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Message from your President

~ Michael David Reansbury



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articles and
photos, but must
reserve the right
to edit for style
and space.

I am not sure if this year's Executive took their cue from the 2011 Conference or the weather Ontario experienced in July but they are hot. While we are sad to see four members of the executive move on, I am excited to welcome four new executive members.

Daisy Collins has taken on the position of Treasurer continuing Shannon Matthew's legacy of maintaining the Association in excellent financial standing. Daisy has also begun the process of researching online payment options for membership dues as well as conference. While a daunting and complex task Daisy, and the executive, feel it is in the best interest of our members to move towards online payments.

Amy Dwyer resumed her role as Membership Coordinator and this year she will be compiling the 2011-2012 *Membership Directory*. Renewals forms for individual and group members will go out in mid-October and are expected to be returned no later than Tuesday January 31, 2012 as the information gathered from these will be used to populate the directory. I wish to remind members to take into consideration the time required for postal delivery when submitting their forms as well as for their processing.

The position of External Communications Coordinator continues to be well served by Donna Brown. Donna is currently preparing for OLA Super Conference, Wednesday February 1 to Saturday February 4, 2012, and is coordinating OALT/ABO booth with the colleges. Kate Morrison, under Donna's guidance, has been working diligently with the Super Conference planning committee in establishing and planning for the three sessions offered by OALT/ABO during the Super Conference.

The executive welcomed Amna Hussain as Internal Communications Coordinator this past May. Amna, who is currently in the throes of learning about Drupal, is planning some revision and updates to the website which will ultimately making finding information on the website quicker and more efficient for members as well as potential members.

The efforts of Julie Cristinzo and Jessica Goodman, as co-editors of the NewsLETTER/NouvELLES, will be more than apparent as you continue to read this issue. However, I think it important to note the introduction of 'themed' issues. By establishing themes for the NewsLETTER/NouvELLES the informational needs of the membership can be better addressed and

meet by the editors as they are able to seek out writers and pre-existing articles that speak to the theme; a theme which is established in response to issues and ideas relevant to the profession as drawn from discussion on the List Serv, Twitter, and from the media. As always the editors and executive wishes to remind our members, and those with an interest and passion, for the work of library technicians to submit articles.

Another of the new faces to the executive is Millie Yip. Millie, the new Chapter Coordinator, has begun the ball rolling on the planning of events for our members by reaching out to other library associations. Given the tough financial times that all associations and their members continue to experience, findings ways to reduce cost associated with participating in professional events is paramount. One way to reduce costs for events is to co-host events with other associations and Millie continues to liaise with library related association across Ontario to do just this. You may also wish to take note and mark your calendars that Saturday November, 26, 2011 will be the night of the annual OALT/ABO Holiday gathering. More details will be sent via email as well as posted to the List Serv and Twitter.

Plans for the 2012 OALT/ABO Conference at the King City Campus of Seneca College are well underway. Carolin Toppan, 2012 Conference Coordinator, and her team meet on Saturday July 23, 2011 to begin the processing of planning and ultimately delivering what is always an annual highlight for our members. It is never too early to submit the time request sheet to HR and block the time off in your agenda from Wednesday May 2 to Saturday May 5 for the 2012 Conference: Blazing New Trails/Decouvrir de nouvelles voies.

The dawn of the electronic age has impacted all of us at work and at home and the Association is no different. Kathi Vandenheuvell is helping the executive navigate the new realm of storing and accessing association materials electronically. While the conversion from paper and pen to pdfs and bites is never easy, Kathi is fearlessly leading us forward.

Finally, and certainly not least, Maria Ripley who has served the association in many executive positions has moved from Chapter Coordinator to the position of president-elect. In a position that I

believe best represents the work of library technicians Maria is undertaking the process of revising the procedures related to how the association and its executive function with the end goal of making the association a better vehicle to support its members.

I know I do not need to press upon our members that libraries are hot. However, given the present media attention that school and public libraries have received nationally and internationally libraries have become a 'hot topic'. Our members occupy a unique position as not only are we staff of libraries, but also their patrons and increasingly their protectors. I cannot guarantee that this year will not bring with it its share of challenges and frustrations but as members of OALT/ABO we are all offered a community of likeminded individuals to help us collectively and individual weather whatever may come.

The 2011-2012 Executive are well advanced in planning on behalf of our members to proactively meet the professional needs of the membership in their efforts to serve libraries and their patrons. On behalf of the executive I thank you for your continued membership in OALT/ABO and hope that you, as all of us, look forward to the coming year.

Sincerely,

Michael David Reansbury

President OALT/ABO 2011-2012

Friendly Reminder

**Membership renewal will be due at the
end of January.**

Thank you for your continued support!

EDITORS NOTE

Greetings and welcome to the inaugural themed issue of NewsLETTER/NouvelLES. Based on the feedback provided by our members our first themed issue is LEARN: this includes all the things we can do as Library Technicians to keep up to date, in touch, and connected to our field.



Kicking off the issue is Michael David Reansbury's words of wisdom that really encapsulates the essence of our theme.

Donna Brown's piece gives us an update on the LIT programs in Ontario and how they have kept their courses current and relevant for today's needs. Speaking of LIT programs, be sure to read about what the University of Fraser Valley's Post-Diploma Certificate can offer you in terms of professional development.

Returning to write for us is Tamarack Hockin, who shares with us some fantastic advice about ways to keep learning in a fun and clever way. We hope that you will also benefit from our own piece where we reveal the easy and FREE things we do to keep current.

Read about Shireen Harbin's learning experience through her volunteer work for Hart House Library, Philip Wasley's adventures in networking at the OALT/ABO conference and Carolin Toppin's take on current copyright issues in academic libraries.

Our goal for this theme is not only to offer you some practical tips and ideas, but also to instill the value of continuous learning. So to quote our President, "What did you learn today?"

Yours in Writing,

Jessica Goodman and Julie Cristinzo

In this issue...

- * What Did You Learn Today?
- * Sharpening Our Skills
- * University of Fraser Valley
- * Volunteer Spotlight
- * Everything You've Ever Wanted to Know About Networking
- * What's Your Story?
- * Ten Ways to Keep Learning
- * So What Do You Do?
- * Presidential Award Winner
- * Happenings on the Copyright Front
- * J & J's Top Ten
- * Inspirations
- * Advocacy Update
- * OALT/ABO @ OLA



CORRECTION: The Spring issue should have been Vol. 34 No. 2

DISCLAIMER:

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

Your New Executives & Executives

Changing Roles



AMNA HUSSAIN: My name is Amna Hussain and I'm your new **Internal Communications Coordinator** for OALT/ABO. I graduated from Seneca's LIT program in June 2010 and I have a previous Bachelor's degree from the University of Toronto. I'm currently working at University Health Network's Health Sciences Libraries after 2 years at Maple Leaf Foods where I developed a great love of technology and food! My hobbies include reading, traveling and learning about new foods and experiences. I'm looking forward to hearing from you all. Please send me any suggestions you have for the OALT/ABO website as I'm hoping to rework some of the elements during this year.

MILLIE YIP: I graduated from Seneca College with a major in Library and Information Technician in 2007. I currently work at AMEC, an engineering firm in Oakville, as a document analyst and recently finished a project with Imperial Oil for Oil Sands Project as the client group. My library experience includes working at the Legislative Assembly Library of Ontario as a student assistant, and Centennial College and George Brown College Libraries as a Reference/Circulation Technician from 2006 to 2009. I was a volunteer at the SLA conference for the Toronto Chapter in 2005. I was a recipient of a "3 Year Long Service Award" at Bloorview Kids Rehab from 1995-2005. I look forward to being onboard with OALT/ABO and will try my best to serve as **Chapter Coordinator**.



DAISY COLLINS: Daisy is a Library Technician at Conestoga College in Kitchener. Her position at Conestoga includes a strong emphasis on reference service, serials management, and varied special projects. One of the current highlights of her position is working to improve the leisure reading collection at Conestoga and advocating for its importance in academic libraries. Prior to arriving at Conestoga, Daisy worked as a Library Technician at Seneca Libraries for six years where she was involved in everything from information literacy to marketing. She graduated with honours from Seneca College's LIT program in 2004. She is looking forward to her involvement in OALT as 2011-2012 **Treasurer!**

CAROLIN TOPPIN is a Library Technician at Seneca College's Markham Campus where she is part of the libraries' copyright team. Carolin helps to obtain copyright permissions for classroom use as well as helping to educating the college community about the ins and outs of copyright. She has a long history of library work starting with a job as a page at the Richmond Hill Public Library. After graduation from the LIT program at Seneca Carolin worked for a year in the Information Systems Library at Royal Trust, worked two years at the Ontario Ministry of Treasury and Economics Library in a Technical Services role before moving on to work at Seneca. Carolin is a member of OALT/ABO and the Ontario Library Association. In past years Carolin has worked on the planning committee for the OALT/ABO conference. Carolin also studied art and floral design, has taught folk art and currently is a Stampin' Up demonstrator.

Carolin is the 2012 **Conference Coordinator**.



