

# NewsLETTER NouvELLES

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## Message from your President

~ Michael David Reansbury



**D**ear Members of OALT/ABO:  
Though only a short three months since I last addressed you, libraries within the province continue to be the focus of much public attention. In Windsor, the Catholic school board reversed their decision to eliminate libraries in their elementary and secondary schools. Torontonians came out en masse to express their dislike of proposed hours and staff reduction at Toronto Public Library. Library technicians at the province's colleges began the new school year on strike, having since returned to work. Amongst all of this a new minority provincial parliament was elected, European countries tittered on the brink of bankruptcy, and citizens the world over occupied major urban centers.

It appears as though two prevailing views have emerged with regards to all of the unrest, turmoil and public outcry. Either we are entering a decade of crisis or one of opportunity. As library technicians we have not sat back as card catalogues were replaced by computers and the print book by the electronic page. Instead we embraced change and struck out on our own. As library technicians we have been taught to blaze new trails.

Carolin Toppan, 2012 Conference Coordinator, choose the theme well; Blazing New Trails/Decouvrir de nouvelles voies as once again our members will not only embrace change but be the creators of change. Preparations are nearly complete for the conference at the King City campus of Seneca College from May 3rd to 5th. Registration packages will be ready for distribution in the new year.

By now all members will have received their membership renewals from Amy Dwyer. In order for Amy to have the 2011-2012 Membership Directory completed in time for distribution in May at the conference I again remind new and old members to please have your membership form submitted by no later than January 31st.

Millie Yip has worked tirelessly over the past months offering events ranging from socials to personal finance tips to interview skills. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all those members who have attended these past events and call upon members to get out to the events being planned for 2012.

In November students of both the Algonquian and Seneca LT programs had

Newsletter/  
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the chance to meet representatives from the Ottawa Chapter/Section d'Ottawa and the executive, respectively, at Student Meet and Greets. Students of the college programs continued to be well served by the college's LT programs staff and technicians within the province.

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**“I call each and everyone of us to think of at least one way that we can be trail blazers”**

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On November 26<sup>th</sup> more than forty members and invited guest descended upon Nicholas Hoare Bookstore for a night of good food, good wine and excellent company. While this was a new venue and format for the annual Holiday Social it was well received.

The new year not only offers our members the chance to attend our conference but also to attend Super Conference. Donna Brown has once again worked with the three LIT college programs in procuring a space for library technicians in the exhibit hall (I invite all technicians to stop by the booth and speak with the executive members). In addition Kate Morrison has lined up four sessions and one pre-conference session lead, in part, by technicians. By now all members of OALT/ABO will have received a copy of the conference schedule from OLA. When registering please take advantage of the discounted price offered to you as members of OALT/ABO.

Finally, two exciting new ventures are being undertaken in the library technician world in 2012 and I urge all to read the articles by Christina Neigel of UFV and Nicole Doyle and Susan Pratt of Durham College to learn more about these exciting developments.

The celebration of the new year offers all of us not only the opportunity to reflect on the past year but also upon the future. Drawing from the provincial conferences, and articles you read within the pages of the NewsLETTER/NouvelLES I call each and

every one of us to think of at least one way that we can be trail blazers. This is not a time of crisis it is a time of opportunity. This is a chance for technicians to show our metal and be pillars of change, innovation and creativity; it is time for technicians to leave the well worn paths and strike out on the path never travelled.

I look forward to seeing you on the trail.

Regards,

Michael David Reansbury

President 2011-2012, OALT/ABO

## **EDITOR'S DRAW!**

**For every submission we receive, we will enter your name in a random draw for a \$100.00 gift certificate from Nicholas Hoare Bookstore.**

**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.**

# EDITORS NOTE

Happy New Year and welcome to our second themed issue of NewsLETTER/NouvelLES. Our theme for the Winter issue is Blazing New Trails - a tie into our 2012 Conference "Blazing New Trails/Decouvrir de Nouvelles Voies" in King City (see page 31). When we asked our readers what blazing new trails meant to them we were pleased at the response, making this our biggest issue yet!



Kicking off the issue is Kate Morrison's personal and inspiring piece about the trails she has blazed in her professional life which really captures the essence of our theme.

West Coast Library Assistant Ashley Van Dijk's article is an example of thinking outside the box and discusses the need for First Nations classification.

Returning to write for us is Shireen Harbin, who spearheaded a Food for Fines event at OCAD University using amongst other avenues our very own listserv as a resource.

Also contributing to our theme are Maggie Weaver, Janice Russell, Pam Casey and Cathy Rivard who share with us the different ways they have blazed new trails.

Our goal for this issue is not only to share with you the stories of our peers but to hopefully inspire you to, in the words of our President, "think of at least one way that we can be trail blazers".

Hope to see you at the conference in May.

