

NewsLETTER/ NouvELLES

Publication Agreement # 40688591

**Volume 29, # 4
September 2006**

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NewsLETTER/NouvELLES is published three times per year in Fall, Winter and Spring and is available with membership in the Ontario Association of Library Technicians / Association des Bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario. We welcome your feedback as well as your letters, articles and photos, but must reserve the right to edit for style and space.

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IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	...1
Conference	...3
Awards	...5
Chapter Activities	...7
LIT Program News	...9
CLA-LTIG Update	...14
People News	...15

From our President

Tracy Morgan

Well it's still August as I begin this missive (August 28 but still August). I'm just back from 9 luxurious nights in my 24' Hornet. We spent most of the time in Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park between North Bay and Mattawa. I'm so happy there. No cell phones, no TV, no meetings, no deadlines -- in fact, other than the necessity to feed yourself (and others) every once in a while, no responsibilities whatsoever. Fabulous. And now back to reality....

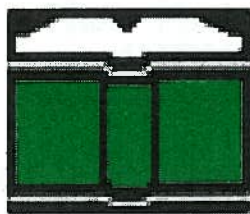
Where has the time gone since Conference? What a wonderful Conference it was too. I must thank Stella, Maggie and the crew again for a great time. A personal thank you to Stella and Brock for introducing me to crocs (my footwear of choice this summer). I think Conference was so much fun that I started my summer right after! I must confess to basically being on OALT/ABO hiatus most of the time since. There are many reasons for this but let's start with the fact that I'm also President of the Milton Tennis Club. Although most of our planning takes place from October-February, the day-to-day running of a volunteer, summer Club is of course May-September. I'm afraid I've had to let that take priority. I'm also sorry to report that I'm accountable to hundreds more Milton Tennis Club members than I am OALT/ABO members but hopefully we can change that. Maria brought an interesting membership initiative to the Executive's attention last year which we intend to pursue.

The other reason I'm a bit OALT/ABO behind is a lack of motivation to hold the traditional summer Executive handover meeting when we've had no one step forward to take over from Vicky as Treasurer or me as President Elect. President Elect in 2006-2007 is mainly a watching year. You take the meeting minutes and observe, get comfortable for taking over as President the following year. I'm not too concerned about minute taking. I can continue to do that. It's something I'm used to and good at, might even say I "enjoy" doing it (if that doesn't make me sound too crazy). I am concerned though that no one is interested in taking over as President as I will be leaving.

Poor Vicky "stepped-down" from the Treasurer position at Conference and has been holding onto the role ever since. Someone has to keep paying the bills! This is just not right. Vicky has served us long and hard and deserved a stress free summer of freedom.

Let me try and get more positive...

continued on p. 2



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continued on p. 2

President's Message

continued from page 1

I volunteer all over the place. Volunteering is a great way to get experience, meet people, see how things really work, get things done. I agreed to take on the role of President Elect for 2005-2006 two Conferences ago when I looked around the room at my wonderful, accomplished, giving OALT/ABO colleagues (many who had been with us only 10+ years (or less!) and had done such great work). I got to thinking (thanks to Marian Doucette who kept chanting to me "It's your time. It's your time.") that I'd been a member 20+ years and had never sat on the Association Executive.

Yes, I'd done other things (most notably membership on the Committee for Change and the Constitutional Committee) but had never "held office".

Why? It's not my favourite thing to do but I volunteered out of obligation for an Association that has given so much to me and respect for those that had served before me. This is such a great little Association! Let's do our best to keep it going strong!

What is our best? Have you read Don Miguel Ruiz's "The Four Agreements"? It's one of my favourite things. I have the book at home and the CDs in the car. The fourth agreement is: "always do your best."

While I know I've missed a deadline or two lately, I know I can only do my best. My best isn't the same from day to day. Things change. My abilities change. Ruiz talks about taking action just for the sake of doing it or because you love it, not because you expect a reward. Isn't that what volunteering is all about? You don't volunteer for the money and although it's nice to be recognized, you don't volunteer expecting people to thank you for it.

So, let's recognize that we're all just trying to do our best. I'll do my best for OALT/ABO. No more, no less.

Here's to 2006/2007!

THANK YOU!

It could not have been done without active members and generous sponsors!



2006 Conference Committee
(L to R:) Kate Morrison, Pam Casey, Marion Stoneman, Stella Clark, Melissa Blazak, Maggie Weaver (missing: Barb Allen)



Photo courtesy Jean-Paul Lorrain

Sponsors:

Hamilton Bulldogs
Royal Ontario Museum
Halton-Peel Chapter
Keith Morrison
TD Waterhouse
Vera Templemans Plat-Rehill
Bill Clark

THANK YOU to the people who organized the conference last week. I have not participated in something like this for a long time.

... congratulations to everyone who made the conference such a success.