MARIA RIPLEY: Hello again OALT/ABO Members, as a member of your executive since 2003, I opted to continue on for this year taking on the role as **President-Elect** for 2011/12. With a number of new Executive members and an eager President in Michael David Reansbury, I expect this to be an exciting and productive year. Technically, I am only a place holder in this role until an eager someone comes forth to fill it next year, as Michael David has shared his interest in holding the President's role for two years following in our Past-President Kathryn Suffoletta's footsteps. For those of you who don't know who I am, I am a 2003 graduate of Seneca College's Library and Information Technician Program. I've held the role of CEO of the Nakina Public Library from 1992 to 1997. I moved to

Toronto mid-1997 for a job at the Ontario Library Association where I worked as an Administrative Assistant, Program Coordinator, Conference Coordinator and Education Director during the nearly eight years of employment with them. I then moved on to work at the University of Toronto Schools. I took on the role of Library Technician for a year-and-a-half. I then decided to accept a role with the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries in 2006 as an Administrative Assistant/Office Manager before accepting the role in 2010 for the Ontario Colleges Library Service for which I currently work as an Executive Assistant/Administrative Manager. My interests are hiking, cycling, kayaking, snowshoeing, reading, cross-stitching, knitting and sewing. My most recent passion that is currently trumping all others is motorcycling. Last year my hubby and I took the Motorcycle course at Humber College and purchased bikes for which we've nearly put on 4000km this summer alone. I hope you enjoy my photo! In addition, I am studying to obtain a certificate in Project Management from the University of Toronto Mississauga campus. I hope to eventually, after studying extensively, write the PMP exam. I look forward to meeting many of you at social events, PD events and our annual conference in May 2012.



With Thanks...

A Few Words From our President

The writing of a thank you, whether it is a full blown letter or a simple post-it note with the word 'thank you' scrawled across it, signifies to the recipient that they in some way imparted knowledge and or wisdom. That through the recipient's words, actions or mere presence a change has occurred. Bearing this in mind the Association wishes to take the time to thank six of its members:

The Association owes much to **Kathryn Suffoletta's** guidance as president over the past two years. Personally I owe Kathryn gratitude for her personal guidance over the past year. Working and learning with Kathryn has been a pleasure for she directs through her own actions, corrects in firm yet kind words, and like the greatest of teachers makes the process of learning feel natural so much so that often you forget you are learning.

Shannon Matthews offered the Association and the executive the greatest gift any organization can receive: a sound financial backing, while often forgotten learning is not free. Shannon ensured that the monetary backing that was required for the activities which foster learning offered by the Association to its members was present. It still confounds me as to how she kept the books in excellent standing while fulfilling her newest role of being a mother.

Maggie Weaver though technically the 2011 Conference Coordinator fulfilled the far wider role, that of being the associational equivalent of Google: whenever in need of information related to the running of OALT/ABO you just ask Maggie. Maggie has been an active member of the executive for the greater part of her time as a member. While I am sure we may see her rejoin the ranks of the executive in coming, or this coming, year Maggie has earned a reprieve from directing

the learning of the Association's members as an active member of the executive. Everything is better with a friend and learning is no exception.

Lisa Eschli, in her role as Internal Communications Coordinator, represented the best learning partner one could ask for. In what often amounted to almost psychic abilities, Lisa always knew what information our members needed to know. No sooner could one think 'our members need to know' then you would receive an email from Lisa asking you to review a post for the listserv or an update to the 'News and Events' section of the website on that very topic. Proactive to the extreme Lisa ensured that members and the executive were always up to date.

I would also like to take this time to offer **Melissa Gifkins** and **Stefanie-Alexis Read** a precursory thank you. Melissa and Stefanie have stepped forward to oversee the Book Club. Both are recent graduates of the Seneca College program and newly minted members. They offer OALT/ABO their experience as active book club participants as well as an infectious enthusiasm and spirit. So in the spirit of learning I applied my new learned skilled of delegation and now look forward to the direction both women will bring to the Book Club.



Congratulations

To our 25 year members:

Kathryn Holz

Valerie Welsch

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to
OALT/ABO

What Did You **LEARN** Today?

By Michael David Reansbury

LEARN - Whenever I sit down to begin the writing process for the NewsLETTER/ NouVELLES I am invariably drawn to childhood memories. When Jessica and Julie wrote to say that the theme of this issue was to be centered on the theme of 'Learn' I admittedly thought of the afternoons after school where my father would take the time away from preparing dinner and asked me what I learned today at school. Being the archetypical child I more often than not answered with 'nothing.' Of course I had learned something that day whether it was the planned and structured objective of the teacher's lesson or the more lucid and harder to pin down lessons from peers in how one socializes, I did in fact learn something.

EVOLVE - Though no longer a pupil in the formal sense I am once again subjected, though just yearly, to the question 'what did you learn?' This time, however, the question appears on performance reviews. Still I struggle with what appears to be a rather simple and straightforward question. My initial inclination is to put nothing; yet doing so would be professional suicide. To say I had learned nothing over the course of the year would be the equivalent of signing my own pink slip. As professionals we must always strive to learn, for to remain static is to become obsolete.

ADOPT - It is indicative of our society that when trying to determine what has been learned we often focus only on the positive. I learned to do this. However, just as tangible and often more pertinent are the things that we learn not to do. Perhaps not as glamorous as the former, identifying those things we learned not to do can be just as rewarding, rewarding because they do not focus on us but on our clients, coworkers and colleagues. So while we learned not to do something we also learned something about those we interact with. So what could be viewed as a negative, I learned not to, becomes a positive, I learned blank about person(s) x.

RESTRUCTURE - Identifying what we learn is not the end of the journey. We must next put our learning into practice. Restructure has become a 'dirty' word in the post recession era. What is to restructure but to simply put into practice what we have learned? Professionally and personally we should welcome restructuring as it permits us to grow and to invariably learn again. As in all things, there is a scale of restructuring. One must find the level of restructuring they can accommodate and act accordingly.

NURTURE - OALT/ABO should be a vehicle for learning for all members. Whether it is through the NewsLETTER/NouvelLES, the yearly Conference or the Listserv all members should learn something whether it be professional or personal. And so in my role as President I have set for myself the goal of leading the Association to foster learning amongst the library technicians of Ontario. My challenge to all members is this: when in January you choose to renew your membership reflect on what you have learned because of being a member of the Association. For as long as at this time you can identify at least one, though hopefully exponential more things, than OALT/ABO has ultimately achieved its goal: it has helped everyone of its members to LEARN.



Sharpening Our Skills

By Donna Brown

There's a popular "library technicians booth" at OLA Superconference, where the college coordinators of the Library and Information Technician (LIT) programs offered through Algonquin, Mohawk and Seneca share a booth with OALT/ABO, the library technicians' professional association. There, I had time to find out how the programs have changed over the years since I graduated, and also how they keep their courses current and relevant.

Dolores Harms Penner of Mohawk College explained that the curriculum for each of their courses is updated on an ongoing basis, which is the case for the other library technician programs as well. It's important to know that even if a course has the same name as when you took it, the content will have been updated in the meantime.

www.mohawkcollege.ca

skills. The course that has most changes each term is Electronic Publishing and Emerging Library Technologies. At present the course includes modules on blogging, social media, wikis, screen recording, image editing and Creative Commons licensing. Mohawk's course on Cataloguing Electronic and Internet Resources continues to be popular, and a related course on metadata is under development.

Information Work courses at Mohawk are updated regularly to cover new digital sources for reference work, and they are a popular choice for graduate library technicians. Another course that is under development as part of Mohawk's program is Instructional Strategies for Library Technicians. This is intended to better prepare library technicians for

presenting formal sessions in classrooms and labs, as well as more informally with in-depth assistance at the reference desk.

Deborah Kay, from Seneca College, explained that their college has undergone a complete curriculum re-alignment. Subjects are re-aligned because new content is added on a regular basis and eventually subjects just contain too much information. An example is the library automation course in which licensing of electronic sources was taught. This content has now been moved to a new acquisitions course focusing on electronic resources. In terms of new curriculum, some areas that were expanded include the content for electronic and digital resources in new acquisitions and cataloguing courses; instruction and readers' advisory in an expanded library programs course; and more searching in their three searching courses. They have also moved their web page creation and Web 2.0 tools to an expanded library promotions course.

For many subjects in the Seneca program, the content continues to change on a regular basis. An example is the library automation course. They are always updating the information on integrated library systems and including new tools such as the discovery tools for library catalogues.

www.senecac.on.ca

In the reference and searching courses, new resources are added as they become available. Seneca does not offer online courses but graduate library technicians can certainly choose courses offered on-campus.

Helena Merriam of Algonquin College shared that their college has introduced some new courses to the program including French language courses, to assist students in the Ottawa job market. In addition, they are now offering a course on Marketing and a Special Collections course. The

Theme Feature

Marketing course has been introduced with support from the employer community. The need to understand marketing in all types of libraries and by all employees is more important than ever. The Special Collections course is unique; they are co-teaching it with faculty from the Applied Museum Studies Program, giving students some exposure to the museum conservation and exhibition labs. In this course, students learn how to appraise rare documents, learn the history of the book trade and learn how to preserve, conserve and exhibit materials.



From left: Donna Brown, Helena Merriam, Dolores Harms Penner, and Deborah Kay

And finally, for many graduate technicians who do not feel inclined to become a student again, a good way to keep current is by reviewing web sites of library associations, as well as blogs, list serves, etc. Conferences, workshops and professional meetings also provide important opportunities not only to gain information but also allows one the opportunity to meet colleagues who share common interests. These networks provide some of the best channels for keeping up to date.

Algonquin also offers a Directed Research Seminar course, which allows a select number of students, by invitation of the faculty, to participate in a research study, using a real life example or client.

www.algonquincollege.com

This provides students an opportunity to learn how to do primary research and a chance to work outside the classroom and participate in a real project. Like Seneca, Algonquin only offers the courses on campus.