Yours in Writing,

Jessica Goodman and Julie Cristinzo

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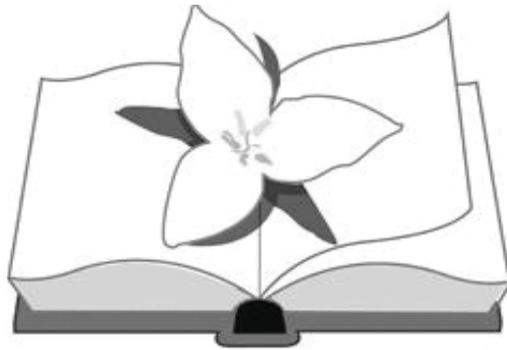


### DISCLAIMER:

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

# Past and Future Events

By Millie Yip, Chapter Coordinator



OALT / ABO

**A**s chapter coordinator, running events for OALT/ABO has been a wonderful experience for me. Not only can you make friends, you can also learn different skills such as time management and communication. I am excited to tell you about several past and future events for the association.

On September 27, 2011, we held our first event at the Mandarin Buffet Restaurant located between Yonge and Eglinton Ave. It was nice to see that many Seneca students attended the event. There were executives from OALT/ABO, as well as those who work in the library industry. It was nice chatting with everyone and seeing new faces. I am glad to see that everyone enjoyed the food as well as spending time together.

On October 15, 2011, we were very fortunate to have Penny Williams as our speaker for "Money Management" at a venue located between Woodbine and Highway 7. Penny Williams has been in the financial industry as an advisor for about four years. She is a long time immigrant and spent 16 years in the corporate world, as well being self-

employed for several years now. Since joining the financial industry, she realized how little she knew about how money works in this society. She also realized how different her life would have been if she had known years ago what she knows now as well as what banks and schools do not teach about your financial goals and planning. As a result, she is passionate about educating as many people as she can reach, especially women. She runs her own business at PCWS Financial. We learned so much from her at the "Money management" presentation. The most important lesson that I learned was the six steps to financial success; how to do a budget for many things such as food, personal expenses, transportation, household furnishings, and recreation. Penny also touched on topics such as RRSPs and TFSA. It's worth it for us to take the time to learn money management as it is so important for each and every one of us. The sooner you start, the better.

On Nov 12, 2011, Rebecca Markey gave us a presentation about interview skills at Seneca College's Newnham campus. She has her Masters of Education specializing in Counselling Psychology and 12 years experience in the career development field assisting individuals to begin, advance and renew their careers. Currently working as a Career Counsellor in private practice and at the University of Toronto, Rebecca is also a contributing writer on career development issues and teaches yoga and meditation throughout Toronto. From the presentation, we learned that interviews are not just interviews; it's a two way exchange of information since employers want to know about the skills that the employee can bring into the organization. As the candidate, we want to know the organization, expectations, and opportunities to grow within the company; working culture and whether we fit into the organization. Before the interview, we need to

prepare in advance by knowing about the employer, the requirements of the job posting, skills, knowledge and attitudes as they relate to employers' needs. We would like to say a big thank you to Rebecca as she gave us helpful information regarding what we need for preparing for interviews.

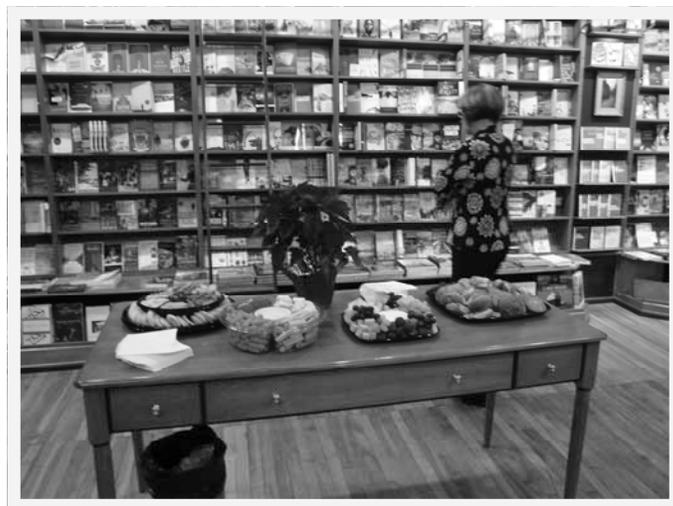
On Nov 26, 2011, we had our holiday social at Nicholas Hoare in downtown Toronto. It was great to see everyone dressed up nicely at the bookstore. We enjoyed the time together, not only to browse many new books but also to get a chance to network with other members as well.

On January 16, 2012 "Top tips for small libraries" ran at the Northern District Library. Although this workshop was done on November 28, 2011 in Niagara Falls, I had requests that I should run it again in Toronto. Our speaker, Maggie Weaver, is a long-time member of OALT/ABO, who has spent most of her working life in very small libraries. Though her experience is mainly in the private sector, she has also worked in public and government libraries – notably Toronto Public Library and the United Nations Trade Law library. She is a frequent speaker at library conferences, and contributes to the "Especially for LTs" column in OLA Access. Maggie will walk through the dozen or so strategies that will sort out the "should dos" in the very small library. Please mark your calendar for future events such as "Buying or selling your home", the tentative date would be Feb 28, 2012. The tentative speaker would be from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). For the Super Saturday "Future for School Library Technicians", the tentative date is March 10, 2012 at Mohawk College. The aim is to have speakers from the Ministry of Education, university, college and/or school libraries. I encourage our members to attend these wonderful events and I can assure you that you will learn a lot. I hope you had a happy and wonderful holiday. I look forward to seeing you all next year in 2012 at our OALT/ABO events. I will be sure to keep you posted about our future events.