...I came away rejuvenated. I will be sharing my experiences with colleagues.

New Kid on the Block: OALT/ABO's 2007 Conference Coordinator

Hi everyone! I am Melissa Hall, Conference Chair for 2007. As a new member of the OALT/ABO Executive, I thought I should introduce myself and give you a little background about me.

I am originally from a small town (under 1000 people) in Southwestern Ontario called St. Clements, which is about 10 minutes north of Waterloo. As many small town people do, I dreamt of getting out of there and into the city (now, I wish for small town, but what do you know at 18??). I moved to Toronto in 1994 to attend Humber College and received a Legal Assistant diploma. Deciding that that was not what I really wanted to do anymore, I moved to Ottawa to get my university degree at Carleton University. I started my first library job right after I started school, working as a student at the Library of Parliament. After two years of university, I was offered a full time contract position at the Library of Parliament preparing the collection for the removal from Parliament Hill.

When my contract was finished in 2001, I realized how much I really love working in libraries and went back to school at Algonquin College for my Library and Information Technician diploma. I got my real job right after school ended, at Health Canada. That job helped me get my current job at the Canadian Institute for Health Information, where I run a small (1.5 people) library.

2007 OALT/ABO Conference Planning Team

Melissa Hall, Chair	
Susan Morley	Brenda Maxwell
Kate Morrison	Sheena Bujold
Brenda Holz	Valerie Walton
Maggie Weaver	Tracyann Crawford

Now it is two and a half years later, and I still love my job!

I volunteered to be the Conference Chair for a few reasons. First of all, I wanted to be more involved with the organization. I have only been a member since 2005 but after attending two conferences really saw what a great group of people are involved. Secondly, I wanted to network and meet more people in the field. Working alone everyday has its benefits but it has its downside as well. Having more contacts in the field really helps with idea sharing and getting information for my clients. Being part of the association and the executive are certainly helping in that area!

Well, enough about me! Hope to meet you all at Conference 2007!

2007 OALT/ABO Conference

Humber College
Lakeshore Campus, Toronto
May 9-12, 2007

Theme: *Equi-Libra*
Book your calendars!

We chose Toronto for the conference because it is a central location that is easy for people to get to. It is about 13km for Pearson Airport and about 16km from Union Station.

We are looking for suggestions for the sessions. What sort of topics would you like covered? Is there a certain evening activity that you would like to see added to the schedule? Any comments or suggestions can be sent to Melissa Hall at mhall@cihi.ca. Please send comments/suggestions to Melissa by the end of November. We are currently going through the evaluations from the last conference and have some excellent ideas for topics that are timely for libraries today!!

See you there!

Reflections on Voyageurs 2006:

By Stella Clark, Conference Coordinator



This year's conference, Voyageurs 2006, was held in the beautiful Niagara Region at Brock University, an area rich in history. The voyageurs in Canada's past dared to venture into the unknown wilderness to open a path for the future, and the conference sessions described a path from the past to the future in our information world. We had a session of 10,000 years of history in the Niagara area, and one on how the townships received their names.



Stella Clark and Michael Gemmell

Our cataloguing session dealt with museums and how they handle and catalog historical artifacts, which was presented by Michael Gemmell, the curator of the Erland Lee Museum, home of the Women's Institutes, itself an organization pioneering the push for women's education in the home. Our virtual bookclub's author this year was Mary Pettit, who wrote about a homechild, brought to Canada in the late 1800's from England to live with families here in Ontario. From these historical workshops, we went to new levels of communication in the partnership of the Hamilton Public Library with the City of Hamilton in the myhamilton.ca portal. The public can access all kinds of community information, register for programs, and

checkout what is in the library all through one Internet address.



Author Mary Pettit with Stella Clark

One of the highlights of the conference was the tour to the Shaw Festival, where we met the librarian for a talk on the history of the Festival, and how their library is managed. This was followed by a back-stage tour, under the stage, through the dressing rooms, and into a rehearsal room. Our dinner night out was held at Oh Canada, eh?, a historical look at Canadian history in the setting of musical dinner theatre. The food was great, and we had a lot of laughs.



Work is done, let's have fun!

This year we had a first with on-line registration, provided by Brock University. It certainly streamlined the work of the Conference Committee, and the hope is that this will be offered again in the future. The staff at Brock were exceptional in their service and willingness to help with all the little glitches. The catchphrase was "I can do that", and I appreciated all the help that was provided. The food was great, especially at the banquet, held in the chalet right on the escarpment overlooking the Bruce Trail.

No conference can be a success without a lot of help. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my committee members: Maggie Weaver, Melissa Blazak, Marion Stoneman, Barb Allen, Kate Morrison, and Pam Casey. Everyone worked hard to provide the materials and sessions that would make this conference the best ever. I hope everyone who attended the conference had as much fun as I did, and I hope to see everyone at the next one.

