



NewsLETTER NouvelLES

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



EDITOR'S NOTE

Since our last newsletter in Fall/Winter 2020, the world has still been adjusting to a “new normal.” During that time, we undertook planning and executing our first ever virtual conference, which was quite a feat! A big thank you to the student volunteers who helped moderate our Zoom sessions. It was a great way for students to connect with LIT professionals and learn about emerging trends and techniques in the library world. As always, many thanks to the Board as well for helping to put together another newsletter!

– Sarah, *Internal Communications Coordinator*

DISCLAIMER

*The views and opinions expressed in Newsletter/
Nouvelles are those of the authors and do not
necessarily reflect the OALT/ABO Board of Directors.*

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2021-2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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OALT/ABO'S FIRST VIRTUAL CONFERENCE: A RECAP

JANNA MUNKITTRICK-COLTON
Conference Coordinator

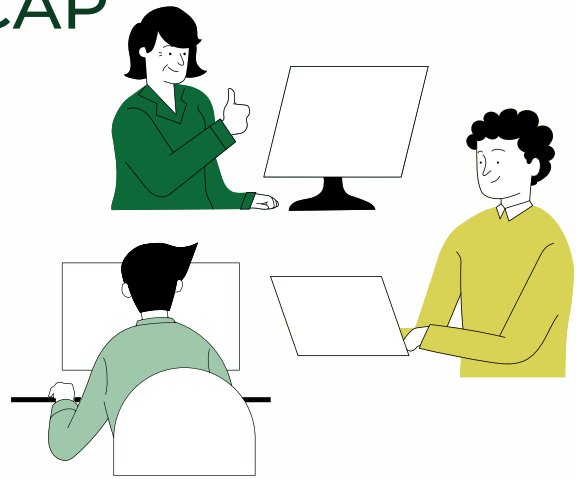
The OALT/ABO conferences have always been hosted by a physical venue, from the University of Toronto to resorts and hotels.

But what happens when a pandemic hits and you have to plan an entirely virtual conference? For a coordinator who went to college almost before computers existed, it was not easy-peasy.

The 2021 Conference was originally to be hosted by Cambrian College in Sudbury. As it soon became apparent in 2020 that we wouldn't be any closer to opening back up for in-person events in early 2021, we had to contact them and cancel the initial plans we had made.

Then, we needed to decide what to do about the workshops. As coordinator, I had to send out emails to the presenters to ask if they wished to present their sessions virtually. I gave them the option of presenting live or in a pre-recorded, webinar format. We also decided to run individual sessions each hour, rather than the previous format of two workshops side-by-side. This meant people didn't have to pick and choose between sessions they wanted to attend.

We also wanted to do something unique for our members, so we invited two of the Association's founding members – Doug Wilford and Liz Aldrey – to do a special presentation on the conference's opening day. They gave an amazing talk about the



history of the Association and made us laugh, regaling us with stories and pictures from our past. We thank them for the lovely trip down memory lane.

While we would normally host a wine and cheese event to kick off the conference, our official opening was, instead, held virtually. On the bright side, this provided the opportunity for many members from across the province to attend - one member even joined us from her cottage in Northern Ontario.

We also negotiated with the Crime Writers of Canada to offer some lunchtime panel discussions. It went over really well, with great attendance. They also did a special panel discussion on the Thursday night with some more popular authors.

In addition to the daily sessions and panel discussions, we held a games night where we played Jeopardy and Trivia. After the games were finished, members wanted to chat, and it turned into a successful social event.

The COVID pandemic threw us into the Virtual age very quickly. We had no other way to communicate and do programs with

the public. Whether people were knowledgeable about computers or not, all of sudden we were thinking about how to pull something like this together.

In the background, our President, Vincent Elit researched various virtual conference platforms, and ultimately purchased a license for us to do a Zoom conference. He worked his way through the ins and outs of how to run a virtual conference and all of the technical aspects that it entails.

Overall, and given the circumstances, our first virtual conference went over really well. The sessions covered a variety of topics, and good times were had by all. I want to especially thank Vincent Elit for dealing with any glitches in the virtual format quickly and smoothly, which allowed the conference to stay on track for the full week.