# OALT/ABO

## Holiday Social



# OALT/ABO Holiday Social at Nicholas Hoare on November 26th 2011



# 2012 OLA Super Conference Update

By Kate Morrison, OALT/ABO Super  
Conference 2012 Program Planner



It is exciting times for those on the 2012 Ontario Library Association Super Conference Planning Committee! The conference program has been mailed out and is on the web so everyone can see how the conference has shaped up. The web address is [www.accessola.org](http://www.accessola.org), from here look down the left side and you will see the Innovation logo where you can access the program. All members of OALT/ABO should have received a paper copy through the mail where you can see the diversity of sessions that are available as well. While looking at it you can see there has certainly been a lot of Innovation during the planning.

Another Innovation that OLA has been working on is having a Virtual Experience. This is a way of either adding to your physical experience at the conference or being able to attend virtually if you are not able to come physically. The 2011 sessions that were filmed are on the Virtual Conference web site (accessed through the 2012 conference web site) so you can see what this is like by previewing the free material from last year's conference. You have to sign into Scholar's Lab through your Facebook or LinkedIn account. The free sessions include interviews

with some speakers on the subject of collaboration (last year's theme) and there are 3 plenary speakers talks available: Michael Wesch, Tonya Surman and Atom Egoyan. It is stimulating viewing for your mind!

If you are currently looking for career information don't forget to look for the sessions available. In the subject index on page 72-73 you can look under subjects such as coaching, communication, future of the profession, interviews, marketing (I know these may be for libraries but you may find some interesting ways to market yourself, use your innovative thinking!), mentoring, networking, new professionals, non-traditional careers, public speaking, research (for your applications and interviews), résumés, staff development, training as well as others that may apply to you.

Another interest of the association that has some sessions is the subject of advocacy. Take a look in the subject index for more areas you may be interested in!

At present I am in the midst of finding conveners for all of our sessions and emailing them the information so they can get in touch with their speaker(s). This is a wonderful way to meet new people and make new contacts/friends. As usual, OALT/ABO members are volunteering so we can make our contribution even greater to the OLA conference!

Another volunteer opportunity will be coming up. Donna Brown will be sending us information on how to be able to promote our association in the Exhibitors Hall by working at the OALT/ABO booth. It's wonderful, the questions we get as we stand there. Another place we can stand proud of being a library technician!

Come join others of the library world to be part of the Innovative world of libraries from February 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in Toronto at the 2012 OLA Super Conference!!

[Kfmorrison25@gmail.com](mailto:Kfmorrison25@gmail.com)



# Presidential Award *Thoughts*

By Doug Willford, 2011 Recipient

**W**hy break a great tradition that has been eloquently expressed by my predecessors Tracy Morgan and Linda Landreville in recognizing those individuals who preceded me as recipients of the OALT/ABO Presidential Award....

<i>2011 Doug Willford</i>	<i>1997 Susan Bourdeau</i>
<i>2010 Linda Landreville</i>	<i>1996 Susan Morley</i>
<i>2009 Tracy Morgan</i>	<i>1995 Marsha Hunt</i>
<i>2008 Vicky Lynham</i>	<i>1994 Judy Koenig</i>
<i>2007 Maggie Weaver</i>	<i>1993 No recipient</i>
<i>2006 Penni Chalk</i>	<i>1992 Linda Davis</i>
<i>2005 Jill Anderson</i>	<i>1991 Janet Iles</i>
<i>2004 Pam Casey</i>	<i>1990 Bette Gore</i>
<i>2003 Nanci Abbondanza</i>	<i>1989 Pat Graham</i>
<i>2002 Pat Henry</i>	<i>1988 LaRae Moody</i>
<i>2001 No recipient</i>	<i>1987 Paulette Burton</i>
<i>2000 Marian Doucette</i>	<i>1986 Sue Weaver</i>
<i>1999 Janet Scheibler</i>	<i>1985 Liz Aldrey</i>
<i>1998 Marg Bushell</i>	<i>1984 Danielle Amat</i>

WOW, what a great list!!! In the proud history of OALT/ABO it is both an honour and privilege to join "The Group of 25" but why me when there are so many other worthy individuals out there?

This marks the second time I have been recognized by the Association, the first being the presentation of a "Life Membership" to OALT/ABO back on August 24, 1975 at the annual conference which was held that year at the University of Ottawa. What an honour that was and similar to this presentation I was left absolutely speechless and for those of you who know me that was no easy feat.

The true honour of this award lies not in the fact that it honours and recognizes an individual but the fact

that the recipient is selected from his/her peers. I ask you how many other associations recognize their members in a similar manner?