Note that OLA graciously offers the programs of the Education Institute (EI) at OLA member rates to members of OALT/ABO. EI programs are ideal for the working Library Technician, as they're usually audio or web seminars just one hour long. They're also given by experts from across Canada.

Another option graduate Library Technicians may consider is obtaining a Post Diploma Certificate offered online through the University of the Fraser Valley in B.C. It's a part-time program designed to address issues directly related to our profession and meet the needs of working professionals. The program is delivered jointly with the Library and Information Technology and Continuing Studies Departments of the University.

As CLA's recently revised "Guidelines for the Education of Library Technicians" (http://www.cla.ca/Content/NavigationMenu/CLAAatWork/InterestGroups/LibraryTechnicians/CLA_LTIG_guidelines.pdf) puts it, "In this way, the standards of education recommended by these guidelines may be extended beyond the library technician program itself, and the standard of performance of graduate technicians can be maintained at an optimum level of quality."



Donna Brown is the External Communications Coordinator for the OALT/ABO and works as a Library Technician with the Health Sciences Library at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine in Thunder Bay.



Update from Mohawk College - Library and Information Technician Program

Faculty, staff and students in the distance education library technician program at Mohawk College are eagerly anticipating the start of another academic year. We hope that you have all enjoyed a rejuvenating summer.

Registration for winter term courses will open on Nov. 22, with courses starting on Jan. 13/12. If the winter season prompts you to consider professional development for yourself, you may wish to consider taking one of our courses, which are offered online. The format of our courses works well for people who only wish to take an individual course or two. Library technicians are considered to have met the prerequisite course requirements for any of our courses.

Some courses which might be of interest to OALT/ABO members this winter are:

LIBRLT335 Multimedia

LIBRLT405 Law Libraries and Legal Research

LIBRLT375 School Libraries

LIBR10034 Youth Services and Issues

LIBR10004 Health Libraries and Resources

All of these courses begin on January 13, 2012 and run until April 20, 2012.

For further information about our course offerings, at any time, please visit our web site

<http://www.mohawkcollege.ca/cecat/library.html>

under the heading "Program of Studies".

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Dolores Harms Penner, Program Manager, by email

dolores.harmspenner@mohawkcollege.ca



Want to follow OALT/ABO on Twitter?

To create a Twitter account

- 1 Go to <http://twitter.com/> click on 'sign up'
2. Fill in the registration details and click on 'create my account'

After creating your account the next page allows you to type "oaltabo" and click on 'search'. If you already have an account, sign in and search for "oaltabo". OALT/ABO twitter account details will pop up with a Follow button:



Click on '+Follow' and you will be able to see OALT/ABO's regular tweets on Association and

Professional Development Courses:

Click University (for SLA members)

<http://www.sla.org/content/learn/index.cfm>

Education Institute:

http://thepartnership.ca/partnership/bins/index_ei.asp

Professional Learning Centre

<http://plc.fis.utoronto.ca/>



Creating New Educational Opportunities for Library Technicians

The UFV Post-Diploma Certificate for Library Technicians

By Christina Neigel, Department Head

Inspired to investigate the interests and needs of library technicians, the Library and Information Technology Program at the University of the Fraser Valley distributed a questionnaire across Canada in 2008 asking library technicians and assistants if they were interested in a continuing education program. The survey revealed that 87.4% of respondents (583), would be interested in receiving a certificate by completing a set number of continuing education courses. Of those, 75.6% (506) of respondents indicated that they would prefer to take these courses online. Respondents were in strong support of a program that packaged continuing education courses into some form of a certificate program.

This was exciting news for us. Although we suspected that there would be interest, the results validated our sense that graduates of library technician programs would have a continued need to explore issues and topics that were framed against *their* workplace contexts and not, necessarily, those of MLIS graduates. In addition, it was stimulating to consider shaping a program

that would provide formal recognition of continuing education that provided an academic rigor that would be respected as sound professional development while having a very grounded focus for working professionals.

“I can only hope that the next group through has as many great classmates as I did. The knowledge information and experience - Wonderful!!!” -- Student from LIBT 381: Leadership for Library Technicians

Although, like other LIT programs, UFV offered library technician alumni an opportunity to take additional program courses, this did not satisfy the sophisticated interests and needs of more seasoned graduates. In addition, we realized there was little opportunity for professional development that catered to the specific needs of technicians who face increasingly complex issues

and change in their places of work. We wanted to offer something that could be managed by working professionals. We wanted something that would bring people together from all types of information environments and from all over the country. We wanted to provide the backdrop for library technicians to make lasting relationships with others who are equally passionate about what they do – even if they were vast distances away.

These desires and ideas gave birth to a Post Diploma Certificate for Library Technicians that

was officially introduced in January 2011. However, courses that constitute this program have been offered since the fall of 2009 in anticipation of the certificate. The program can be completed entirely online in a timeline that suits the needs of each student as there is no completion deadline or requirement, enabling students to pick and choose courses. Each course is worth 2 upper level academic. Those completing the certificate will have 10 credits that can be applied to degree programs. For example, at UFV, students can transfer their technician diploma as 60 credits (recognizing that there would be some variations dependent on different LIT programs) with the certificate as another 10 credits towards a Bachelor's degree in Adult Education (which can also be completed online). This process simply provides those who have invested great time and energy into their diplomas a unique opportunity to advance their educational interests without having to negate their prior education.

“The courses I have taken through the Library Technician Post-diploma Program have helped me to increase my knowledge, and given me the confidence to explore opportunities to use and share this knowledge within my organization.” -- Christina Harper, Certificate Program Student.



Christina Neigel is a former library technician and librarian and has great experience straddling both worlds. She is currently an instructor and the department head for the University of the Fraser Valley Library and Information Technology Program.



For more information about the program (and the University of the Fraser Valley)

visit: http://www.ufv.ca/Continuing_Studies/Certificate_Programs/Library_Technicians_Post_Diploma_Certificate.htm

Courses being offered in the winter 2012:

LIBT 385: Information Rights, Privacy and Freedom

LIBT 381: Leadership for Library Techs.

EDITOR'S DRAW!

For every submission we receive, we will enter your name in a random draw for a special prize.

The names entered in the draw will be authors that contributed to the Fall 2011, Winter 2012 and Spring 2012 issue.

While we encourage multiple submissions, your name will only be entered once.

Volunteer Spotlight

Hart House Library:

A Volunteer Experience

By Shireen Harbin, Circulation Intern, OCAD



From live music and theatre to lectures and debates, athletics and wellness to creative arts classes, Hart House¹ is *the* cultural hot spot on the St. George campus of the University of Toronto. Hart House offers a variety of spaces to hold events. They will even host your wedding. One space that hasn't really been advertised (at least in the past) is the Hart House Library, a reading and browsing library which opened its doors on November 11, 1919².

The Library

Except for the clanging of the ancient heating system, the library is usually quiet, making it the perfect place to enjoy a good read. And although at times it can be hot as Hades in there, you'll always find people either curled up in a comfy chair engrossed in a book or surfing the net on their laptops. The space is much like an old English study and the atmosphere is teeming with academia and history. Under the stewardship of the Literary and Library Committee, the Library is in the capable hands of iSchool (Faculty of Information) students and graduate volunteers from as far away as Western. They staff the reference desk from 9 to 5 (one to two hour shifts per volunteer) and perform a host of activities aimed at maintaining and promoting the library and its collections. The collection itself is varied and includes (to name a few) genre fictions as well as Drama, Essays and Literary Criticism, Philosophy, History, Art and Architecture, Poetry, and a newly developed Eco-book collection.

I became involved with the library through Katya Pereyaslavskaya, curator of the Library since 2009

and now an iSchool graduate. As if curating the library wasn't enough, she was simultaneously an AskOn virtual reference intern, and a reference intern at both OCAD University and Robarts Libraries. She is also the co-founder of the Toronto Deskset³, an organization aimed at bringing like-minded library professionals together to raise money for charities and engage in community outreach projects (having a good time is also high on their agenda). Her energy and enthusiasm were infectious, her passion for librarianship evident. Realizing we shared a passion for our chosen field, we had much to talk about. Being new to the field, our conversations drifted toward gaining practical, real-world experience. Katya told me that experiences at Hart House could be designed to meet the needs of the volunteer. She actively encouraged collaborative projects as well as outreach and promotional activities, which have increased under her curatorship. The Library recently ran three very successful events: an Eco-book drive in March (which helped to build the Eco-book collection), an Open House in May, and a Zine swap, in collaboration with Broken Pencil magazine, in July. The goal of these types of initiatives is to get the library on the map, physically and virtually.

When I signed on as a volunteer, they were in the middle of a weeding project. Being a keener but still a bit shy about becoming involved, I decided the weeding project would be a safe bet. How hard could it be?

Technology

I took on the African-Canadian Literature (ACL) and Mystery Fiction sections of the collection as they were the only ones unassigned. The team was

using an online program called Zotero for the staff-view of the collection while LibraryThing was being used to display the collection to the public. The LibraryThing catalogue was pre-existing while the Zotero catalogue was being created for the weeding project. Zotero⁴ is a free add-on for Firefox that sits right in the browser window. The program allows the user to collect, manage, cite, and share bibliographic data online making it a useful tool for developing and managing a library catalogue.



Photo courtesy of Katya Pereyaslavska.