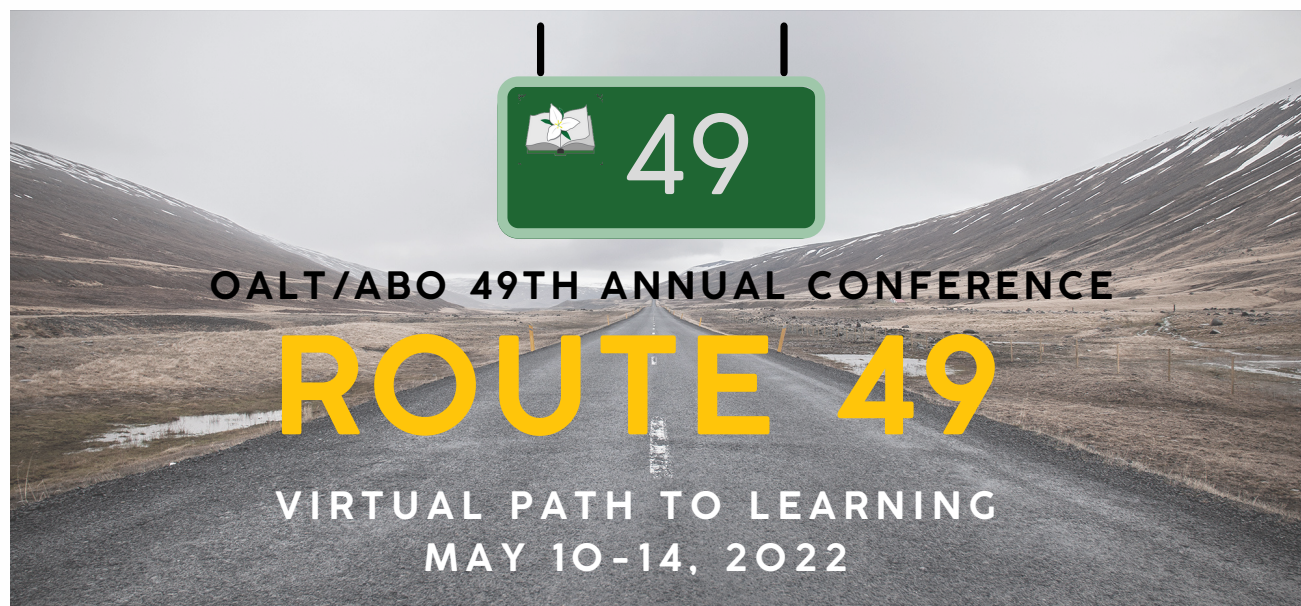
With 2022 quickly approaching, the Board has had to consider various options for our next conference. While we considered a hybrid alternative, there has been so much uncertainty over the past year and a half that another entirely virtual conference felt like the best choice. That said, we'd like to officially announce our 49th annual conference, Route 49: A Virtual Pathway to Learning!

The conference will run virtually in the afternoons from May 10 – 14, 2022. I am excited to plan this one as well, along with Melanie Taylor-Ridgway and the Board. It is great to have an enthusiastic team to work with. See you online again next year!

If you would like to be a presenter or have suggestions for presenters/sessions, watch for our callout and email me at conference@oaltabo.on.ca.



Read on for a sneak peek at some of the sessions we have planned for this year's conference!



Learn more about Accessibility

Is accessibility your goal but you aren't sure where to start? Learn how to make your online library programs accessible.

In this session, you will learn about the basic accessibility requirements for presenting online programs. From moderating a discussion for a guest speaker, delivering children's story-times to running online book clubs, you will learn how to make your online spaces welcoming for people with disabilities. If you are new to web accessibility, this session is for you!

Tapping Into the Skill Set of Today's Library Technician

Four library technicians working in Health Sciences and Academic Libraries reflect on changes to their roles over the decades, from graduation to present day. Sharing experiences and insights, they focus on two trends which have had a significant impact: advances in technology and, the restructuring of the Public Service Desk. Also explored is, how each adapted while transitioning from their traditional role of a Library Technician to taking on responsibilities formerly held by librarians.

Author Extravaganza

This year, we are pleased to have Canada's national association of Speculative Fiction Professionals ([SF Canada](https://sfcanada.ca)) launch three new books at a virtual event for conference attendees. Books will be carefully chosen to be of particular interest to library professionals, representing a range of reading ages and genres.

Stay tuned for more information on registration, a full conference schedule, and volunteering opportunities!

LUNCH & LEARN:

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMBERS

KATE TERECH

External Communications Coordinator

The Ontario Association of Library Technicians / Association des bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario is thrilled to announce our first series of Lunch & Learn Professional Development sessions.

As discussed at the 2021 Annual General Meeting, the Association began offering a series of Lunch & Learn Professional Development sessions, which are at no additional cost to active members of the Association. The sessions offered will be virtual and hosted over Zoom, allowing you to talk and connect with other colleagues.

One of the main goals of these new sessions is to offer professional development opportunities to the membership outside of the conference period, fostering new ideas and new learning opportunities for Library Technicians across Ontario.

The Association hopes you will find this new addition to your membership to be beneficial to you and your career.

On June 28th, the Association hosted our first event, Chapter Discussion with the board's Chapter Coordinator, Jeka Dupont, and Ottawa Chapter Treasurer, Linda Landreville.



In the session, attendees learned about the history of Chapters in the association and helpful information on what is required to make a Chapter active. The presentation was followed by a round-table discussion, and the promise of future conversations between Chapters in the future.

In September, OALT/ABO held its second session, Revamping Your Early Reader Collection, with Lindsay Shaw. Attendees learned how the New Tecumseth Public Library reevaluated their Early Reader collection to create a better organized and discoverable system. Lindsay shared her knowledge and provided tips on how others libraries could approach this project.

