1980 are as follows:

President	Linda Bone
Vice-President	Kim Sales
Secretary/Treasurer	Martha McCandless
Student Representative	to be elected in September
Employment Contact	Cheryl Horton
Director	Deborah Holme

We look forward to another great year with this new executive.

Jacquie Jessup
Director

NIAGARA REGIONAL BRANCH REPORT

Niagara Regional Branch has had an active and productive year. We held our first meeting in March 1978, at which we elected our officers (after voting to re-form the branch). At the Annual Business Meeting at the OALT/ABO Conference we were welcomed back into the fold.

Altogether we held eight general meetings and four executive meetings. At the meetings, seminars on special reference needs for high school libraries, automated circulation systems, and many other topics were presented. We are planning another exciting and informative year to come.

One of the major projects of Niagara Regional Branch was the publication of a booklet entitled "The Library Technician", which describes the types of duties of LT's, the differences between LT's and librarians, and perhaps the most important, where LT's can be found, in order to hire them. This booklet was sent to all of the libraries in the Niagara Region, as well as distributed among the members. We were delighted when the Provincial Executive and Board of Directors adapted this booklet for the use of OALT/ABO as a whole.

Another of the projects undertaken was setting up an award for a graduating student from the LT course at Niagara College. This award will be presented annually, with a wall plaque being left in the LT Programme area on a permanent basis, each year adding the name of the winner, and with a small award being given to the student to keep. We hope that this will create additional interest in the association.

We feel that there has been a lot accomplished this year, and are looking forward to even better things next year.

Andrew Porteus
Director

OTTAWA REGIONAL BRANCH/SECTION REGIONALE d'OTTAWA REPORT

As Regional Director, appointed by the Ottawa Regional Branch, I respectfully submit the following report for 1978/1979.

1. ORB/SRO Branch of OALT/ABO held six Executive Meetings and four General Meetings during 1978/1979.
2. The new Executive was introduced at the Annual Meeting held on June 8, 1978. Reports were submitted by the outgoing Executive and plans made for the new year.
3. During October, Executive Members initiated a recruiting drive for new members among French and English students at Algonquin College.
4. Barbara Cope took on "Job Placement Officer" duties.
5. On October 26, 1978, 22 members attended the first General Meeting of ORB/SRO.
6. On December 14, 1978, we welcomed our Provincial President, Eleanor Irwin to our General Meeting. Her informal talk was well received. Two film strips were shown.
7. On March 10, 1979, a workshop at Algonquin College on Statistics Canada Publications was well attended. It was held in conjunction with our membership renewal drive.
8. Our Treasurer, Wendy Hower, has moved to Edmonton. For the remainder of the term our Vice-President Ginette Cardinal will assume the duties of Treasurer.
9. As of April 1, 1979, the Treasurer reports a bank balance of \$578.07.
10. The Executive is looking forward to attending the Provincial Conference at New College, May 24 - 26, 1979, in Toronto.

Greta Poole
Director

SUDBURY REGIONAL BRANCH REPORT

During the fiscal year of 1978/1979 the Sudbury Regional Branch of OALT/ABO reached out and grew. This made possible the printing of a regional newsletter, APROPOS, (to be a quarterly production). Workshops are also being organized, the first one to be on negotiating procedures.

Many of the new members are a direct result of visits to the Library

Technician classes at Cambrian College. Enthusiastic responses have helped the region to grow.

Communication, a sharing of information, was the theme of the year.

Paulette Thibault
Director

THUNDER BAY REGIONAL BRANCH 1978-1979

Thunder Bay suffered this year with what could be commonly called the winter doldrums. We had enormous amounts of snow fall and the accompanying bad road conditions, etc. somewhat curtailed our efforts.

In October 1978 Bonnie Moore MacKay presented the slide tape presentation on the flood restoration at Old Fort William Library which she later presented at the Ontario Library Association Conference.

We were fortunate to have Eleanor Irwin come to our area to speak at a meeting as well as speaking to the students of Library Technology at Lakehead University in December, 1978. Her talk and the discussion that followed helped people to understand what our association is and where it is going.

In January, 1979, LaRea Moody and Bonnie Moore MacKay spoke regarding their advances in free-lancing in our area. Both are involved in establishing libraries for businesses or agencies in town: a local law firm and the Thunder Bay District Health Council. This was a very interesting topic and was well attended.