Photos courtesy of Stacy Goddard

Library Technician's Hall of Fame

2006 Award Winners

Penni Chalk Awarded 2006 Presidential Award

Presented by Jill Anderson

I am here tonight to present the 2006 Presidential Award. What does it mean to receive this award?

To me, it means gratitude and thanks from our association for a job well done. It means that the person is being recognized for going above the call of duty and not being afraid to volunteer for extra duties within our association. Welcome to the elite group of twenty.

This year's recipient is all that and more. This person has worked tirelessly for the Association. Our profession needs to honour the contributors who work in the background and over the long term. This person has managed students during their two week placements. This included planning their activities, training and evaluating their performance. She has always encouraged the students to join OALT/ABO and participate in our activities.

It was said by one of her colleagues that she remains convinced of the importance of OALT/ABO and continued to be active in its programming and conference programming. She always approached her work

professionally and understood the connection of what they did and what she does. This played a major role in her getting the position she currently holds.

The person I am speaking about is Penni Chalk. Penni has been vice president, president, ex-officio, secretary, recording secretary at the ABM and is currently our archivist. She also served as Secretary on two separate occasions for TALTA, and was a member of the Standards Committee.

Penni joined the Ontario Ministry of Revenue in 1982. She has continued to work there as it merged with other ministries and became the Ontario Ministry of Finance in 1993. She originally worked in the library at the ministry and continued in the Oshawa library of the Ministry of Finance until it closed in 1996. At that point she was transferred to the Ministry Library in Toronto.

In December 2004, Penni moved to the Modernizing Ontario's System for Tax Administration (the MOST Project) on a temporary assignment, as their Information Coordinator. Penni was asked to participate in recognition of her research and organization skills.

It is now my extreme honour and privilege to welcome you, Penni into the Library Technicians Hall of Fame and present you with the 2006 Presidential Award.

The OALT/ABO Presidential Award recognizes outstanding contributions or achievement by an OALT/ABO member in promotion / development of our association. Any full member in good standing, excluding the President and members of the award committee is eligible for nomination. Contributions and achievements may consist of:

- Innovative approach in promoting and/or developing the association
- Significant participation in the structure and development of the association
- Initiation and implementation in projects or programs to raise the profile of Library Technicians
- Active participation in OALT/ABO through attendance at regional meetings and/or committee work.
- A responsible attitude towards the profession and OALT/ABO

Marina Dranitsaris Awarded 2006 Innovation Award

Presented by Annette Desrosiers



This year's award has been awarded to Marina Dranitsaris. Congratulations Marina!

Marina has been the champion of the OALT/ABO first "virtual" chapter, and our first special interest chapter, the Book Club Chapter.

The Book Club Chapter was the first new chapter formed within the new organizational structure, after the former regions had re-formed as chapters. The new chapter, formally approved in April 2004, is unique within OALT/ABO, and its quick formation and sustainable procedures are a testament to Marina's will to "make it happen".

The chapter meets online regularly, on its own discussion list, and has hosted authors at both 2005 and 2006 conferences.

With the innovative example of the successful Book Club Chapter, more virtual chapters may form, extending the reach of our Association immensely.

The OALT/ABO Innovation Award recognizes a member who has done something innovative in the workforce, for the association or for professional development.

DID YOU KNOW

OALT/ABO members may register for OLA's 2007 Super Conference Jan 31 to Feb 3 using "member rates".

You must indicate that you are an OALT/ABO member when you register.

Diane Walker First Recipient of the CLA LTIG Award of Merit

http://www.cla.ca/awards/2006_Tech_Int_Gp.pdf



Diane Walker, the first LTIG Award of Merit Recipient, and Frank Mussche, President of Libramation – sponsor of the LTIG Award

I just wanted to say thanks to all of YOU for providing the reason for my getting this award -- which truly should be shared

amongst us! The little group that we have formed can be the basis for greater connection in the Canadian LIT community, particularly with the incredible work that Karen is participating in, on our behalf, at the national level. It's a wonderful time to be a Canadian lib tech!

I will be thinking of you all at the CLA conference in Ottawa, and hope that I may get a chance to meet some of you at the LTIG networking dinner. And since it is supposed to be raining for the rest of the week in Vancouver, I feel particularly blessed to be going to the conference!

Thanks again to you all for your part in strengthening the ties between us to work together toward an exciting future for the Canadian Library and Information Tech community --

Diane Walker

Selection will be based upon the significant achievements of the nominees in regards to their service to the profession through participation in library technician organizations or library technician interest groups, as well as their proven leadership abilities in actively promoting library technicians regionally, provincially or nationally.

The nominee must be a student or graduate of a recognized Library Technician program.