OALT/ABO like many other associations lies in the strength of its member volunteers. It is this group of individuals that pull up their sleeves, get their hands dirty and do what has to be done to get the jobs completed. It is you the member volunteers that makes OALT/ABO the strong and viable association that it is today. As Tracy Morgan so eloquently stated in her remarks "We don't volunteer to get awards and that is why, when we are recognized for our efforts, it means so very much."

With this in mind I call on all OALT/ABO members to review the list of past recipients and if you do not see someone on the list you feel is worthy please take a few minutes to fill out the enclosed nomination form and forward it to my attention at the address listed on the next page.

I leave you with the following quotes on volunteerism:

**"Don't ever question the value of volunteers. Noah's Ark was built by volunteers; the Titanic was built by professionals. "**

~Dave Gynn, Coleman Professional Services, Ohio, USA

**"The broadest, and maybe the most meaningful definition of volunteering: Doing more than you have to because you want to, in a cause you consider good."**

~Ivan Scheier (from Building Staff/Volunteer Relations)



# Presidential Award Submissions

By Doug Willford, 2011 Recipient

**T**he purpose of the OALT / ABO Presidential Award is to recognize outstanding contributions or major achievements of an OALT / ABO member in promoting and / or developing the Association.

The award is presented annually to any full member, in good standing, of OALT / ABO excluding the current Provincial President, members of the Award Committee and past recipients. This award recognizes the contributions of Library Technicians from communities across Ontario, whose leadership, commitment and persistent endeavors have contributed significantly to advancing the Association and our profession.

The OALT/ABO Presidential Award Selection Committee consists of the previous award recipient and two additional members, in good standing, of OALT / ABO. The Selection Committee will seek candidates who generally meet the following criteria:

- Member of OALT/ABO.
- Evidence that the Association has played a significant role during the individual's professional career.
- Demonstrated leadership in helping others achieve full participation in the library profession within the Association and / or within the work place.
- Outstanding contribution in building the Association either regionally or provincially.
- Advanced recognition of the Library and Information Technician profession through publications, seminars, or workshops.

Two members in good standing, who are not related to the candidate, may sponsor candidates for the OALT / ABO Presidential Award. Confidential nominations must be submitted in writing, by April 1st of each year. The application form may be found by contacting the current committee chairperson:

Douglas Willford – [dwillford@cogeco.ca](mailto:dwillford@cogeco.ca)

Confidential submissions should be addressed to:

Douglas Willford

128 St. Lawrence Dr.  
Welland, Ontario L3C 7H6



## 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 Library Technician news.

# CHOICES

## that Blaze New Trails

By Kate Morrison, Library Technician, Youth Services  
Hamilton Public Library  
and Life Time Volunteer

All of life is choices! It's amazing how the little choices I made in my life enabled me to blaze new trails even though I did not realize it at the time.

To blaze a new trail you have to be in a place where change should and/or can happen and be willing to take the risk to help make it happen. Sometimes the risk is high and at other times it is lower. We each have our own comfort level for risk but sometimes you need to step out and take a higher/different level of risk. Taking a risk allows us to learn new skills as well as discover what our strengths and weaknesses are, both in hard and soft skills. Thankfully we are all different so knowing our strengths and weaknesses enables us to be better professionals and team players. These are wonderful life lessons!

I started on the Halton-Peel executive as the director. At that time only the director voted at the annual general meeting. As director I had the heavy responsibility of voting for the whole group and representing a diverse group of members. At that time there was a movement within the Association to change the constitution to make things simpler as well as change the voting structure. This would mean that every person would vote instead of 1 person in a certain position doing the voting for the whole group



of each chapter. After all the work of writing the constitution as a group, it was exhilarating to vote my last vote as a director and change the constitution to enable every single member to be able to vote for themselves. The director's role served its purpose for the time it was part of the Association but it was time to change and so the executive of that year blazed a new trail. This one was a success.

When I was the Conference Coordinator we tried using a wiki to enable keeping the communication

## Theme Feature

flowing and to keep our documents in the same place so that we communicated with each other more efficiently. Email was used at times but we trained ourselves to use the wiki more or less. This was a steep learning curve for a number of us. This worked for us gradually but it was not a resounding success. We all learned a new skill but it was not the success I had hoped for. This is life! Our risks do not always blaze new trails but I learned something new and its capabilities which is a good thing.

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**“To blaze a new trail you have to be in a place where change should and/or can happen and be willing to take the risk to help make it happen.”**

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Groups and events also go in cycles. Learning to read the cycles can be helpful as well. In one group I volunteered with we needed a fundraiser and came up with the idea of having a craft show with a bake sale. The vendors for the craft show had to apply so we could decide on a good variety of items for the customers to choose from. This worked really well in the first town. When we moved I used the skills I had learned from the previous town to set up the same type of craft and bake sale with another similar group. This worked for a few years but people in the group changed as well as the customer base. The cycle had worked its way so that another format was needed. Other people led with their ideas and money was able to be made in a different way. This was a good way to serve the needs of the organizers and customers through the next cycle of years.