Our membership still hasn't climbed above the 26-member mark, but we feel that next year will show an increase. Living in the land of snow, optimism is an essential quality--and you can be sure we have plenty of it for our own region and the provincial association as well.

Chairpersons:	Hilke Grunys, Bonnie Moore MacKay
Secretary/Treasurer:	Lesley Prior
Coordinator:	Dianne Kohl
Director:	Donna Fossum
Newsletter Editor:	Monika McNabb

Donna Fossum
Director

TORONTO AREA LIBRARY TECHNICIANS ASSOCIATION (TALTA) 1978-1979

TALTA voted for a new executive at the annual general meeting in January. Peta Shelton, President, completed the second year of her two-year term. Our general meeting was an all-day affair with workshops given by Nancy Williamson of the University of Toronto, and Sally Graham. TALTA sponsored the catered lunch which was enjoyed by all. We found that we had grown as a group over the previous year in terms of enthusiasm, unity, experience and numbers. We had 96 paid members.

The Year's meetings were well planned and well attended. The varied topics included:

- a joint discussion with the Special Library Association on education and the library technician
- a tour of the new Metro Toronto Library
- a film presentation produced by the Thunder Bay group
- a joint meeting with Halton-Peel technicians on how to run a conference (we appreciated the help)
- a tour of Northern District Library's automated circulation system
- a presentation on storefront libraries--a unique and interesting concept

The membership was kept abreast of events through our newsletter. Members contributed articles and each bi-monthly topic was synopsized for the benefit of those who could not attend the meetings.

TALTA is lucky to have strong leadership, an active relatively large membership, and a determined, reliable core of library technicians. Even with the demands of the upcoming conference, we expect to continue offering our members interesting and regular meetings.

Angela Rose (Hildebrand)
Director

6TH ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

of the

OALT/ABO

May 25, 1979

A G E N D A

1. Call to order
2. Adoption of Minutes of the 5th Annual Business Meeting.
3. Business pertaining to the Regional Branches of the OALT/ABO.
 - Huronia Regional Branch
4. Officers' Reports
5. Committee Reports.
 - Standards Committee
6. Motions to change the constitution
 - Motions from the Board of Directors
 - Motions from the floor
7. New Business.
8. Election of Executive Officers.
9. Location of next conference.
10. Adjournment.

MINUTES OF THE 6TH ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE OALT/ABO

May 25th, 1979

New College, University of Toronto
Toronto, Ontario

1. Call to order

The meeting is called to order at 9:20 a.m. by Eleanor Irwin, President.

Janet Fear, Vice-President, presents E. Irwin with an engraved gavel as a token of the membership's appreciation for the work performed throughout the year.

E. Irwin introduces the members of the Provincial Executive Committee:

Janet Fear, Vice-President
Jocelyne Boutin, Secretary
Sue Williamson, Treasurer
Nancy Mack, Public Relations Co-ordinator

She also introduces Donna Fossum (Thunder Bay), recorder of the minutes and Ross Hainsworth, who is the Parliamentarian for the meeting.

2. Adoption of the minutes of the 5th Annual Business Meeting

Samm Brockhurst (TALTA) moves that the minutes of the 5th Annual Business Meeting be adopted. John Fink (Ottawa) seconds the motion.

CARRIED

3. Business pertaining to the Regional Branches of the OALT/ABO

Huronian Regional Branch has been granted provisional recognition by the Board of Directors during the year. E. Irwin moves that the Huronia Regional Branch be accepted by the membership as a regional branch. Pat Graham (Ottawa) seconds the motion.

CARRIED

4. Officers' Reports

The reports are read by the respective officers of the Provincial Executive Committee members and Directors of the Board.

5. Committee reports

The reports of the Conference Procedures Manual Committee, the Standards Committee, the Newsletter editors are read.

E. Irwin moves that all the reports be accepted as read. Cheryl Holton (London) seconds the motion.

CARRIED

5.2 Standards Committee

A discussion follows on the proposed statement on Ethics and Professionalism prepared by the Standards Committee. The following recommendation is made: that the item no. 4 be placed as item no. 1. Mary MacKinnon (TALTA) moves the motion, Samm Brockhurst (TALTA) seconds it. A vote is taken.

CARRIED

A constitutional question is raised: How do provincial members who do not belong to a regional branch vote? The question will be discussed by the Board of Directors and a Board policy will be established.