Chapter News and Events:

Current events and 2006/2007 Executives

Book Club Chapter

In May, Marina Dranitsaris stepped down as the Book Club chapter coordinator. After discussions with other members of the book club chapter, it was decided that we would cut the number of books read from 11 to 8; this gives us a couple of weeks longer to read the books. There are 14 members in the chapter, but only 6 members seem to be "connected" and respond to any emails and participate in the blog. The book chapter is a virtual chapter, and the only "physical" meeting we have is at the OALT/ABO annual conference where we have a guest author come and discuss their work with us.

Here is a list of some of the books we are reading this year:

- *The time in between* by David Bergen
- *A complicated kindness* by Miriam Toews
- *The corrections* by Jonathan Franzen
- *The kite runner* by Khaled Hosseini
- *Liar, liar* by Gabrielle Williams

If you wish to become a member of the book club please check the "bookclub" chapter option on your membership renewal form.

If you want further information about the bookclub please e-mail Annette Desrosiers at e-mail: strathaven@rogers.com

Halton-Peel Chapter

2006-2007 Executive

President: Kate Morrison

Vice President: Dena Monachino

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Barb Allen

Publicist: Sean Crowe

Dates and topics of meeting are to be announced. Please see us online at www.oaltabo.on.ca Choose: Regional Events – Halton Peel Chapter.

We are in need of Executive members for the 2007-2008 year please consider volunteering.

Ottawa Chapter

2006-2007 Executive

President/ présidente:

Adriana Ribble

ADRIANA_RIBBLE@acdi-cida.gc.ca

Vice-President/ Vice-présidente:

Nicole Watier nicole.watier@lac-bac.gc.ca

Treasurer/trésorière:

Theresa Ziebell Theresa.Ziebell@statcan.ca

Secretary/secrétaire:

José Gélinas jgelinas@nrcan.gc.ca

Jose.Gelinas@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca

Committee/comité du "tête-à-tête":

Linda Landreville landreville@rogers.com

linda_landreville@hc-sc.gc.ca

Event Coordinator/Coordonatrice aux

activités: Barbara Cope

Barbara.Cope@pwgsc.gc.ca

Membership/Coordinatrice aux adhésions:

Ann Censner acensner@magma.ca

Ex Officio:

Irène Kumar Irene.Kumar@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca

Dates and topics of meeting are to be announced. Please see us online at www.oaltabo.on.ca choose: Regional Events – Ottawa Chapter.

School Library Chapter

As of April, the Chapter has another way to communicate, thanks to Tracy Morgan. She welcomed us to a listserv dedicated to our members and issues. You will find us at: oaltabosc@yahoogroups.com.

Also, this fall's new beginning has its roots in last year's decision to format and distribute a survey among our school technicians. With that in mind, Stacy Goddard conducted a session at the Conference whereby we could find out what we wanted from such a survey.

continued on page 7

Chapter News and Events: Current events and 2006/2007 Executives

School Library Chapter

continued from page 7

Since then, the survey has been blocked out, constructive criticisms have been made and incorporated into the document. Now, members of the Survey Committee (Marie, Helen & Wendy) who volunteered for the task in May, will get their teeth into the survey, polish it and distribute it. Exciting times lie ahead.

Stacy Goddard



Doug Willford presents Stacy Goddard with a token of appreciation. Both are School Library Chapter Champions.

Thunder Bay Chapter

2006-2007 Executive

President:

Valerie Welsch vjwelsch@tbaytel.net

Treasurer:

Donald Henderson dmhender@mac.com

Secretary: Linda Bukovy

Newsletter Editor:

Wanda Ewachow wlewacho@lakeheadu.ca

Public Relations:

Kathy Crewdson kcrewdso@lakeheadu.ca
and Margot Ponder

Archivist: Helen Heerema

heerema@confederationc.on.ca

Thunder Bay Chapter con't

The Chapter's first meeting was held on September 20th which was a general meeting followed by a tour of the Jean Morrison Fur Trade Library at the Fort William Historical Park.

At 7:00pm on October 18th we are joining Jeremy Mohr, new archivist at the Chancellor Paterson Library, Lakehead University for a tour. The archives are now housed on the fifth floor... our former classroom where many of us studied to be Library Technicians.

At 7:00pm on November 29 we will have our Jingle Mingle at Kathy Crewdson's house (46 Elm Street). If her renovations are not completed Valerie Welsch's house is the fallback (260 Piccadilly Avenue).

Everyone is going to need their wine as Valerie is going to give a Sudoku lesson!

A tour of Magnus Theatre is being planned for the end of January, a Saturday workshop on digital cameras is planned for

February, and the Annual Business Meeting will be held at Scalero's in the East Side Mario's near the end of March. All exact dates and times to be announced.