The workflow for weeding was as follows: take a book off the shelf of your section, search for the most relevant item record in Worldcat, save the record to Zotero by clicking on an icon that sits in the browser search box, and amend the record as necessary. Four areas of the Zotero record could be used to enter data: Information, Notes, Tags, and Related. Information is where the bibliographic details are stored. I used Notes to describe the condition of the book (excellent, good, fair, or poor) and, based on the weeding guidelines, recommended whether books should be replaced or deaccessioned. I added other comments that I thought might be useful, such as highlighting Canadian authors in the Mystery Fiction section, or whether any books were donated. Tags seemed like the most logical place to enter the call number and, just for fun, I added Canadian Subject Headings to this area of the ACL records. The most efficient way to do this work would be to use a laptop. I didn't have access to a laptop so my method was more time consuming: I wrote down what I thought would be the most useful pieces of bibliographic information to help

me find a relevant record (title, author, publication information, # of pages) and did my searching at home.

Zotero promotes itself as a collaborative workspace, where group members can work together to build a collection of bibliographic records. However, when Katya, who was still learning the program herself, sent out invitations for team members to join the Hart House Library group, we could not gain access. In the end, it was decided that each person would work on their collections separately and later the individual "libraries" could be imported to the shared collection. One annoying issue with Zotero was that once a record was saved in the browser window, there was a substantial delay of some hours before it showed up in the collection on the website. In contrast, once a record was uploaded, amended, and saved in LibraryThing, it was instantaneously in the collection. Because of the delay, the Zotero catalogue felt more stagnant than the catalogue in LibraryThing. Aside from these issues, working with Zotero in the browser window was pretty easy. I also liked the detailed view of the records found in WorldCat. LibraryThing uses Amazon records, which I found to be less detailed.

Selector: Deciding what acquisitions to recommend

When I started the project, I was by no means an expert in either of the areas I was looking after. I had read the entire Murdoch Mystery series by Maureen Jennings (highly recommended for historical fiction lovers – the series is set in TO in the late 1890s), and as far as I can remember, *The Book of Negroes* is the only piece of African Canadian Literature I've ever read. So how could I adequately make decisions about acquisitions to these areas? The recently updated collection development policy provided a great deal of guidance.

The policy showed that the library aimed to collect the works of Canadian authors of all types of literary works (eg. fiction, poetry, essays, biography) as well as titles that have won awards such as the Giller Prize, and Governor General and Stephen Leacock Awards. It also suggested consulting review literature, such as Booklist, Quill and Quire, and Canada Reads to determine

whether books should be acquired. Being an avid user of the Toronto Public Library (TPL) system, I quickly remembered that many of their catalogue records contained reviews from Booklist and Library Journal. I also managed to find some reviews from Canada Reads and Quill and Quire through Google searches in addition to author biographies and bibliographies. I conducted searches in research databases (to cover all the bases), but since I was getting results more quickly and with less effort through TPL and Google, I abandoned the research databases.

In addition to reviews, I sought the help of experts. I had a placement at the Maria A. Shchuka branch of the Toronto Public Library (TPL) last year and I remembered they housed part of the Rita Cox Black and Caribbean Heritage Collection. I contacted Rachelle Gooden, Senior Services Specialist for Adult Literacy and selector for that location. She was more than happy to recommend a few resources to help with developing the ACL collection, including a directory (*Who's Who in Black Canada*) and a bibliography (*A Black Canadian Bibliography*). I found that the backs of anthologies, particularly *Revival: An Anthology of Black Canadian Writing* that I picked up from my local TPL branch, were really helpful in recognizing notable and up and coming Canadian authors and any awards they might have won. I had met my resource for the Mystery Fiction collection while taking continuing education courses at George Brown College a few years ago. Marina Ball - cataloguing librarian and mystery fiction consumer/conference-attendee (she introduced me to the Murdoch Mysteries) - was instrumental in suggesting well-known authors (British, Canadian, and American) and resources, including the Crime Writers of Canada (sponsors of the Arthur Ellis Award) and magazines such as *The Strand*, *Mystery Scene*, and *Mystery Readers Journal*.

Results

By the end of the project, I had uploaded and amended over 120 Mystery Fiction titles in LibraryThing, 160 titles in Zotero, and recommended 52 books for acquisition to different parts of the collection. It was interesting to note that the ACL collection had only 20 items on the shelf. I later discovered that the collection was a lot larger than it had appeared. Part of the

procedure for recommending new titles for acquisition was to check the LibraryThing catalogue to make sure the book didn't already exist in the collection. When I began to search authors' names, I found that items by African-Canadians were sitting in other parts of the collection – Fiction, Drama, Essays, and Speculative Fiction. This led me to recommend that literary works by African-Canadian authors should remain in ACL, as per its name, and genre works should remain in their respective areas. For example, the works of Nalo Hopkinson, a well known African-Canadian author of Speculative Fiction, belong in that area and not in ACL. I made a list of titles found in other areas that belonged in ACL and suggested that they be relocated.

Conclusion

This project ended up requiring much more work than I had anticipated, but I was really proud of the amount of work I was able to put into it and what I had accomplished as a result. It was especially exciting to see that some of my suggested acquisitions were actually purchased and uplifting to receive positive feedback from Katya as well as another volunteer who thought I had presented good ideas for future promotions of the ACL and Mystery Fiction collections.

Volunteering can be a great way to build up a resume with little practical library experience. It may also provide access to experiences that may not be available in a paid position (especially in organizations where positions are compartmentalized and cross-training does not occur). So make friends and build relationships with colleagues, show enthusiasm and interest, seek out and take a chance on a volunteer opportunity. You could learn a lot (especially about yourself) and the organization will be thankful for your help.

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¹ Hart House: <http://harthouse.utoronto.ca/meeting-event-services>

² Hart House Library: <http://www.harthouselibrary.com/HHL/Welcome.html>

³ Toronto Deskset: <http://www.facebook.com/torontodeskset>

⁴ Zotero: <http://www.zotero.org/>

GOOD TIMES AT THE OALT/ABO CONFERENCE



OTTAWA



2011



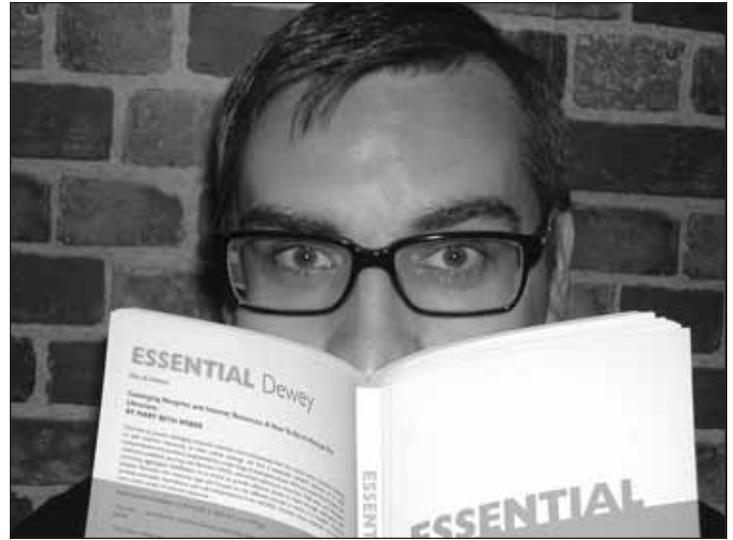
Thanks to Ray Robinson and Lisa Eschli for their photos

Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Networking*

**But Were Afraid to Ask*

By Philip Wasley, Audio/Visual Media Technician at Seneca College Library (Newnham Campus)

Not having the extra cash, I skipped the OALT banquet and opted to hit the town on my lonesome. My roommate had other plans as well, and this was a perfect time to go see a movie, something I rarely get to do back home. After the foreign flick and an empty bus ride back to the college residence, I noticed Maggie Weaver lugging a dolly full of boxes into the lobby. The banquet must have just ended, I thought. This was my first conference, and the thought of spending the evening with many people I didn't know for the evening was discomfoting, especially given the fact that I was a new graduate and had no stories to tell. I admit, I slowed down my pace and hoped that Ms. Weaver would make her jolly way a little faster so that I could sneak in myself, sight unseen. Alas, my long legs betrayed me.



"Philip, we missed you at the banquet," she said entering the elevator. I was impressed that she knew my name.

"Yes, I'm afraid I did. How was it?" I smiled. She began to wax poetically about the guest dancers and the show they put on. She made it sound so exciting. I nodded.

"Will you be joining us in the hospitality suite tonight?"

This was it. I couldn't snub the conference coordinator could I? This was my chance to meet the gang, the heart of the association. I hesitated.

"Sure. I think I can join you. I'll meet you up there soon."

"Fantastic," she beamed.

It wasn't a large group, and it's probably safe to say that everyone there knew each other very well, if not from library work, then from conferences past. So, like any good guest not wanting to be a wallflower, I swigged a couple of plastic cups of liquid courage (thanks to whoever brought the white wine!) and threw myself in.

What struck me about this small group was that there were no new ones. I was almost embarrassed to even be there, I felt like I was crashing a party. From the conversations that I was hearing, this time was very social, and I began

to wish that my school graduate peers were here to inject some new life into the already lively OALT members that I spoke with that night. It occurred to me that even this light banter between colleagues and friends was in itself professional development and this is something that may be overlooked by new OALT members.

While sitting beside Maggie, I thought about how I could introduce myself to this group who already seemed to know each other quite well. How could I introduce myself to everybody at the same time?

"Do you like games?" I half whispered to Maggie.

"Yes, of course. What do you have in mind?"