Elaine Zink (Ottawa) proposes to renumber no. 3, which is on professional development, to no. 2.

DROPPED

LaRea Moody (Thunder Bay) moves to eliminate the numbering of the items of the Statement this way allowing the regions to use the statement in any order they wish to, providing that they do not change the wording. Gisela Smithson (Halton-Peel) seconds the motion. A vote was taken.

CARRIED

Samm Brockhurst (TALTA) moves that the Standard Committee's Statement on Ethics and Professionalism be accepted as presented. Andrew Porteus (Niagara) seconds the motion. A vote was taken.

CARRIED

6. Motions to change the constitution:

By-Law 5 - Duties of the Executive

Vice-President

Resolution: Be it resolved that the following duty item #4 be added to the Duties of the Vice-President (By-Law 5)

4. Oversees the production of the Provincial Newsletter.

If this goes through: Delete item #3 in By-Law 5 Public Relations Co-ordinator.

A discussion follows. Andrew Porteus (Niagara) moves to accept the resolution. Samm Brockhurst (TALTA) seconds the motion. Vote taken.

Halton/Peel	yes	Ottawa	yes
Huron	yes	Sudbury	yes
London	yes	TALTA	yes
Niagara	yes	Thunder Bay	no

CARRIED

There are no motions from the floor.

7. New business

7.1 Regional branches

Angela Rose (TALTA) questioned whether or not a region can establish itself with only one member and if there are requirements for forming a region. E. Irwin replies that any region that is formed has to be granted provisional recognition by the Board of Directors as well as recognition at the Provincial conference. A discussion follows. Samm Brockhurst (TALTA) moves that this conference direct the Provincial Executive Committee and the Board of Directors to prepare a study paper to suggest an amendment to the constitution regarding regional voting and membership and be discussed at next year's annual meeting. The study paper should be received by all voting members three months prior to the next annual meeting. Paulette Thibault seconds the motion. A vote is taken.

CARRIED

Denise Denommé (Sudbury) recommends that the Board of Directors also study the physical boundaries of each region.

8. Election of Executive Officers

Positions were open for: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Public Relations Co-ordinator.

Final results*

President	Sue Williamson
Vice-President	Dorothy Kew
Secretary	LaRea Moody
Treasurer	Samm Brockhurst
Public Relations Co-ordinator	Nancy Mack

* see table on following page for details

9. Location of next conference

Barbara Cope (Ottawa) invites the members of OALT/ABO to attend the 1980 conference to be hosted by the Ottawa Regional Branch from May 7 - 11, 1980 on the University of Ottawa campus. The theme of the conference will be Inforama: 1980.

10. Janet Fear moves to adjourn the meeting. Barbara Cope seconds the motion.

The meeting adjourns at 11:50 a.m.

NOMINATED

NOMINATED BY

ACCEPT/DECLINE

President

Sue Williamson

previous

accept

Andrew Porteus moves to close the nominations. Seconded by Elizabeth Aldrey.
Sue Williamson by acclamation.

Vice-President

Dorothy Kew

previous

accept

Sue Radder moves to close the nominations. Seconded by Helen Toth.
Dorothy Kew by acclamation.

Secretary

LaRea Moody

previous

accept

Andrew Porteus moves to close the nominations. Seconded by Diane Kohl.
LaRea Moody by acclamation.

Treasurer

Samm Brockhurst

previous

accept

Elizabeth Aldrey moves to close the nominations. Seconded by Peta Shelton.

Samm Brockhurst declines acclamation. A vote is taken. Samm Brockhurst is elected.

Public Relations Co-ordinator

Nancy Mack

previous

accept

Deborah Holme moves to close the nominations. Seconded by Cheryl Holton.
Nancy Mack by acclamation.

John Robert Colombo's Address

May 26, 1979

Thank you very much for the introduction and for the chance to talk to you.

Margaret Trudeau likes to complain that Pierre is incommunicative for 45 minutes after a meal. She says it takes 45 minutes to digest the meal and he says absolutely nothing to her during that time. I know if I tried that in our household, it wouldn't go down well with my wife Ruth, a high school teacher. Nor would our three children put up with it!

I am going to ask you, however, to endure me for not quite 45 minutes--closer to 25 minutes while I talk.