Toronto Chapter

2006-2007 Executive

President: Vacant

Vice-President: Vacant

Treasurer: Aileen Fisher;
aileenfisher@sympatico.ca

Newsletter Editor:

Kerry McCauley; kermcc@rogers.com

Membership & Publicity Coordinator:

Patricia Talarowski;
patricia.talarowski@gmail.com

Secretary: Vacant

continued on page 9

Chapter News and Events:

Current events and 2006/2007 Executives

Toronto Chapter

continued from page 8

If any Toronto Chapter member is interested in any vacancies on the Chapter executive, please contact Aileen, Kerry or Patricia directly.

Upcoming Meetings:

Wednesday, November 15, 2006,
6:30pm at Northern District Library
*Healthy Libraries, Healthy Employees with
Norma Gibson-MacDonald*

Wednesday, November 29, 2006
6:30pm - *Annual Holiday Social at Mandarin
Restaurant, Yonge & Eglinton*

Monday, January 22, 2007, 6:30pm at Toronto
Reference Library (topic TBA)

Monday, April 16, 2007, 6:30pm - Annual
Business Meeting at North York Central
Library (topic TBA)

ASSOCIATION NEWS ALERT:

Watch your mail for proposed Constitutional changes. This will be the first time we exercised our right to vote by mail (one member, one vote – “power to the members!”) since overhauling our governance in 2003.

Ontario LIT Programs

Courses, events, and more

Mohawk College

Fall is here and students have resumed courses in the library technician program at Mohawk College. Our courses are taught online, and are intended for people who are working in libraries but don't have formal library education.

As of this fall our program is offered through Ontariolearn, which is an umbrella organization designed to enable the 22 member community colleges in Ontario to share their online courses. Thus students can now register at other colleges in Ontario and take our courses.

Our winter term will begin on Jan. 12/07, and OALT members may want to consider taking a course for professional development. Graduates of library technician programs can consider themselves as meeting the prerequisite course requirements for any of our courses.

continued on page 10

Seneca College

Faculty of Continuing Education and Training

Library and Information Technician Diploma

Courses being offered in January 2007

semester include:

- LIT150 Introducing Libraries
- LIT152 Library Catalogues and Bibliographies
- LIT154 Basic Library Skills
- LIT164 Computers in Libraries
- LIT255 Circulation and Interlibrary Loan
- LIT322 Descriptive Cataloguing
- LIT355 Library Promotion and Programming
- LIT358 Database Searching II
- LIT420 Human Relations in Libraries

Registration for our courses in January opens on November 20th, with last date to register being the third class or if the class is full. Again early registration ensures the student of a spot. If you are looking at upgrading or individual

continued on page 10

Mohawk College

continued from page 9

Registration for winter term opens on Nov. 20/06, and details will be on our web site <<http://www.mohawkcollege.ca/cecat/library.html>> under "next semester" by early November. Some courses that may be of interest to OALT members are:

LIBRLT385 Children's Services and Issues
COMMLT225 Genre Fiction and Readers' Advisory Service
LIBR10002 Government Information
LIBR10003 Cataloguing Electronic and Internet Resources
LIBRLT335 Multimedia
LIBRLT405 Law Libraries and Legal Research
LIBRLT375 School Libraries
LIBR10004 Health Libraries and Resources

Two other courses, part of our 6-course Records and Information Management certificate, may be of interest as well:

OADM101 Active Records Management
GRAPRM102 Document Management Technology

Further inquiries about our program can be directed to me at any time.

Dolores Harms Penner, Program Manager
Library and Information Technician Program
Mohawk College. Phone 905-575-2309
Email dolores.harmspenner@mohawkcollege.ca

IN MEMORY

CASEY, Vicki Louise (nee Bisset) After discovering her life would be cut short last November, we were all blessed with 10 months of the most generous, caring and trusting person one could know. During this time Vicki has shown more courage than one can imagine. On Monday, September 11, 2006 she decided to rest. Vicki passed away at 5 p.m. with her sister at her side, her son, friend, former spouse nearby and many with her in spirit. Vicki was a leader in her field and enjoyed a wonderful career as a librarian at the Toronto, Scarborough and Metro Reference Public Libraries, an entrepreneur and lecturer at the University of Toronto, York University and Seneca. Vicki was a dear and valued friend to many, and will be remembered for her unconditional love, support and compassion. Family and friends are invited to sign Vicki's book of condolence on-line at www.sherrin-funeral.ca.

Seneca College

continued from page 9

courses for interest, please contact Carlisle Kemp-Jackson or Ann Hersch at 416-491-5050 x4121 or x2528 respectively to review your options. For further program details please visit our website at: http://www.senecac.on.ca/parttime/pip-library_technician.html

Continuing Education is also offering assorted half and one day workshops. Visit our website for upcoming selection.

http://www.senecac.on.ca/parttime/pip-library_technician_workshops.html

For the workshops, Our next one will be Nov 4th Media Monitoring a half day offering at a cost of \$50. Students can register up to the date of offering, though earlier does ensure they go forward.