So, to blaze a new trail you need to be aware of what is needed, think creatively using your skill set along with gathering others around you to complement with their skills and take a risk! You'll be glad you did no matter what the result is!



Ontario Association of Library Technicians/  
Association des bibliothécaires de l'Ontario  
**Conference 2012**

**S**eneca College's picturesque King Campus is our host for the 2012 conference. The theme for the conference is "Blazing New Trails", chosen to reflect the rapidly changing environment we are experiencing in the library world. Your conference committee is hard at work planning a program to reflect many of these changes. Sessions on virtual reference services, social media for libraries, what is happening with RDA, how to attract new generations to libraries and so much more. Tours of the Legislative Library in Toronto and the McMichael Art Gallery have been planned, and don't worry, we haven't forgotten the social events! Wednesday night we will kick off the conference with a wine and cheese party with a welcome from OLA President, Tanis Fink. Thursday night is pub night with Karaoke and a movie for those who don't warble in public, or see Sheena Easton in concert. Friday night is our annual Awards Banquet with a raptor display from the Ontario Falconry Centre to start the night off.

**Mark your calendars for May  
3rd to 5th, 2012 and come  
Blaze New Trails with us!**

Carolyn Toppan  
2012 Conference Coordinator



# A New Class System:

## The Need for First Nations Classification

By Ashley Van Dijk, Library Assistant, Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre

It is useful for scholars to be able to go to one section and find all American Indian materials in one place....However, using LCC or DDC in a Native-specific collection can become a frustrating experience.”(Tomren, 2003, p. [17]). Traditionally, libraries use either the Dewey Decimal system or the Library of Congress system to serve the needs of public and university library members respectively. However, do these classification systems work for a library with a narrow, more focused collection such as a First Nations library? How accessible is the material for those library members? This paper focuses on the inadequacies of the Library of Congress with regard to a First Nations collection. Using two examples of items that get lost within the traditional classification system I present a case for the development of a First Nations classification system.

I am the Library Assistant for the Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre, in Chilliwack, British Columbia. The Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre has a small research library with a collection that is narrowly focused on Stó:lō First Nation, a subgroup of the Coast Salish in British Columbia. The Stó:lō and their traditional territory extend from just past Yale, B.C. in the Fraser Canyon all the way down to the mouth of the Fraser River in Vancouver where the Musqueam reside. Within Stó:lō First Nation are multiple tribal groups, the largest in the Chilliwack area are Ts’elxwéyeqw, Pilalt and Tait. Within

these three groups are numerous bands that were created by the Department of Indian Affairs to facilitate administration of the Indian Act. Their communities and culture are still alive, and belong in the present.

Our library uses the Library of Congress system, in addition to having an extensive vertical file system to accommodate journal articles and original research. A quick glance might not allow one to understand the dilemma with using this classification system – after all the law material is rightfully placed in the K class and language material in the P class. The problem lies with material that is more specific to the Stó:lō such as reports written about the repatriation of the ancestor T’xwelátse, collections of legends and studies of specific village sites. These items are generally placed in one of four areas, and each is in the History class:

E78 B9: ‘Indians of North America, by state, province, or region’ followed by ‘British Columbia’,

E78 N78: ‘Indians of North America, by state, province, or region’ followed by ‘Northwest Coast of North America’,

E99 S2 or 21: ‘Indians of North America, tribes and cultures’ followed by either ‘Salish’ or ‘Salishan including Coast Salish’ and

E99 S72: ‘Indians of North America, by tribe or culture’ followed by ‘Stalo’.

## Theme Feature

As indicated with these four examples, “LCC does not support high levels of specificity demanded by a collection with a strong First Nations focus.”<sup>1</sup>

What I hope to demonstrate is the inadequacy of these four call numbers to logically organize our material for our membership. Where would one look for a band's history, or their origin legends? In addition to those two questions is the bigger question, of how one reflects the fact that First Nations are current in today's society, and do not belong strictly in the past? Faced with the dilemma of how to catalogue materials to best suit our membership's needs, my co-worker and I began discussing the creation of a classification to fit our library's needs. This work is still in draft format, and yet I hope this paper reflects how relevant and needed a First Nation's classification system is.

In her paper titled 'Classification, Bias, and American Indian Materials' Holly Tomren<sup>2</sup> looks at both the Dewey and LC classification system with regards to American Indians. She discusses the problem of having headings that go no further than a tribal group, or location. According to Tomren, there are “over 500 American Indian nations, each with a unique culture, language, history, and worldview.” (p. [7]). While Tomsen's paper primarily looks at the United States of America, in Canada there is just as diverse a First Nation population with 612 bands as of 2006; of these there are 198 bands within British Columbia.<sup>3</sup> To narrow it even further, there are 29 bands who make up Stó:lō, each with their own history and legends, as well as three distinct languages. It is alarming to think that these distinct cultural groups could be classified as the same. Obviously, a sub-class that does not specify



which band the work is about is lacking the ability to properly classify the work. The task of how to classify material in a library where the collection is focused on First Nations was tackled by Brian Deer in the 1970s. His classification system is known as the Brian Deer Classification System and is in use at the Xwi7xwa Library at the University of British Columbia and the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs' reference library in Vancouver, British Columbia. Deer's classification system went into further depth than the Library of Congress Classification System with regard to tribal names and location, as well as the concepts of self-government and rights and

title, which in LCC are placed in the Law class. Brian Deer also has sub-classes for information regarding elders and legends, two areas which house valuable information for First Nations researchers. However, Brian Deer does have drawbacks. Once again, one cannot sub-classify further than 'Stó:lō' and there are not many areas to

reflect current work being done; most items would be classified as History, as with Library of Congress.