It's a pleasure to repay the debt I owe to librarians, especially in the Toronto area, but also at the National Library and in many of the specialized ones. So when I use the word "librarians", I include technicians, agents and administrators, as well as professional librarians. In fact, I have never made such distinctions in my own mind. In fact, it wasn't until Angela invited me to this group, that I realized there was a separate association for technicians. So I have learned something as a result of the invitation here. I think you might do more in the area of making yourself known to the general public than perhaps you have in the past.

I came up with a number of quotations that have to do with librarians. I did not bring with me Colombo's Canadian Quotations--that volume weighs 4½ pounds (I thought that was too much). Stephen Leacock said, "If I was founding a university...I would found first a smoking room; then when I had a little more money in hand I would found a dormitory; then after that, or more probably with it, a decent reading room and a library." B. K. Sandwell, the noted editor of Saturday Night magazine, said: "I am what librarians have made me, with a little assistance of a professor of Greek and a few poets".

I think that's a lovely tribute, except for the words "made me". That brings up Richard Needham, whom I understand was a guest here last year. He said (did you realize he said this?) "For a well-rounded education, you could try curling up with good books and bad librarians". (I hope there are some bad librarians here!) He also said, "I love libraries, but I will be damned if I will ever walk into a learning resource centre".

I couldn't think of anything brilliant to say about library people or resource centres or even bad technicians. I did check, however, the Oxford English Dictionary to find out a little bit about the meaning of the word "library". Now, I'm a great believer in chance; things happen in life largely through chance. Chance decrees that when words are alphabetically arranged, the casual order becomes causal and reveals things. I discovered, for instance, that the word "library" in my Shorter Oxford appears between the word "liberty" on top and the word "licence" on the bottom. So I see libraries balancing between liberty and licence, being right in the middle. In fact, if there were more librarians, technicians and readers in the world, I suspect we would have fewer problems with licence and enjoy a lot more liberty. I also checked the word "technician" and found it, too, was balanced, precariously, between two interesting words, not quite as exciting as the last balance perhaps but more or less equally revealing. The word "technician" occurs between two words--the one on top is "technicality". I suppose you people are concerned with technicalities, little details, and so on; and the one underneath is "technics". Now that's a word I haven't encountered in many years. Man and Technics is the title of a book by Oswald Spengler, but "technics" is the doctrine of the arts in general. It has to do with branches of learning as they are related to the arts. Now that's very general and technicalities are very detailed--small but not insignificant. So I see you as struggling, being true humanists straddling the gulf between

the very small and particular and the very general and grand. Many of us who work in libraries begin to organize our thinking in terms of the Dewey decimal system. You have that down pat, and are well ahead of us. I'm "dewey-eyed" thinking about it!

Now, having stated these things, I wondered what I would actually talk about. It struck me that there's not much sense in talking about one specialty of mine which used to be called Canadiana and is now called Canadian Studies. I suppose most of you are familiar with the Symons Commission and its Report which recommends that Canadian studies be encouraged in primary and secondary schools, colleges and universities, because it leads to added self-awareness. That's the principal reason, not because it's an orphaned study, but because studying Canadiana is really studying ourselves. I think that battle has been waged by people of my generation, and those a little bit younger and older, and we might as well assume that the war is being fought on every front today.

What I am going to do, though, is give you a few details about an endeavour that I'm currently undertaking, which I hope you will find interesting. I could talk generally or philosophically about some subject but I thought if I talk more personally about a book project I'm now engaged in you might be inclined, when you read the books of other authors to think from the point of view of what they are doing in the library.

I work in libraries maybe three days a week. When I see a librarian I think there's somebody who works in a library five days a week and gets paid for it. I work in a library three days a week and get paid for approximately one day's work. About 1/3 of my income actually does derive from book royalties; the rest I have to make up on radio, television and speaking to various groups (like yours).

Last year, I wrote, translated or compiled 7 books. This year, there will be about four others. Some of these are of general interest, like anthologies. Some are of specialized interest, like translations from the Bulgarian, which is a sideline of mine. Occasionally, when faced with people professionally employed in the book business or allied enterprises, I feel like a Russian, because there is an old Russian proverb which goes: "One peasant can support three generals". Occasionally, I think: Here I am, supporting 1 editor, 1 proof reader, 1 designer, 1 manager of a publishing company, 1 publisher, 1 book salesman, 1 librarian and one technician. When you publish seven books a year, you are supporting a couple of these people pretty well full time. Something is wrong somewhere. At my end there is very little encouragement. So now you need no longer wonder why there are so few authors doing work in the popular reference area. (Certainly, we need more and better popular reference books; you'll perhaps get a glimpse of how when I tell you about one of my experiences.) The only consolation I take from this is that I suppose it is better to support all the printers, publishers, editors, librarians and the rest than it is to support three Russian generals (a lot less costly anyway).