Seneca College Faculty Update

Delia Antonacci and Katherine More have joined Deborah Kay as faculty in the full-time Library and Information Technician (LIT) Program. Both have been appointed full-time Professors, after previously teaching part-time. Deborah Kay remains as Coordinator of the full-time program, in addition to her teaching activities. The responsibility for assigning students to field placement libraries in both the full-time and part-time LIT Program, and the teaching of the Field Placement and Work Skills subject continues to be handled by Susan Ibbetson. A number of part-time faculty also are teaching individual subjects.

We are very sad to have lost Vicki Casey from the full-time LIT program. Vicki, who taught at Seneca, as well as at the Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto, died on September 11, 2006. Vicki was very prominent in the library field through her presentations and writings, especially in the area of information retrieval. We felt very fortunate to have her teaching database searching. Vicki first began teaching in the now defunct Information Retrieval Specialist Program. She returned to Seneca in 2003 to teach part-time in the LIT Program. While her specialty was database searching, she also enjoyed teaching numerous other subjects including reference and interlibrary loan. Vicki will be greatly missed.

(no submission received from Algonquin by printing)

Nuggets from the Web:

By Maggie Weaver

Library stuff

Somebody asked "What is, or are, the 8 Rs?" It's an extensive survey done on staffing issues in Canadian libraries, undertaken on behalf of Library & Archives Canada, CLA, and a bunch of other associations, and surveying 4,200 library workers, including 2,000 of "paraprofessionals", ie non-MLIS. Statements from the 288-page report at <http://www.ls.ualberta.ca/8rs/8RsFutureofHRLibraries.pdf> indicate why: "One quarter of librarians and one in five paraprofessionals are 55 years of age or older, compared to 11% among all Canadian workers..."; 13% of currently-employed paraprofessionals are expected to retire between 2005 and 2009..... "By 2014, the Canadian library sector is predicted to be facing a library technician shortage". The report sends a strong message to library management about the need for more support for paraprofessionals in future, in the form of employer-supported training, and opportunities to be eligible for management positions.

Statistics Canada did a survey of 15,500 schools in 2003/2004, and the results of the questions relating to school libraries are published at <http://www.statcan.ca/english/research/81-595-MIE/81-595-MIE2005028.pdf>. Essentially, the study showed no link between student success and the presence of teacher-librarians; success was more strongly linked to overall spending on the library. They'll probably add more questions about school libraries the next time around. Meanwhile, the interesting data about who works in school libraries, which is buried in the original report, was written up in an Aug 2005 article in Focus on Culture, at <http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/87-004-XIE/0020387-004-XIE.pdf>

Have a favourite web site or resource you can't live without send it to the editor with a brief explanation of why you can't live without it.
subject line: Favourite website

Web Tools

Statistics Canada has a free guide to help you navigate their website. Finding and Using Statistics is at <http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/11-533-XIE/11-533-XIE2005001.htm>. The "Finding" includes some tutorials, and "Using" includes how to read statistical tables, and how to cite the data. Actually, I have found the new website easy to navigate, and they have cleaned up the search engine so it now displays the most relevant items first (there was a time when the pages from a previous version of the website showed up first!)

GD Sourcing <http://www.gdsourcing.ca> is a great site for finding statistics from associations and government agencies other than StatCan. The fastest way in is to click on the Websites tab, then choose to browse the topics alphabetically (eg G for "gambling") or under broad categories (eg "arts, culture, recreation & entertainment"). You get a brief description of the statistical material available from that source (in this example, the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse).

The "Get A Life" section

Now is the season for planning tours of fall colours, and also a good time wine tasting and artists' studio tours. The Country Connection magazine summer issue lists studio tours, and they update the list at <http://www.pinecone.on.ca/MAGAZINE/studiotours.html>. This website also has maple syrup recipes, and sells "Country Roads" maps.

The Wine Council of Ontario's website at <http://winesofontario.org> has "Travel the Wine Route" which includes maps of the various wine-growing districts and "How to plan your trip", as well as an events calendar. When poking around on the website, I found also a wine-food matching tool under "Discover Ontario wines".

Great Sessions at 2006 Conference:

By Guikang Jin

For this year's annual conference @ Brock University, St. Catharines, I was particularly interested in two sessions: Dave Hook's "Staying connected with Blogs, Wikis & RSS Feeds" and Darcy Glidden & Paul Takala's "An Open Door to Partnerships: Libraries & Portal Projects (myhamilton.ca project)"

Dave's session opens a new window of providing library services, and we have to evaluate all the options, take advantage of new innovated information technology, so as to better serve our clients.

The myhamilton.ca project gives us real insight expertise and knowledge of building information portal, whether it is within a public library, school board library, college/university library or any types of library. Many ideas and practices have prevalent values for us to learn, to share.

I am looking forward to OALT/ABO's 2007 Conference at Humber College.