And that's how I led a game of Password, library technician style. It's true, some of the group was reticent to play, and I think that a few would have much rather caught up on some old times. I hope I didn't leave a bad first impression, it's just that I felt like this was a great way to get to know a lot of people at one time. Maggie led a game of her own as well, and soon Doug Wilford took over. Thanks to you both for not making me feel like the upstart.

Workshops and lectures have their place, and the ones I attended while at the OALT conference were great and well worth the fees I paid, but what was even more valuable was the people you meet. I met students like myself, I met new graduates that had spent a few years already in the workplace as library technicians, and I had met many seasoned library technicians who still had a passion for the work they do. In addition, not a few retirees attended the conference, a true testament to the association's mission.

I encourage all OALT members, and especially students to attend the next OALT conference and take advantage of every social and networking opportunity there. As the association continues to grow, its members must keep connected, new and not so new. This will give you real insight into the field and get you connected in ways you didn't expect. Don't believe me? I met Carolin Toppan for a total of 10 seconds and was instantly recruited for the conference planning committee for next year! See you there.



Blaze Your Way to the 39th Annual OALT/ABO Conference!

You are invited to the 39th Annual OALT/ABO Conference, being held on May 3, 4 & 5, 2012 at Seneca College King Campus. The college is located in King City on the property that was formerly used as the summer home of Lady Flora Eaton. It is situated within the Oak Ridges Moraine on 700 scenic acres surrounded by rolling hills, forests, mixed farms and the historic Eaton Hall nestled beside the picturesque Lake Seneca. The theme for this year's conference is "Blazing New Trails/Découvrir de Nouvelles Voies. For more information keep your eye on the OALT/ABO website and come join us in blazing new trails!

OALT / ABO

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Conference
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Generosity



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UPCOMING 2012 CONFERENCES**

CLA: May 30th – June 2nd Ottawa, Ontario
OALT/ABO: May 3rd – 5th King City, Ontario
OLA: February 1st – 4th Toronto, Ontario
SLA: July 15th – 18th Chicago, Illinois

what's your story?

Meeting the OALT/ABO Community One Member at a Time

An interview with a randomly selected member
of our Association



Name: Jackie Popowich

Currently enrolled at/Alumni of: Seneca
College LIT class of 2009

Years as an OALT/ABO member: 1

Current position (job title, employer):
Circulation Clerk and Adult Program
Co-ordinator, St. Marys Public Library

If I had to sum up my job in one sentence: An
information detective: I help people find
anything from out of print romance novels
to career retraining information to the
best board books in the children's section.

Best part of your job: The variety of patrons
and questions I encounter in a day!

Inspiration for working in this field: I've
always gravitated towards libraries all my
life, but never really knew it could be a
career path. I would especially credit the

amazing libraries at Fanshawe College and
UWO where I spent hours studying and
browsing the stacks. I also used to spend
many a lunch hour at the lovely Oakville
public library and stayed out of the cold at
various small TPL branches during my time
at Seneca.

Latest technological discovery: Overdrive
Media, audio and e-books

I would like to learn more about: Serving
remote communities; Public libraries in
other countries

I Keep up to date professionally by: Reading
journals and blogs online, free webinars
from SOLS

First job: This is my first library job. Prior
to joining this field I was a legal assistant
and real estate clerk.

I can't live without: My glasses.

What I am reading: The Saturday Big Tent
Wedding Party by Alexander McCall Smith;
Midnight Cab by James W. Nichol

Facebook or twitter: Facebook

E-Book or Traditional book: Traditional

Biggest pet peeve: Wasting energy; Gossips

Prediction for the future: Public libraries
will be more important than ever

Secret talent: Making chocolate goodies

Theme song for my life: My Life by Billy Joel

10 WAYS TO KEEP LEARNING

By Tamarack Hockin,

Library Technician, Surrey Public Library



Bobbi Newman (aka @librarianbyday) runs the Library Day in the Life project twice annually. Read up on it at <http://librarydayinthelife.pbworks.com> and you can view the Twitter profiles of past participants.

2. CBC'S SPARK PODCAST

Spark is the finest technology and culture podcast online. It's also Canadian! If you haven't already tuned in then now is the time: <http://www.cbc.ca/spark/>. If you want a starting point, check out Episode 117 on The Future of Public Library Design featuring Gerry Meek of the Calgary Public Library. Over the summer they run full-length interviews from the previous year, so try loading up the mp3 player with some of the shows and their complimentary full-length interviews.

3. INBOX ZERO

You wouldn't leave your fridge full of expired food, so stop littering your inbox with little email corpses. Consider how much time and mental energy go into wading through an inbox with 534 emails. Go to <http://www.43folders.com/izero> where Merlin Mann will illuminate you on why and how you need to clear your inbox. Productivity? It starts right here.

Professional development and continuing education are two of the most often repeated terms I hear on the lips of library technicians.

Regardless of the type of library or information centre in which we work, sharp skills and fresh knowledge are the coin of our profession. Our careers require that we continue learning – and it is a passion for learning that brought many of us to the jobs we now work.

I am a huge fan of self-led learning, and I think that ultimately **all** learning we engage in is by necessity self-led. So I have compiled a list of 10 things (tools, resources and strategies) that have been meaningful and useful to me as I continue to learn beyond my technician's diploma. I'm sure some of them will be familiar to you, but hopefully some of them will be useful also. Explore them at your own leisure.

1. TWITTER

I love Twitter. It's a marriage of Facebook's status updates with the abbreviated news feature of RSS feeds. Here I get my most interesting library news links alongside hilarious personal updates from friends and colleagues. If you are looking for a library-related foothold to get a grip on Twitter,

4. BLOGGING

We take in an alarming amount of new information daily. Newspapers, RSS feeds, articles our colleagues send us, email newsletters, 20 new tweets a minute... and most of us take in far more than we put out. Writing is a great way to filter all this new input. You don't have to sum up the Internet – just pick a thread you are interested in and write about it. The best way to deepen your own understanding is by explaining to others, and what better way to make sense of all this new input? Start a blog and take back the Internet!



5. TECHSOUP FOR LIBRARIES

TechSoup for Libraries is a wonderful little portal to self-guided learning and professional development: Profiles of libraries, projects, and the people who make it all happen, and access to webinars and online courses. A lot of the webinars are links to others' content (e.g., ALA webinars), but it is immensely helpful to have a go-to place to help with the reminders. They are also FREE! Follow TechSoup for Libraries on Twitter for even more convenient delivery.

6. CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR LIBRARY TECHNICIANS

My alma mater in B.C., the University of the Fraser Valley, is offering a series of short credit courses that build towards a post-diploma certificate for library technicians. Ongoing professional development is on the top of the wish list for most of the techs I know, and this is a great opportunity to learn with other Canadian library techs in a structured setting. Regardless which province you call home, you can find out more about the classes at www.ufv.ca/libtech.

7. TED TALKS

The TED Talks website is a great conference-away-from-conference tool which brings together three great joys for me: Intelligent commentary, audio delivery, and professional speakers. The intelligent commentary piece is something I get also from blogs, periodicals, and books, but TED Talks gives it to me in audio. I love audio narration – it frees up my hands for cooking dinner or filing papers, and I'm then able to take in some professional development time while getting real world stuff done. The third bonus is watching competent and professional speakers do their thing: Learning what works, what doesn't, and various presentation tricks. It's a good study in public speaking – a skill we all need sooner or later.

8. THE OALT/ABO NEWSLETTER

There are not enough opportunities to step away from the computer, and your OALT/ABO newsletter grants a beautiful respite from the fast pace of the Internet. I think most of us in libraries and information intuitively understand the value of print. To quote McLuhan, *the medium is the message*, and the comparatively slower pace of print's delivery gives our brains and bodies a rest from all the electronics. Print can still go places

with us we would never take our e-readers and iPhones, and the newsletter lets you connect with your colleagues and association without wireless.

9. PLAY

My favourite way to keep current with new sites, software and technologies is to make or fake a project. Projects are how I play with technology – finding some excuse to use the technology so I can navigate my way around in a low-stakes circumstance. When I first heard about wikis I kept watch for any project or collaboration I could justify wikifying until something came along. Make an account on LibraryThing, or a profile on LinkedIn and see how you like it. Remember, you don't have to show anyone until you want to.

10. BE WILLING TO SAY GOODBYE

Not every new technology is worth the effort. Some of my library mentors value tools I can't be bothered with. Remember that learning is not one-size-fits-all, and you get to throw away the junk that doesn't work for you. This list is my list, and it works for me. Maybe you will find a passion instead for Second Life library services. Whatever it is, enjoy it.

And Tara, if you're out there: I'm sorry I never liked Zotero. ◇

Tamarack works as a Youth Services Technician at the City Centre Library in Surrey B.C., and is the Mentoring Coordinator and Interim Convener for LTAIG of BCLA. You can find her as @tamahoc on twitter, and her longer rants at tamahoc.wordpress.com.

“So what do you do?”

By Maggie Weaver
Shaffesbury Associates

One of the ways we can advocate for the role of library technician, to our employers and to the wider public, is to craft a brief description that those audiences can relate to.

Employers and the public don't care about cataloguing, or access, or retrieval, or systems. They care about what's in it for them – what you do that makes their lives easier, more enjoyable, and more meaningful.

That's describing a benefit, rather than a feature – one of the first rules of marketing.