The large project that I'm working on now will be published in two parts this fall. But before I tell you about the area of science fiction and fantasy I'm working in, I want to explain how I got involved.

Many of you, I suppose, have read fantasy and science fiction. Certainly when I was 13 or so I discovered way-out literature and was fascinated by it. Ray Bradbury's The Martian Chronicles was one of the first books I read. Judith Merril's paperback anthology Shot in the dark was the first anthology of science fiction I stumbled upon. I find now, looking back to the early '50's, that I've been reading that literature ever since. I graduated

She said, "What are you talking about, we don't have any Canadian science fiction". I said, "Well, don't you have a shelf of Canadian SF?" She said, "Oh, oh, that's over there". Indeed, they had a shelf of about 60 books--not very many of which you'd really want to read, I must say--but the shelf held copies of Phyllis Gotlieb's novels and a noted masterpiece, James DeMille's Message Found in a Copper Cylinder, a very fine, underrated novel. It also held a marvellous book, which I subsequently fell in love with, Consider Her Ways by Frederick Philip Grove, which is about a troop of ten thousand ants which leave Venezuela, cross the Panama Canal, trek across the Great American Plains, and end up in the New York Public Library. In the library they moved to the poetry section because they liked eating the bindings of books and poetry bindings they found to be sweet, sweeter than that in the history section. The ants spent the winter there. There is one marvellous sequence in which an ant decides to attract the attention of a librarian, who is reading a book. The ant crawls up the librarian's leg, which has a nice shape, climbs onto the desk, and when the librarian isn't looking, crawls onto the page of the book she is reading. And then if you'll excuse the expression--shits on the page under the various letters that form the message the ant wants to spell out. The librarian lets out a screech and a holler, knocks the book onto the floor, the ant falls to the floor and the librarian raises her leg to stomp on the insignificant ant. At this point, there is a marvellous description of the shape of the leg and foot of the librarian. The ant, being unable to distinguish between the shape of the foot and the shape of the shoe, comes to the conclusion that the more important the librarian the higher the shoe. (You see, she is wearing stiletto heels). There is a great description of the shoe coming down on top of the ant as it scurries away just at the last moment. (The ant flees to safety--

you'll be happy to know.) Anybody who has anything to do with libraries will love it!

One of the two librarians at Spaced Out pooh-poohed my notion of compiling an anthology of Canadian SF and Fantasy because there is none. The other quietly encouraged me, despite the fact that to the first the Canadian shelf was an eyesore. Judy Merrill urged me on, but with the warning that the pickings were lean. I concluded, from their contrasting views, that there were two viewpoints: (a) There is no Canadian science fiction and fantasy; (b) There is some but it is not very good. So I thought: This is a contradiction, of course. Who knows what's there? If they don't know what's been published, I'll certainly find out. So then began my great Hegira.

What I started to do was prepare 3 x 5 cards because there was no bibliography in the area. There were two teaching guides which included chapters on science fiction, and I quickly pilfered all the references there. At this point I had listed about 60 books. By labour, I advanced to 100 separate book-length publications by Canadians in the science fiction and fantasy genres or writings by foreigners but set in Canada. For instance, Jules Verne set four novels in Canada--three of them take place in the High Arctic. One of them concerns the discovery that the North Pole is a volcano of gold.

Then I approached Michael Richardson, who works in the branch library that I frequent every week--the Bathurst Heights Branch of the North York system. I asked Michael, "Do you know any science fiction?" (I knew he was a mystery-story buff.) Michael is a very interesting person; he is not a librarian, not even a technician; but he is above a page. David Kotin of the Canadiana Section of the North York system described him as "a marvelous find". "Michael", he said, "is an untrained British reader of books, born in England, untrained in library skills, but a reader and a great enthusiast who just

loves books". Michael said, "Oh, I could name some books that I read in England, that are set in Canada". So I said to Michael, "Maybe you could help me with some of the bibliographic details of the titles that I haven't checked. You know, the ones I copied out of the other listings." Michael said, "Sure".