I would like to present two case studies with items pulled from our library shelves. Each item is an unpublished work; therefore a LCC call number has not been assigned. I am going to compare the LCC call number created by our staff for the item to both Brian Deer and our classification system, the Stó:lō Classification. The first item I want to look at is a Master's thesis entitled 'Looking for Snob Hill and Sq'ewqel: Exploring the changing Histories of Aboriginality and Community in two Aboriginal Communities' by Katya Clair MacDonald<sup>4</sup> which looks at a Metis community in Saskatchewan and Seabird Island, a local First Nation band. Library of Congress would have us classify this item at E99 S2

M135 ('Indians of North America, tribes and cultures, Stalo' and then a Cutter for author's last name), in Brian Deer this item would be classified as BJS M135 ('History, BC, Stó:lō' and a Cutter for author's last name). Neither of these classifications systems provides a way to determine which band the work is about and with 29 Stó:lō bands that is an important piece of information. In the Stó:lō Classification system, this item would be given the call number of BC2i- M135 ('History & Geography, Specific Bands' and a Cutter for author's last name). With the Stó:lō Classification system, one



can place all the items relating to one area together, creating ease of browsing for our members.

The next item I want to look at is another Master's thesis; this one written by Morley Eldridge titled 'Archaeological Spatial Analysis of DiRi 14'.<sup>5</sup> While the subject in this paper is a historic site, the work which was done for this paper was current archaeology fieldwork. In Library of Congress, this work is given the call number E78 B9 E4 ('Indians of North America, by state, province, or region, followed by British Columbia' and a Cutter for author's last name). The Brian Deer system gives a call number of BQ E4 ('History, Archaeology' followed by a Cutter for the author's last name). The item in question does not look at historical archaeology as it is a result of the author's fieldwork. To reflect this, in the Stó:lō Classification this item would be given the call number of D40 E4 ('Social Sciences, Archaeology' with a Cutter for the author's last name). Under the Archaeology subclass heading is room to add items and other subclasses, such as history or for specific locations, allowing for constant expansion of the Stó:lō Classification system as needed.

In conclusion, this paper looks at the use of Library of Congress within a First Nations library, highlighting the inadequacies of having a limited area to classify material. It presents the need to have a localized classification system, as the Brian Deer system is a general classification system. British Columbia has a vastly diverse First Nations population, and there is a need to have this reflected in library classification systems so that library members can better access the material. Related material needs to be in collocated to facilitate research and use by Stó:lō community members and other researchers. The creation of a First Nations classification system would benefit our library and our membership.

## References

<sup>1</sup>MacDonell, Paul, Reiko Tagami and Paul Washington. (2003). Brain Deer Classification System. Student paper. Vancouver, BC: University of British Columbia.

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**Ashley Van Dijk is the Library Assistant at the Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre in Chilliwack, British Columbia. She graduated in 2009 with her LIBT diploma from the University of the Fraser Valley, and is currently finishing her Bachelor's Degree.**

# Information Professional for Hire

By Maggie Weaver

I've been self-employed for eight years – longer than I ever stayed in one job.

For most people, I imagine “self-employed” implies having no boss – but in fact I have several: every client that I work for is both my customer and my boss. Juggling customer demands and boss expectations is something we all do, of course, and occasionally I have to be blunt with one client about my commitments to another.

Only doing the fun stuff might be another misconception about self-employment – there's plenty of drudgery in the work my clients give me, believe me! And it's not always well paid. In addition to the contracts that come to me because of my skill set, there's work that comes because no-one in the client organization can “find time” to do it – and of course it's often the boring stuff that has sunk to the bottom of their heap.

Self-employment seems to have brought more peaks and valleys than a regular job. If I'm working to deadlines, they all come at once (that's probably true for you, too), but in quiet times there isn't a nice backlog of something useful to do. So I'm hanging on to one contract – compiling a daily newsletter for an industry association – that is both mundane and poorly paid, simply because it provides a steady work flow to balance the more intense and interesting work, like writing workshops.

A downside to self-employment is the lack of a daily community of colleagues. Petula thinks I'm at home all day simply to provide her with a lap, but she's not a cat you can share a good joke with. That's probably why I'm active in so many professional associations – and why all my clothes are fluffy!

Being self-employed, it's my responsibility to find work for myself, and for that I need imagination. When I'm working for a client, a part of my brain is thinking about how to exploit that activity for a second use – for example, if some research wasn't easy to find, could I write a course to help other people do it, or create new content for the client's website? Could I combine a trip for one client with a meeting with a potential new client? The most fruitful client sessions are those that start “Maggie, can I pick your brain about...?”, when I get the opportunity to imagine an “information” answer to a problem that is bothering a client – or at least help her get closer to a solution.