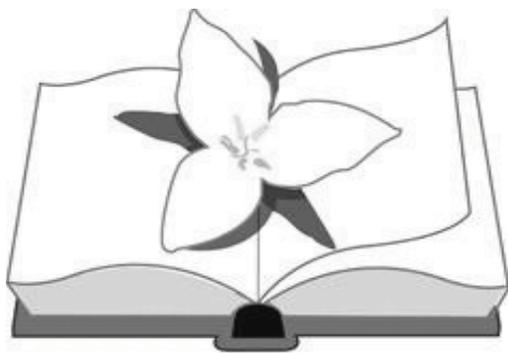
So craft yourself a description that includes benefits: I help library users find exactly what they're looking for; I help children learn to read; I help lawyers stay up-to-date; I help students research their term papers.

Tell stories that illustrate those benefits – here's one of my stories:

“My market research colleagues wanted to know how much budget small businesses have for market research projects – before they set up an expensive survey, I found them some free research on Statistics Canada's website that gave them the actual expenditures that small businesses make on advertising and on consulting, by industry sector, and that helped them to focus their survey.”

This story accomplishes several goals: it tells the listener WHEN to ask me, HOW I can help, and WHY it was a useful first step. And the story is memorable – one market research colleague often relates this story when introducing me to her own clients. Which is how you find just the right story to tell – ask a customer!

◇



OALT/ABO Presidential Award Winner

Presented by Linda Landreville at the 2011
Conference in Ottawa

OALT / ABO

As I understand the formula for these speeches, the recipient of this award is never mentioned right away. Instead, we first introduce this extraordinary person's contributions to OALT/ABO – all while tossing out a few subtle hints, coming just short of announcing the name! Then, after the appropriate build-up, their identity is revealed and their many qualities and achievements are detailed.

Well, in presenting tonight's most distinguished honouree, I will not keep the audience guessing.

Universally well liked everywhere he goes, Doug Willford has spent 38 years "...walking the talk". He is a consummate professional, a forerunner in the Library Technician field and a founding member of OALT/ABO. Moreover, he has been a tireless ambassador. In fact, he has taken every opportunity to promote OALT/ABO, not only for more than 30 years while maintaining a successful Library career, but he still continues this enthusiasm now that he is retired.

It is for these reasons and so many more that **Doug is now receiving the 2011 OALT/ABO Presidential Award!**

From the earliest days of OALT/ABO, it was quite evident just how dynamic this man was and how valued he would be. In October 1974, we held our first Annual Conference at which time we endured our now legendary, eight hour inaugural Annual Business Meeting. As first impressions are lasting, I have never forgotten how I was mesmerized by Doug's command of the room that day. It was no surprise that he was elected our first Interim President.

The rest, as they say, is history.

The leadership role that Doug took then, allowed him the chance to grow both personally and professionally. He soon applied what he had learned in our organization to his own work environment. As he began heading up library teams at Humber College, he gained very important management experience.

From 1978 to 1980, Doug worked in Germany for the Department of National Defense in the high school library at the Baden armed forces base. However, that didn't stop him from staying in touch with his colleagues here in Canada and spreading the news about the association overseas.

Once back home, Doug didn't skip a beat. He has been a Director of Halton Peel Regional Branch and he has taken an active part in several Conference Committees. His submissions to NewsLETTER/NouvelLES have always been a treat to read.

Furthermore, our association made him more aware of COLT (COUNCIL ON LIBRARY/MEDIA TECHNICIANS). When possible, Doug travelled to COLT conferences, where he learned about our cousins in the United States and they learned about us.

Since retiring from Humber College in 2003 and returning to the Niagara Region, Doug has continued to champion our association and has encouraged many people to join. For instance, when he first retired he did some work for the Niagara Catholic School Board where he made many contacts with the technicians there. Soon, he initiated a couple of meetings in the area for school technicians. This plan was enthusiastically

supported by OALT/ABO. Thanks to Doug, some of those employees became members of the association and focused their efforts on helping school LT's.

Again, due to his incredible people skills, Doug has become an integral part of several other volunteer groups including the Niagara College Alumni Council, Ex Libris – a national association for retired persons who have had careers in libraries and related fields and the Wesley United Church Council where he has helped with their Library; often posting on our ListServ, scavenging for donated supplies such as book pockets.

In conclusion, I think it is safe to say that we have within our ranks a very special breed of member.

- * *He is one of our pioneers who, more than 35 years ago, set down the foundation for the organization that we still enjoy today;*
 - * *He is someone who has always strived to be a Team Player – bringing his infectious spirit to the table, selflessly helping out everywhere he can;*
- ... and,
- * *He is someone whose warmth, friendship, good humour and laughter are long treasured by all who have ever known him.*

A quote by Sydney Smith that was used in a retirement tribute to Doug sums it up best: "Mankind is always happy for having been happy, so that if you make them happy now, you make them happy twenty years hence by the memory of it."

Congratulations, Doug!

With greatest respect,

Linda Landreville,

2010 OALT/ABO Presidential Award Recipient,

Chairperson, 2011 Presidential Award Committee



A Few Words from Doug....

I am finally getting over the shock of having received the 2011 OALT/ABO Presidential Award, which was presented at the banquet.

Despite the rumors, I was not in any way aware that I was going to be presented with the award. It came as a complete surprise and I am still feeling quite humbled!!

At this time I wish to thank those people who nominated me: Liz Aldrey, Ronn Cheney, Marg Bushel and the nominating committee who made the final selection.

For those that know me realize that it is not often I am left speechless however, when my name was called emotions took over and it was difficult to find any words to express how I felt at that very moment.

It is an honour to be recognized by your peers and for that I say **THANK YOU.**

Mr. Doug Willford,

Welland, Ontario



HAPPENINGS

on the Copyright Front for Colleges & Universities

By Carolin Toppan, Reference Technician,
Copyright, Seneca College

As many of you are aware, copyright is literally the right to copy. In Canada, all original creative works are protected by copyright as soon as they are fixed in some format and only the copyright owner has the right to decide how and when their works can be copied. This protection covers items such as printed materials, works of art, photos, videos, CD-ROMs, DVDs, computer software, web pages, emails, wikis, and blogs.

In Canada, schools, businesses, and organizations pay fees for the use of such works and these fees are then distributed to the relevant creator. This is done by licences through Access Copyright, Canada's Copyright Collective. The licences for colleges and universities are based on the full-time enrolment numbers which are reported 3 times per year as well as a per page cost for the creation of course packages.

The college and university licenses were due to expire as of December 31, 2010. Instead of trying to negotiate new licenses before this deadline, Access Copyright applied to the Copyright Board of Canada on June 12, 2010 for a new tariff. This new tariff would see a jump in fees from the current fee of \$3.38 per full-time student to \$35.00 for the colleges and \$45.00 for the universities. In addition to this massive fee increase, the new tariff goes beyond changing the fee structure. In the new tariff Access Copyright has included a very broad definition of what a copy is, included rights that are already covered by the current Copyright Act, and they are asking for onerous reporting on the uses of copyrighted works.

Since it may take years for the Copyright Board to come to a decision on the proposed tariff, the Board decided on an interim tariff for all the educational institutions. This interim tariff would reinstate the agreement with the Colleges and Universities that was about to expire with a few changes. It included a new schedule, "Schedule G" to include digital copies of published works. The institutions were allowed to decide if they wanted to opt in to this schedule or not. The biggest change to the interim tariff was the removal by Access Copyright of the ability for these educational institutions to do transactional or pay-per-use requests. On December 22, 2010 the Copyright Board of Canada issued a decision on the interim tariff to all post-secondary educational institutions across Canada (excluding Quebec) and the interim tariff has been accepted by the Board for the period of 2011 – 2013.

The result of the tariff request by Access Copyright has been a strong outcry from all involved parties. The Canadian Federation of Students and the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) filed an objection to the tariff. The Association of Universities & Colleges in Canada (AUCC) has filed an application to amend the Access Copyright interim tariff requiring them to grant transactional or pay-per-use licences upon request. Also, AUCC and The Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC) are now in legal proceedings against the Access Copyright tariff request. Further, some universities have decided to stop operating under the Access Copyright license with many more contemplating following suit. Without the Access Copyright licenses these educational institutions will have to rely on materials from licensed databases, open

access licensed materials, public domain materials and direct licensing with publishers.

So where does that leave things? Well, the last two months has seen Access Copyright, the Universities and the Colleges answering lengthy interrogatories for the Copyright Board of Canada. All interrogatories will be reviewed and will indubitably end up in a long drawn out legal battle as has been the case with the Access Copyright and the Kindergarten to Grade 12 case.

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OALT/ABO is now on

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in its characteristic white, lowercase, sans-serif font, set against a dark grey rectangular background.

Look for us under
"Ontario Association of
Library Technicians"

J & J'S TOP TEN

FREE & EASY WAYS TO STAY UP TO DATE

By Jessica Goodman and Julie Cristinzo, editors
OALT/ABO NewsLETTER/NouvelLES

Professional development is important but it can get expensive. Here is how we keep up to date on the cheap! Remember, even committing fifteen minutes a day can make a difference in your professional development as a Library Technician.

1. ONLINE DATABASES

Knowledge Ontario provides free access to databases such as Academic One File and C.P.I.Q - both of which subscribe to a variety of library and information periodicals. Set-up a search alert to automatically receive articles on your topic of choice.



2. TUTORIALS

Look for free web tutorials on sites such as commoncraft.com which features easy to follow videos demystifying social media tools.

3. PRESENTATIONS

Search thousands of presentations on slideshare.net to learn more about almost any library and information topic you can think of ; RDA, information literacy, reader's advisory, etc.