In a month's time we had 150 titles. Then I thought, "What am I going to do about the French? I must find out what's there for my anthology. I wonder what's being published in French Canada?" We were helped a bit because there is a magazine, Requiem, which is published in French, and it had been running a series of articles on Quebec science fiction. I immediately copied down all the titles that were mentioned there. I thought, "I can't annotate all of these. Just getting the bibliographic details right is hard enough! Actually reading the novels in French and digesting them is going to be an endless job." So I asked a friend of mine, Alexandre L. Amprimoz, if, as a favour, he would care to take this over. He is an academic in Winnipeg, which means he has a lot of time on his hands. He said, "Certainly". Our listing leaped ahead by 180 titles, for French Canadian and Quebecois authors have written that many highly imaginative books.

Then we scratched our heads trying to arrange this material. I saw a little note in some magazine or another that a new science fiction journal was being published in Halifax by John Bell-the name didn't mean anything to me. So I wrote John Bell, asking if he knew of any Canadian SF and F. He wrote back, yes. He asked, "Do you want some help? Why don't you send me what you have and I'll add to it? He had independently been working along these lines. He is neither a librarian, a technician, nor a page at the Dalhousie University Library Archives, but a great reader and enthusiast. Michael and I agreed and we sent him our list and he sent back another mass of titles. All in all, our list hopped, skipped and jumped its way to 600

titles of books by Canadians or set in this country. I don't think anyone ever realized--certainly I didn't when I started--that there were that many titles.

What to do with all these entries, the majority of which we annotated? The list was originally to be an appendix to the anthology I was working on, but it was much too long for that. So I decided to have it type-set (at my own expense) and have it published in book form later this summer by Hounslow Press in Toronto. The bibliography is called CDN SF & F. CDN is the official abbreviation for Canada and SF and F is a recognizable abbreviation of Science Fiction and Fantasy.

None of us received a cent for all this work. We need to sell 500 copies to break even on it, so I hope when you go back to your insitutions you will each buy a copy of CDN SF & F--otherwise, I'm going to be bankrupt.

But this gives a sense of the intellectual bearing of the subject I was studying. Six hundred titles is a respectable number. So having done this, it was very easy for me to then look over the entire field and ask, "What would any sane person, or reasonable person who enjoys reading, want to read?" I began to look at the material schematically, and I discovered some interesting things. For instance, there is a lot more fantasy than SF. This befits a society that is not very much concerned with research and development, which has very little high technology--a pastoral rather than industrial part of the world. Second, what are the Canadians concerned about? One is the Polar World--that's our classification for some of the novels; they are concerned with the Arctic. Did you know there are 26 novels alone that deal with lost civilizations in the Canadian North--paradise-like valleys up there, where prehistoric beasts roam; strange exotic flora blooms amid the ice and snow; tropical valleys that are warmer than the Caribbean,

where lost civilizations thrive. You didn't know that, but it's all up there in the Arctic. This is a standing theme in our way-out literature.

Another standard theme is one I should have anticipated, and that is the Natural Disaster Scenario. Richard Rohmer is the name that first occurs to one here. (I heard a joke about this author and his works. Did you know Richard Rohmer is publishing a new novel? It is related in title to two previous ones. Listen carefully. There is Exonneration and Separation and Master...Plan!) Canadians worry about whether the country is going to blow up, fall apart, or disintegrate; whether Quebec is going to leave, Saskatchewan depart, or British Columbia sink into the Pacific. If we are lucky, the Americans will invade; if we are unlucky the Chinese; if really unlucky, the Martians. All of these are variations on the National Disaster Scenario. These are a couple of the characteristics of Canadian science fiction that we isolated.

For the anthology, I photocopied the best short works I could find--short stories, novel excerpts, and poems--and I combined them and in the end had 21 short stories, 4 novel excerpts, something like 27 poems by a variety of poets, and at the end the script of the National Film Board short feature Universe, which is excellent reading, two critical essays--one by David Ketterer of Concordia University and another by Margaret Atwood on Canadian monsters--and finally a marvellous discovery of mine which no one knows anything about--I found it in the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library--or the Metropolitan Toronto Library, as they now call it. (They dropped the word "reference" when it became a totally reference institution.) This is a 10,000-word pamphlet, called The Dominion in 1983, written in 1983, printed in Peterborough, Ontario, beautifully written and finely printed by one Ralph Centennius. (If there is anyone here from Peterborough, I would be pleased to know if you can find out anything about Ralph Centennius.