And that's the upside of being self-employed – there's no restriction on what is legitimately my job. If I can persuade someone to let me try something on their behalf, that's one more learning curve I get to climb. And when I've done it, that's one more piece of experience I can use to sell my services to another client.

Come to think of it, put like that I should probably admit to myself that I've been “self-employed” in many of my previous positions. I've always treated my library-based jobs as businesses to be developed, and always been on the lookout for the next opportunity.

If you're thinking about becoming a self-employed information professional, in whatever capacity, may I recommend that you read one or both of the following:

Ulla de Stricker

*Is Consulting for You? A Primer for Information Professionals*

American Library Association, 2008. ISBN 0-8389-0947-7

Stan Skrzyszewski

*The Knowledge Entrepreneur*

Scarecrow Press, 2006. ISBN 0-8108-5291-8



# Save Library and Archives Canada

## Losing our Collective Memory

By the Canadian Association of  
University Teachers (CAUT)

**L**ibrary and Archives Canada (LAC), one of Canada's most important national institutions, is under threat. LAC is the federal institution responsible for preserving Canada's documentary heritage. It has a mandate to:

- acquire and preserve Canada's documentary heritage
- facilitate public access to that heritage
- house a permanent repository of publications of the Government of Canada and related records
- manage information and coordinate library services of government institutions
- support the development of the library and archival communities

Under the guise of "modernization," LAC management is undertaking major restructuring. These changes have already resulted in:

- reduced public access
- decentralization of heritage materials to third party providers
- elimination of vital specialist positions
- compromised quality of LAC's collections

### Mandate

The "modernization" process involves a shift to a "representative acquisitions model" where only Canada's "essential documentary heritage" will be maintained, rather than a comprehensive and inclusive collection. LAC management contends that LAC's key role extends only to the management of legal deposit and the preservation of the federal government records. This is an unnecessarily limited interpretation of the enabling legislation and, more importantly, one that goes against LAC's mandate as developed through past practice. At its inception in 2004, "the bringing together of the National Library of Canada and the National Archives of Canada" was announced to Canadians by Former National Librarian, Roch Carrier, with the promise of "comprehensive collections, expertly organized, properly preserved and accessible to all." A move away from a dedication to the preservation of Canada's full documentary heritage is irresponsible for a national library and archive, and will have devastating implications for Canada's present and future researchers.

### Collections

The "modernization" process has led to a dramatic cut in materials being acquired for LAC's collection. In May 2009, LAC announced a ten-month moratorium on all purchased acquisitions. Opportunities to bid on rare books at auction are fleeting. Once missed, these rare and important historical items are simply not retrievable. This perception is corroborated by multiple reports from users as well as several prominent figures in the field. According to Michel Brisebois, former curator of rare books at LAC, the suspension of acquisitions is "just not done. It's just silly. It's like cutting the oxygen off. That's not acceptable for a national library."

While the official moratorium was lifted in January 2010, acquisitions have not resumed. LAC appears to be engaged only in "passive" acquisitions largely through legal deposit with virtually no money for acquiring much of anything beyond this. Liam McGahern, president of the Antiquarian Booksellers of Canada, said a growing number of Canadian materials are not being collected by LAC because of reduced funding and a change in its acquisitions policy. "Canadians recently lost a unique and irreplaceable set of journals chronicling late 19th

## Save LAC Campaign

Century stories of settlers and First Nations people of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and Labrador Coast. This is just one of many examples," McGahern explained. "Rare military documents, sheet music, and literature that would otherwise have gone to Library and Archives Canada are quietly all slipping away." Holes in LAC's collection are the result of this cessation of acquisitions and will be difficult, if not impossible, to restore retroactively.

### Decentralization

Despite significant protest from user groups, LAC is now contracting out collections to public and private regional institutions, resulting in the loss of a unified and national collector of Canadian resources. According to reports commissioned by LAC "there was strong opposition to the possibility of downloading of some federal archival collecting responsibilities to under-funded provincial, university or other institutions." Over the last two decades, archives and libraries across Canada have been subject to a series of severe cutbacks. The resources and services for maintaining nationally-significant material is simply not available the regional level and must remain a federal responsibility.

Decentralizing national collections will lead to increases in research costs for individuals needing to use records at LAC and result in increased user fees, a lack of public accountability, and restricting public access. Simply put, contracting out Canadian heritage undermines LAC's objective to increase public access to services and materials.

### Public Access

The evidence indicates significant deficiency in the provision of on-site and on-line service. Recently, LAC has reduced its reference collection and cut retrieval times by half. On-site equipment such as computers and microfilm readers are not adequately maintained and are often out of service. Access to the specialists that are so vital to the research of many LAC users is now virtually impossible. As Susan Crean indicated in her report on the state of LAC in the Jan/Feb 2011 issue of the *Literary Review of Canada*, archivists are now "a 40-minute bus trip away in Gatineau" and "the only remaining occupants [at the Wellington Street building] are general reference staff and the genealogy department." In fact, many specialist positions have been eliminated altogether. LAC is

currently without a specialist in Newspapers, Library Sciences, Cartography, Moving Images and Sound archives, Government archives, and Art and Photo archives.