Bits and Bites:

I would like to submit the Lambton College Library Resource Centre Web Page as a point of interest. Diane Brown has worked over two years building this wonderful resource, not only for the students to use in the College, but also outside. I consider it my Bible.

<http://platinum.lambton.on.ca/lrc/index.htm>

Kathi Vandenheuvel

The Changing Nature of the Catalog and its Integration with Other Discovery Tools
Prepared for the Library of Congress by Karen Calhoun, Cornell University Library. This 52 page report was published in March 2006.

It could be found at:

<http://www.loc.gov/catdir/calhoun-report-final.pdf>

continued on page 16

Training Gap Analysis for Librarians and Library Technicians

By Deborah Kay

The 8Rs team, who previously produced *The Future of Human Resources in Canadian Libraries*, has released a study investigating the library education – industry match. The full text of the new report *Training Gaps Analysis for Librarians and Library Technicians* is available at the website of the Cultural Human Resources Council:

<http://www.culturalhrc.ca/research/default-e.asp>.

The report is very exciting. All of you should read it, if you have not already. It should elicit a great deal of discussion. This report, coupled with the earlier 8Rs study means that for the first time in Canada we have substantial amounts of information about the education and work of librarians and library technicians. There is data to support our arguments. Hopefully, the study will lead some of you to write articles and/or give presentations. The 8Rs team plans to release a monograph of responses to its findings.

The LIT Programs across Canada unwittingly began to carry out one of the report's recommendations prior to its release. The LIT Program coordinators met in June at the Canadian Library Association (CLA) Conference. At that meeting, plans began for updating the *Guidelines for the Education of Library Technicians*. The majority of LIT Programs use the guidelines as a basis for program curriculum. While the guidelines are broad enough to accommodate individual program needs, they are outdated in many areas. It is hoped that a new document will be released in 2008 at the CLA Conference in Vancouver. The current version of the document is available on the CLA website.

With the days getting shorter and the nights getting longer, it's the perfect time to read and act on *Training Gaps Analysis for Librarians and Library Technicians*.

CLA LTIG Update – June 2006

By Karen Hildebrandt, Convenor

Social Events

On Thursday June 19, 2006, 16 people attended the CLA LTIG & OALT/ABO Networking Social Supper at Chez Lucien in Ottawa. The highlight of the evening was with the unexpected reunion of two the guests who had lost track of each other during the past 20 years. We've come to discover that the more people you meet from a broad expanse of the country, the smaller the world really is. Many thanks to the members of OALT/ABO for helping us find our venue. It was such a pleasure to be able to put faces with names from emails.



Present: Annette Desrosiers, Kathy Heney, Debra Jowett, Karen Hildebrandt, Diane Walker, Neil Strickland, Adriana Ribble, Jocelyn Covert, Jean-Paul Lorrain, Charlotte Elwert, Anna Spencer, Irene Kumar, Deb Kay, Jose Gelinás and Christine Manzer.
Photos by: Barbara Cope

Business Events

On Friday LTIG had our luncheon business meeting with 12 people attending. It was exciting to have Frank Mussche, President of Libramation, present the Library Technician Interest Group Award of Merit to the very first recipient, Diane Walker. Diane was instrumental in forming CCLTC (Cross Canada Library Technician Connection). CCLTC is an email forum for which the presidents/convenors of the various provincial LT associations can communicate with each other in order to find out what is happening within their provinces and associations. Since increased communication amongst associations and their membership has been a very important goal of mine, this group has been a wonderful venue for me to collect as well as share information with Library Technicians across the country. Congratulations and thanks go out to Diane!

Volunteers Needed

I am looking for volunteers for the LTIG Award of Merit award committee. If you are at all interested please let me know.

Professional Development

This year LTIG worked along with CASLIS to propose a pre-conference session "Stepping Up to Supervisor". The session was co-sponsored by AALT (Alberta Association of Library Technicians), Concordia University College of Alberta and Grant MacEwan College. Rebecca Jones, through humour and her years of expertise, led the 20 participants through the skills needed to become a Leader, including how to manage as well as supervise.

Projects

Library Technicians working in school libraries are asked for their input for the revision of "Qualifications for Library Technicians Working in School Systems". To access the document, please go to <http://www.cla.ca/about/libtech.htm>. Send your revisions to Karen.hildebrandt@concordia.ab.ca as soon as possible.

Plans for updating of the "Guidelines for the Education of Library Technicians" have begun. Program Coordinators from the various institutions offering LT programs will be meeting and working on this document.

LTIG Survey

Please take some time to think about the following questions and send your responses to me. Consider not only what kind of short term goals LTIG should have but also consider the long term.