Certainly, I have not been able to.) Aside from the fact he predicted a large number of things—for instance, Canada, he says, about 6 years hence, we will have a population of 230 million; the largest cities will be Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver (he was right); you will be able to fly right across the country in 3 hours (you can't quite do that yet)--our future hasn't quite lived up to the expectations of our past.

All this material is going to appear soon and is called Other Canadas. It is a big science-fiction anthology, published by McGraw-Hill Ryerson. It is going to be a large book. It is 360 pages long. I don't have to ask all of you to make sure your institutions acquire that book, because I know you'll be doing it anyway, in multiple copies, because it's the kind of thing that will be widely read.

Our work and two publications have established the fact that we have a tradition of such literature and that Canada, itself, is a great fantastic creation. This country exists more as an idea than it does as a physical reality.

Let's try and discover what ideas are behind any conception of Canada. A couple of them are entirely negative--we have very little advanced technology; we are really a virgin country. There is a reality to these features, and we should do something about them. However, having published a number of books which document the development of the Canadian national spirit--works like Colombo's Book of Canada and The Poets of Canada--survey the immense variety of Canadian materials over a wide range of time--I thought I would like to move into the future, that is the area of science fiction, and into the past (and I'm working in that area right now, writing an epic about the early evolution of this part of the continent--there are no people, man has not settled here yet, even the Rocky Mountains have yet to be born--

that's the period I'm describing). I now feel that it is possible with initiative and imagination to begin to chart the imaginative reaches of this country. Our ultimate pasts, our parallel presents, our possible futures. So if people say to you, "No, there is no Canada", you can reply, "Yes, there certainly is, here are the ideas that are part and parcel of it". If they say, "There is no science fiction and fantasy in this country", you can say, "Well, someone has taken a look and come up with this tradition of writers". More and more I feel individuals are going to look very closely at what's been published in the past and try to come up with basic anthologies in which we will find our presents and be given our futures.

It is not on that basis, though, that I wish to leave you. I am essentially--beyond everything else--a poet. I would like to read for you two poems inspired by reference books. They come from my book Variable Cloudiness. One day I was in a very amorous mood. It was in the middle of the afternoon, 2:30. My wife was out teaching. Our au pair girl wasn't there. I thought, "What can I do with this desire--this lust, if you wish, or romantic impulse?" I had in front of me Roget's Thesaurus. I thought, "I should be able to write a poem out of Roget's Thesaurus. I should find something there." So I wrote some things and I found something. Here is "Roget's Girl".

Let me peer into your eyes, orbs, blinkers, corneas, oculars,
irises, peepers, etc.
Let me take a gander at your legs, limbs, stems, shanks, thighs,
calves, gams, etc.
Let me catch a glimpse of your breasts, bustline, bosoms, boobs,
tits, teats, dugs, etc.
Let me command a view of your behind, bottom, posterior, bum, butt,
ass end, south end. etc.
Let me command a view of your, catch a glimpse of your, take a
gander at your, peer into your, et cetera.

Then I thought, "I wonder if I can make anything out of Clement Wood's Rhyming Dictionary. My copy opened at the rhyming words of EK and EP. So I limited my vocabulary to those two rhymes. Then I wrote,

"Love Poem with Rhymes Ek and Ep". I hope you enjoy it.

Love Poem, With Rhymes Ek and Ep

You're worth more to me than the most valuable antique,
As I watch you lying there, sound asleep.
Now let me think aloud! Our Love'll never be bleak
For we've lots of cheek.
We're fashionable and chic,
Having formed our own clique.
There's no need to creep
Before others, or endure the critique
Of some foul-mouthed freak.
My Love'll keep
Us vibrantly alive. Loneliness'll leak
Away, unhappiness'll drop off some lover's leap
From Martinique
We'll be the opposite of meek
To Mozambique.
Let's have another peep
At your eye-catching physique!
I love you like a Sheik
And you shriek
Like a sex-starved Sikh.
Cradled in each other's arms we slip into sleep,
Our bodies wet and sleek.
There's no need to sneak
Glances, let's loudly speak
Out, and across our bedroom streak,
Our bodies stained like teak,
Our love-making assuredly unique.
There's no need to weep:
I feel like this seven days a week.

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