4. LOCAL LIBRARIES

See what your nearest public, special and/or academic library can offer you in terms of resources and workshops. The ischool at University of Toronto offers membership for people residing in Toronto; Toronto Reference Library offers workshops on Dreamweaver and photoshop at varying levels.

5. TWITTER

Not just for sharing what you had for breakfast, Twitter has become a powerful tool for disseminating information quickly and easily. Follow Marshall Breeding for library technology updates, SOLS for recommended library articles and websites, or Library Journal for current reviews. Don't forget that OALT/ABO tweets!

6. ASSOCIATIONS

Even if you are not a member, association websites offer a plethora of relevant information to explore. Remember you have member-only access to our website - look at our Professional Development tab and our speakers note from the 2010 and 2011 conferences.

7. DISCUSSION BOARDS

Find a forum that is right for you so you can learn, share, and ask questions amongst colleagues. Ours is always abuzz (see page 34 to learn how to join).

8. SOCIAL NETWORKING

Both facebook and LinkedIn have LT groups. Join Library Technicians in Canada on facebook and/or Library Information Technicians on LinkedIn respectively and make connections. UPDATE: We are now on Facebook!

9. BLOGS

Although in abundance there are a number of fantastic bloggers out there writing specifically for our field. Our personal favourites include: Librarianinblack.net and blog.schoollibraryjournal.com. Remember you can set up an RSS feed to be automatically alerted to the latest posting.



10. PERIODICALS

Go online and browse back issues of association publications like CLA's Feliciter and Associates: The Electronic Library Support Staff Journal for free. Take a digital break and check your library for titles such as Smart Computing and Quill & Quire.

OALT/ABO member Lina Fontana shared with us how she keeps up to date :

Since I lived in BC for a while (I moved back to Ontario 3 years ago this October) and earned my diploma from the University of the Fraser Valley, the sites I have been keeping up with are from the west coast. First, I follow my department heads blog. Her name is Christina Neigel and she holds both an MLIS and a Library Technician Diploma. Currently she is on an 8 month sabbatical in which she is working to set up an accreditation program for lib techs (not certain if it's with the ALA or CLA that she's working with). Here's her site:

<http://libitufv.blogspot.com/>

Another way that I keep up to date is also through UFV's post diploma certificate program. The credits from these courses are upper level and can also be used towards a degree. You can find more information about these continuing education programs at:

http://www.ufv.ca/libtech/Programs/Continuing_Studies.htm

Lastly, I am in the process of starting an Essex-Kent Group of the OALT/ABO. Through this group I hope to learn share thoughts and ideas with local Library Technicians, as well as learn from each other's personal experience.



Inspirations

By Theresa Ziebell, Retired Library Technician on the Loose

The 2011 Ottawa Conference touched me in an unexpected way this year. After attending the Wine and Cheese party Wednesday evening where I enjoyed Jan Harder's talk, socialized with friends and made new ones, I was completely surprised to be

awoken the next morning by my clock radio offering Hallie Cotnam's CBC Ottawa Morning story about a radical idea for a high school library project. The idea was the Human Library, lending out people. After hearing about it at an OLA Conference and doing some further research, Sarah Murray, Teacher-Librarian at St. Joseph

Catholic High School had organized the event for a Grade 12 class. For twenty minutes, each student had a discussion with a police officer, former convict, crack addict, homeless person, and gay teen. Students in the isolated community of Barrhaven would get an opportunity to meet and converse with "the other" and where all questions would be answered and no question forbidden.

I thought to myself it's so good to hear about the innovative work school libraries are doing, especially after the sad news on the discussion list about Windsor-Essex Catholic School Board (WECSB) deciding to close all their school libraries. The timing of this couldn't be better. This would be something positive to share with School Library

Technicians at the Conference and others. How to do this? The nagging question stayed with me.

I carried on with my day and luckily, all my errands went quickly and smoothly. My thoughts returned to the Human Library story. Suddenly, I thought "Hey, Theresa, you are retired! You have the time and freedom to just go to the high school and try

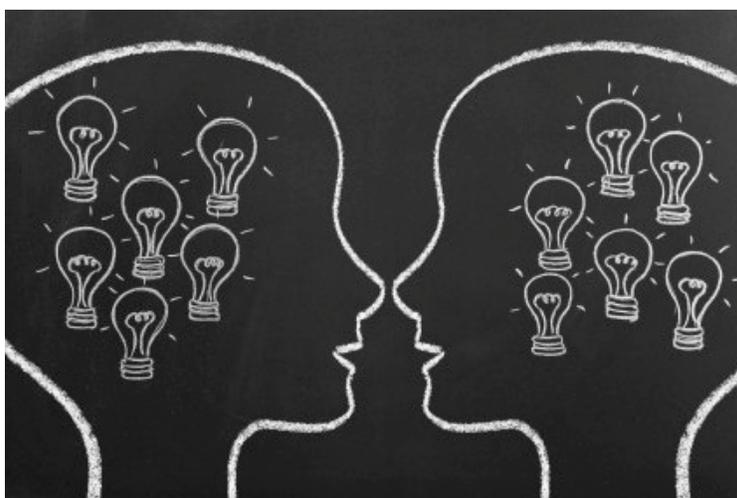
to meet the Teacher-Librarian and let her know how the story had really touched and inspired you that morning." So, that's exactly what I did.

The school receptionist contacted Sarah who had no trouble with me making a visit. She greeted me warmly at the library door and swiftly introduced me to Lorraine Vlcek, the Library-

Technician who would chat with me after she dealt with the needs of some of the students.

Lorraine explained that she was in the process of reducing the book collection by a third to make room for laptops and e-readers because in September they would become a learning commons. The discarded books would be given to a new high school opening in the east end.

Sarah returned and was truly dismayed when told about WECSB's decision to close their school libraries. When told that the OALT/ABO conference was taking place at Algonquin College, Sarah mentioned she had just received an e-mail from



Interest Piece

the reporter with the story, so it was possible to make a CD of the Human Library segment that I could deliver to Conference organizers. She and Lorraine worked seamlessly together. What a terrific team they are and I felt truly privileged to watch these professionals work. Sarah invited me to accompany her to the follow-up session she planned to tape between the Grade 12 teacher and her students who had experienced the Human Library. Lorraine advised that she would make the CD while the two of us made the classroom visit. Sarah introduced me to the teacher and students. The teacher wondered if more individuals would respond the way I had. Sarah then quickly set up her camera and began taping the teacher's questions and the students' eager and enthusiastic responses. It was wonderful to observe such a learning experience unfold before me.

As Sarah and I returned to the Library, I remarked that I was sure her next Human Library event on the subject of world religions would be an equally successful and relevant event. She hopes to invite a Protestant, Jew, Muslim, Buddhist and Atheist to participate. I thanked Sarah so much and left with Lorraine who escorted me down to the office so I could sign out. Lorraine explained that she sometimes had concerns about her job and so, for the past few years, had decided to devote her allotted training amount to the post-diploma certificate for Library Technicians, given online at the University of the Fraser Valley. Here's the URL for any others who may be interested:
http://www.ufv.ca/libtech/Programs/Continuing_Studies.htm

I promptly drove to Algonquin and just before the Thursday lunch managed to give Lisa Eschli the CD and a brief description of my morning adventure. Lisa smiled broadly and said she would have the CBC story put up on the Association website.

I was satisfied with my efforts to bring some good news to the School Library Technicians and never imagined that about a week later, would read an Ottawa Citizen article titled, 'Three city high schools make Top 10 in Fraser Institute rankings.'
<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/news/Three+city+high+schools+make+Fraser+Institute+rankings/4754627/story.html?id=4754627>

It stated, "Nepean's St Joseph Catholic High School was the highest ranking Catholic school in Ottawa, joining two Toronto-area schools at 20th place." This news did not surprise me as I had seen the high quality School Library staff in action.

And things did not end there, once again, May 15th, I saw another article in the Citizen on School Libraries, 'High school libraries enter the 21st century: goodbye card catalogue, hello high-tech.'
<http://www.portablemediazone.com/?p=3850>

"Ottawa's Catholic school board, like many boards across the country, is trying to adjust to meet the needs of the 21st-century learner by focusing on collaboration, communication, creativity and problem-solving skills, as opposed to quiet, independent study...This is not eliminating the library and the librarian, this is a transition to a new model that recognizes students' needs have changed," says Tom D'Amico, the superintendent overseeing the change.

All this makes me wonder why in the same province, we have some school boards with funds allowing them to implement the Ontario School Library Association report that laid out a roadmap for making the shift to learning commons and others deciding to eliminate their school libraries. Why can the Ottawa Catholic school board find \$2 million over the next three years to create library commons in their schools and the Windsor-Essex Catholic school board cannot? It just doesn't seem right to me but I have no answers only questions.

Well, in conclusion, as we know change is definitely in the air. Perhaps, replacing some books with digital tools is the trend and what students have been asking for, yet it doesn't detract from the fact that the Human Library, a non-digital and relatively inexpensive idea was still a tremendous success and in my view, one that will continue to be so. For more information, check out www.humanlibrary.org.





Advocacy Update

By Michael David Reansbury

As I progress in my professional career I am continually reminded that delegation is a skill that I must learn. In an ideal world I could and would do everything; because ever the egotistic I know what needs to be done, how I would like it done, and therefore in a perfect world I would do it. This is not my, nor your, work reality. Time, that staunchest of friends and cunning enemy is against us. So delegate I must and delegate, well, I try.

In the excitement of learning anything new, but especially a skill, there is the tendency to become over enthusiastic with the implication that that skill can have in other aspects of our jobs and our lives. Delegation has its place, as all skills do, but in some areas if the skill of delegation is incorrectly applied it is a very slippery slope to apathy.