1. What kind of goals or what role would you like to see for LTIG for the coming year, over the next several years and perhaps in the long term?
2. How would you rate the following and what would you like to improve in terms of LTIG?
A) Communication; B) e-communities; C) CLA Digest/Feliciter submissions; D) Professional Development; E) Advocacy
3. We have approximately \$4,000 in our account. How would you like to see some of those funds used? A) Conference Bursary for a library technician (registration only) B) Sponsor a session at one of the provincial LT association conferences

Please email your responses to Karen.hildebrandt@concordia.ab.ca

People News

Guiking Jin

After working as Metadata Cataloguer at OISE, University of Toronto, Guikang Jin was hired (Jan. 9th, 2006) as a Library Technician for the Professional Library, Learning Resource Centre for the York Region District School Board. Key duties include reference work, circulation and interlibrary loan service to teachers and educational consultants within the school board. He is also responsible for acquisitions and the cataloguing of new books for the professional library.

Erica Mayhew

After 2 years working at a downtown Toronto law firm, and another year cobbling together two part-time public library jobs to help make the rent, Erica Mayhew (Seneca '03) has recently started a new full-time job with Richmond Hill Public Library. Although her main function is that of a cataloguer, she also spends a bit of time at the reference desks (both children's and adult's) and will be helping with the online local history project (creating a database of local cemeteries and details of the markers in each one).

Tracy Morgan

Tracy Morgan, with first time partner, Shirley Peterson wins the 2005 Milton Tennis Club Ladies Doubles championship.

Maria Ripley

After nearly a two-year hiatus from library association work Maria Ripley is back at it. She has been hired as the Administrative Assistant for the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries. Her office is located in the North York Central Library on the 3rd floor. She enjoys her work but is still adjusting to her one and a half hour commute from the suburbs as she and her husband just purchased a townhouse in Mississauga. Thank goodness for GO Transit and TTC!

"I have a sort of Christmas-morning sense of the library as a big box full of beautiful books."

— Audrey Niffenegger, *The Time Traveler's Wife* (first page of first chapter)

Annette Desrosiers

On April 1st of this year, and after nearly 10 years as a library consultant, Annette has now become an employee with the Federal Government, working in the Information Centre in Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness. To prepare for this position she spent 3 months taking French classes in the evening, and many hours a week reading only novels and articles in French. After a lot of hard work Annette passed her language qualifications for her new position. Life as a contractor was at times challenging and rewarding. Now as a civil servant Annette can look forward to benefits and a pension! With this change in status has come a lot of training and learning. Annette is still working in the technical services section, but has moved over to acquisitions from serials management. "I'm still cataloguing and working with electronic documents but am enjoying what is for me a whole new realm of library work, acquisitions".

WELCOME to the following individuals and institutions that have recently joined or rejoined OALT/ABO. These memberships were received from March 1, 2006 to September 15, 2006.

Brock University – Hamilton Campus	
Brock University – St. Catharines Campus	
Kelly Brooks	Elise Brais
Cynthia Chow	Victoria Chwalisz
Wendy Coit	Helen Creedon
Adam Dalton-Wyatt	Alexandra Dimou
J. Heather Fortney	Ginette Girard
Cheyenne Hartford	Deborah Holdsworth
Amy Kam	Georges Kovari
Mathew LeBlanc	Frances Longo
Mandy Macfie	Parvin Moosa
Lisa Newman	Niagara College
Virginia Reid	Kevin Ross
Gregory Smith	Tyler Somers
Yanhong Song	Darlene Sousa
Frances Tee	Dale Tilling
Tameka To	Paolo Viola
Manda Vrkljan	Michelle Walczak

Bits and Bites

con't from page 13

Foreign Credentials in Library Science

Recognition of foreign credentials in library science continues to be a challenge. If you have foreign credentials, Madeleine Lefebvre, a member of the Canadian Library Association's President's Council on the 8Rs would like to hear from you. She can be contacted at: madeleine.lefebvre@smu.ca.

Telling Our Stories Contest

Share your story for a chance to win!
How has the public library made a difference to you or your family? Everybody had a story: tell us yours! Telling Our Stories – The magic of Public Libraries is a personal story-writing contest that celebrates the impact of Ontario Public Libraries on its citizens and their communities. Over \$5,000 will be awarded in cash prizes, and the contest runs from October 16 to November 30, 2006. Visit: www.tvo.org/tellingourstories

*Have bit or bite to share –
send it to the editor for submission.*

The Last Word

What do you think of the term “paraprofessional” when used to describe a library technician.

Please submit your comments/thoughts to the editor. All responses will be collated for the January newsletter.

Have an idea for “the last word” column? Please send to the editor for consideration.

OALT/ABO in partnership with Algonquin, Mohawk and Seneca Colleges will have a booth at the OLA Super Conference Feb.1 to 3, 2007.

If you are interested in volunteering at the booth, please send your name to Maggie Weaver kweaver5478@rogers.com

(Subject line: Volunteer Feb 1-3, 2007)

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