To end our first year of Professional Development sessions, we were happy to host Jennifer Weymark from the Oshawa Museum. Oshawa's Black History – One Family's Story examined how the Oshawa Museum was able to trace the lives of one of Oshawa's first Black families. With a lack of census data, Jennifer explained the processes and difficulties the Museum faced when trying to trace matriarch Wealthy's life.



Oshawa Museum
Home to our History

OALT/ABO: Lunch & Learn
OSHAWA'S BLACK HISTORY

Monday, November 22nd
12PM - 1PM (EST) via Zoom

PD Session with Oshawa Museum

If you missed or are unable to attend a session, be sure to visit the members' only section of our website to watch the recordings.

Looking ahead in 2022, the PD-Committee will soon be announcing details on our upcoming sessions. Stay tuned for details on our sessions with the Canadian Mental Health Association, and the Archives of Ontario!

Pre-Registration is required for each of these events. Members will have the Eventbrite link with a registration code emailed in advanced. Once you have your ticket, Eventbrite will automatically send you an email reminder, and a link to the Zoom event will be active 30 minutes before the scheduled start.

WELCOME, TAMARA

The Association is excited to welcome Tamara Monster! Tamara will be serving in the newly appointed role as Professional Development Liaison. In her role, Tamara will work closely with the Internal and External Communications Coordinator to schedule and assist with the development of PD opportunities within the Association.



Tamara, Professional Development Liaison

Tamara currently works for McMaster University Library where she has held a variety of positions since 2004. As a Senior Library Assistant in Mills Library Services, Tamara recruits, hires, trains and supervises a team of 10 to 15 Student Assistants. She's involved with E-Reserves, Interlibrary Loan, Circulation and Research Help. Tamara's first library tech job was with the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board. She assisted with the completion of a long running project to have the last remaining elementary school libraries move from a manual to an electronic check-out system. Tamara began a new role in July with HathiTrust as a member of the Bibliographic Control group. Since 2019, she has spent time on a HT Crown Copyright project. She graduated from the Mohawk College Library Technician program in 2007. She has a B.A. in English from McMaster University.

If you have any questions about the events, registration process, or have suggestions for future sessions, please contact Tamara at pd-liaison@oaltabo.on.ca.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

TIFFANY RIBEIRO Archivist

As the Archivist for OALT/ABO, I have the opportunity to see a wide range of documents and objects. The association's archives contain hundreds of documents, as well as images and physical artifacts. Conference swag is one type of the artifact we aim to collect. Take this photo of a mug for example, a submission by one of our long-time members, Liz Aldrey. This mug is from a conference that took place in Thunder Bay, but the exact date is unknown.

Do you have questions about the archives, want to learn more about what it contains, or have something to submit?

Contact me at archives@oaltabo.on.ca.

The Association's treasurer, Lori O'Connor also unearthed some old-school memes from archived issues of *Apropos*, the Sudbury Regional library branch newsletter.



From the archives: a mug from a previous OALT/ABO Conference held in Thunder Bay, Ontario



"Got any books on dog training?"



"You one of those 'speed-readers'?"

MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES (2021)

JESSICA HYMER
Membership Coordinator

Many thanks to our entire membership for an incredible year of new and exciting opportunities amidst so much unprecedented change.

We are celebrating the following long-time members for their impressive milestone achievements.

Congratulations everyone!

45 YEARS

Janna Munkittrick-Colton

40 YEARS

Penni Chalk

35 YEARS

Brenda Holz

25 YEARS

Arlene LeBlanc

15 YEARS

Eleanor Boeringa

10 YEARS

Sharon Doyle
Jessica Reeve
Jillian Rothwell
Kelly Sobie
Cheryl Steele

5 YEARS

Nancy-Ann Brethour
Jennifer Dupuis

We would also like to wish a very special welcome to the 48 members who have joined us in 2021!

Erin Abele
Janis Ackroyd
Amanda Alton
Richard Anderson
Darlene Anson
Kristen Ball
Debbie Boulton
Janice (Miriam) Braham
Jessa Brown
Melissa Burke
Jessica Celebre
Brook Charnoe

Billie Costello
Carrie Cousineau
Sheryl Davis
Crystal Donohue
Sheila Earl
Neil Edmonstone
Lynn Facinato
Laura Ford
Cynthia Fort
Khela Friday
Eileen Gallagher
Eleni Gouliaras

Katia Guzzardi
Anthony Masucci
Ginette McCoy
Kristy McKeown
Corinne Mohr
Dawn Nicholson
Sarah Peoples
Emily Puccini
Cheryl Quinn
Dessana Rocha
Johanna Salutan
Michael Santacangelo

Cordelia Shan
Kimberley Shimoji
Tracey Sinclair
Kaitlin Smith
Jennifer Smith
Stephanie So
Riel Sumpton
Dawn Unwin
Crystal Wilson
Miseon Yoo
Joice Zhu