Advocacy is one of those aspects of our professional and personal lives where delegating should never occur. As stated in my president's message library staff is in a unique and also demanding position. As employees, users and protectors of libraries we should not and cannot delegate the task of advocacy to others. In the instant that we delegate the task of advocating for libraries to coworkers, library CEOs and boards, politicians, and the public we do not apply the skill of delegation. No, we have become apathetic to libraries and their staff.

The recent media coverage around real and proposed cuts at the Windsor-Essex Catholic School Board and Toronto Public Library reinforces the necessity to all OALT/ABO members that they must advocate in their capacity as citizens, tax payers, and patrons. It was the personal stories, the individual fights that brought the dire situation of libraries of all varieties to the media's attention.

As members of a library association we often delegate, incorrectly, the task of advocacy to the executive of the association. To see why it is incorrect to delegate the task of advocacy to the executive of an association we must become objective parties. An association, like a company or government is a large relatively autonomous entity. It has no real appeal to the average citizen. The fact that associations in their names carry an affiliation, in our case to libraries, signals that in the given sphere of influence in which that association

“Advocacy is one of those aspects of our professional and personal lives where delegating should never occur.”

operates it is assumed outright support to any and all also involved will be granted. Associations are never asked if they support their namesake, it is assumed they do. What associations, ours being no different, are instead asked for with regards to advocacy is facts and statistics which underlines an associations ability to support its members. Members, citizens and governments can and should expect two interrelated functions of associations as they pertain to advocacy. The first is to provide the hard evidence; the facts, research and statistics that will help inform each party and ultimately allow them to come to their own conclusions. The second and often most challenging is to provide balanced and objective information. Life is full of both positives and negatives. While association strive to highlight the positive and where negatives may exist demonstrate how the positive outweighs the negative, a responsible and transparent association always admits the existence of negatives.

This fall all members will take part in the provincial election. In the lead up to the election and the choice of candidate and party you will support, OALT/ABO asks that each member takes the time to review two pieces of legislation that directly affect our profession: the Education Act and the Public Libraries Act. While both pieces of legislation state that school and public libraries, respectively, are too exist within the province the legislation is vague on the details. The former leaves the decision of the form school libraries take, up to the school boards and the staffing and funding to principals. The latter, dictates that municipalities will provide free access to public libraries for citizens but is silent on the amount of funds for staffing and collections municipalities are too provide.

As I cautioned at the beginning of this article and will reiterate here, as members, citizens and patrons of libraries you cannot delegate the task of advocating for libraries to libraries themselves, to association, to unions or to politicians. Each of us needs to educate ourselves on what the law states regarding the existence of school and public libraries, and what we would like to see the law changed to in order that the law may better reflect the new reality of libraries and the needs of their patrons. And finally to question, challenge and demand that the politician within our ridings and the parties they represent will change applicable legislation to better protect and improve the state of school and public libraries within the province.

If the reality ever existed where we allowed others to act on our behalves in regards to libraries within the province of Ontario it ends here. We all live busy professional and personal lives where the desire to delegate the protection and preservation of libraries is the easiest route but also the most dangerous. It is time for each member to blaze new trails. To put our library skills into action: to locate, collect, and correlate the information we need to make our own informed decision about what we expect government to legislate in the laws within the province that are applicable to libraries. Canada's history is full of the struggle to expand and protect its citizen's democratic rights. To vote is to exercise your democratic right to be heard, your democratic right to be counted. Please do not delegate your democratic rights to another. ◇



OALT/ABO @ OLA SUPER CONFERENCE 2012

The plans for the 2012 OLA Super Conference are well under way. The theme is Innovation! What an exciting topic to be talking about in this day and age! Libraries, like many other companies and institutions have to find innovative ways to stay at the front of people's minds and to deliver our services to our customers. OALT/ABO is sponsoring 4 sessions and 1 Pre Conference session. How exciting!

- * Ruth Berry will talk about using social networking to market libraries with resources that are current and how to stay ahead of the trends and maintain the longevity of libraries within this technological age
- * Saalem Humayun will be talking about how we can use the CBC archives in our libraries for reference and for learning about our English and French history as presented by our national radio and television stations
- * Eva Dodsworth will be presenting a session on how to use mapping technology in our libraries to effectively promote, reach out to our communities and deliver our programmes using web mapping resources and GIS technology
- * Elizabeth O'Brien and Whitney Kemple will be presenting project management for libraries with a plan on how to succeed by using project management methodology

The other divisions of OLA have many exciting sessions that will be useful, interesting and thought provoking as we move on into our new world where we must be innovative in our delivery, services and how we present our face to the world around us.

For the Pre Conference session we are combining with the Aboriginal stream to present an all day session on using alternative ways of genealogical research, especially to help groups where the usual resources are not available. Our speaker is Monique Brule who presented at the 2011 OALT/ABO Annual Conference in Ottawa. She is able to strengthen the session with the ability to present part of the session in French. This is an exciting way to promote our bilingual association!

Speaking of Innovation we are trying a new format for Saturday morning. It's being run more like a Halton-Peel Super Saturday on a bigger scale. There will be 8 bigger sessions being presented in 2 longer time slots. There will be speakers, 2 spotlight sessions and some will be on topics such as focus on careers, copyright, Aboriginal culture, e-books and other topics of interest to many people. It is looking very exciting and will appeal to a wide variety of library people. We are also trying to be innovative with our presentation of our conference.

The 2012 OLA Super Conference will be another exciting time of learning, hearing great speakers, networking and socializing.

Come join us to be part of the Innovative world of libraries!!! February 1st to 4th, 2012, Toronto.

Kate Morrison

kfmorrison25@gmail.com

ARE YOU SUBSCRIBED TO THE OALT/ABO DISCUSSION LIST?

How to subscribe to the discussion list:

1. Go to the oaltabo website:
www.oaltabo.on.ca
2. Click on Discussion List under the left side Navigation menu
3. Enter your email address in the box in the middle of the page and click on Yahoo! Groups Join Now!
4. You see a page showing "Confirmation Message Sent"
 - a) Check for a confirmation email at the address you entered
 - b) Follow the link they provide in the email
 - c) At the request to join oaltabodiscussion list click on Join the group
 - d) At this point you will either need to register for a Yahoo! ID or sign in with your Yahoo! email address
 - e) After signing in, set your membership preferences. You can choose a profile you would like to display to the group,

select the email address at which you prefer to receive group messages, add a comment to the owner, choose the method by which you receive group messages, and more.

f) Click Join and then start to enjoy the listserve benefits.

If someone sent you an email invitation to join a group, click on the link provided to join via the Yahoo! Groups web site.



The purpose of the listserve is to communicate electronically with members regarding OALT/ABO and other library organizations events and activities, and to provide a forum for our members to discuss career related issues. All members are encouraged to post job opportunities, meeting notices, professional development activities, and to discuss issues which are relevant to Library Technicians and libraries.

2011 – 2012 Executive Contact List

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A very special welcome to all our new members:

Vickie Albrecht	Michael MacDonald
Richard Anderson	Natalie MacDonald
Sheighla Barr	Patricia Manser
Tegwzu Bekele	Monica Mendez
Vanessa Buttery	Marcia Moore
Anastasia Caldwell	Dana Norris
Po Ho Chan	Dawn Percy
Janel Cheng	Kim Pham
Daisy Collins	Stephanie Puddick
June Collins	Warren Rachel
Jaqueline Comerton	Stefanie Alexis-Read
Robert Debney	Jessica Reeve
Angela Di Tommaso	Mary Anne Reinhard
Sharon Doyle	Cathy Rivard
Michael Edmonson	Brian Roberts
Lynn Fralick	Danielle Robinson
Irene Franey	Carolyn Rosen
Tania Gamage	Paula Rosenquist
Melissa Gifkins	Jane Sauder
Carole Giroux	Dana Schwarz
Melanie Graham	Lauren Seward-Munday
Jennifer Guillena	Young Sin Song
Edwina Harris	Sharon Streach
Amanda Holmes	Carolin Toppin
Michelle Kennedy	Ryan Tucci
Cavell King-Smith	Todd Vasey
Erica Lear	Ryan Watson
Renee Lebreton	Diana Weisser
Emily Lee	Elizabeth Wilson
Brigitte Livingstone	Chippewas of Rama First Nation
Kerri Macaskill	Windsor Essex C. S. B.

Call for Submissions

We would love to hear from you, all and any (even a quote) contributions are appreciated. This newsletter is your window of opportunity, to which YOU can send :

- * Professional development and education matter to us, so please send us your experiences
- * Upcoming events/workshops/training etc...
- * Updates about yourself, your work, job developments etc... How about telling us about a day in the life of your workplace?
- * New technologies/tools/database
- * Book reviews are a fantastic ice breaker if you are nervous about writing
- * Library related anecdotes, humour, interesting facts and quotes
- * Your blogs or blogs you enjoy, websites, your social cataloguing profiles; GoodReads, Shelfari, LibraryThing
- * Photographs

Please submit your articles to:

oaltabnewsletter@gmail.com

Submission guidelines:

- * 1000—1500 words. We will accept longer submissions if room permits.
- * Microsoft Word Documents
- * Photos can be submitted in black and white or colour. Please send as a “.jpg” file.
- * Indicate the names of the people in photos you submit
- * With your submission please include your name and a line or two about yourself
- * We welcome articles in French

The deadline is December 1st 2011. Thank you!