LAC's online services are also lacking. Minutes from LAC's October 2010 stakeholder forum indicate that "Historians underlined the error ridden state of online finding aids and the inadequacy of the website as a search tool." When compared to other national libraries and archives, LAC is far behind in terms of digitizing finding aids and other reference sources, particularly in digitizing newspapers. Furthermore, LAC's website is not user-friendly and has been characterized by Crean as "more of a maze than a portal."

## Save LAC Campaign

The Canadian Association of University Teachers has launched a campaign to "Save Library and Archives Canada" and is encouraging Canadians to act decisively now to prevent the demise of this vital national institution. CAUT is asking Canadians to join in ensuring our history and heritage is preserved by Library and Archives Canada – the only national institution with the mandate and capability to fill this role.

### We are calling for:

- Amendments to the *Library and Archives of Canada Act* to more clearly specify LAC's obligation to maintain a comprehensive collection of Canada's documentary heritage
- The funding required to fulfill this obligation
- Restoration of LAC's comprehensive acquisition of published material and archival records
- Restoration of public services, including access to archivists and librarians; access to the general reference collection; and re-establishment of specialist archivist positions
- End fragmentation of collections resulting from decentralization

For more information on the Save Library and Archives Canada campaign, go to [www.savelibraryarchives.ca](http://www.savelibraryarchives.ca) or email [saveLAC@caut.ca](mailto:saveLAC@caut.ca)



# The Changing Face of Library Technician Education

By Christina Neigel, Instructor, University of the Fraser Valley

Abbotsford, British Columbia

While the official status of “library technician” has been recognized since the 1960s in Canada, the work performed by this group has undergone significant transformations. Interestingly, while many of these changes have been in tandem with the changing roles of libraries, there are many inside and outside of libraries who wrestle with the implications of this. While library folk embrace ideas of openness, collaboration, and intellectual freedom, they tend to be very hesitant to discuss the scope of library work in the context of labour relations. It is fairly well understood by the public that *anyone* working in a library is a “librarian”. Those in the field are much more sensitive to the fact that work is divided among a wide range of “positions”, not all of which are entitled to the label *librarian*. Although MLIS graduates do not have ownership over this title, most working in the field will agree that it is a title predominantly borne by graduates of an “ALA accredited graduate program”. While not all who bear the name “library technician” will have a library technology diploma, most will be graduates of a library technician program (there are around 17 currently in Canada, 7 within Quebec, alone). Examining the context of work and the expectations of 21<sup>st</sup> century library technicians is a very necessary activity.

For a number of complex reasons, library technicians have had a very small voice in library politics. More specifically, technicians do not have a significant and empowered role in the scope of their own education. The formal, academic education of technicians is shaped by a variety of inputs, including advising from the field of practice. This advising, as recommended by the [CLA Guidelines for the Education of Library Technicians](#), usually consists of a program advisory committee. As their name suggests, these committees act only in an advising capacity and meetings are, generally, initiated by the program coordinators. Although there are review guidelines prescribed by their respective academic institutions, there is no other structure of review for these programs. While, many of the LIT programs in Canada are healthy and robust, they struggle to meet the increasing expectations of the field, just as the field struggles to keep up with the expanding expectations of their communities. When there is a need to increase resources for these programs, there is no helpful mechanism in which these programs can call upon. This is why I have spent a significant amount of time investigating the feasibility of introducing a program of accreditation of LIT programs.

Such a process is not intended to accredit individuals graduating from programs. Rather, it is a quality review process that extends beyond the academic institution to an impartial advisory group

that collects information to assess the strengths, opportunities and resource needs of specific programs. Such a process involves a self-study conducted by faculty in the program, collection of relevant data including student enrolments, graduations, course offerings, etc., as well as a site visit to examine the physical facilities and context of each program. It is also common that current and former students are questioned in the effort to present as comprehensive an understanding of the program, as possible.

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**“Accreditation, ultimately, should be used as a tool to fortify programs and their graduates so that their contributions to the profession are both substantial and relevant.”**

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There is much confusion around the use of accreditation across all professions because it has been used inappropriately, at times. It is not intended to be a process of exclusion, creating only a “special” club of programs. Doing so, would suggest that the goal of accreditation is to create an elitist set of programs that would garner greater support and interest from the field, while allowing other programs, with potential, to wither and die because they are not given the necessary support to improve and develop. Accreditation, ultimately, should be used as a tool to fortify programs and their graduates so that their contributions to the profession are both substantial and relevant. With increasing pressures to be flexible, knowledgeable, assertive and forward-looking, library staff, of all types, need to have a more active role in their own preparatory and continuing education. This can be done, in part, by aiding in the identification of competencies needed for the modern technician. These competencies need to extend beyond those described in the [CLA Guidelines](#) by recognizing specializations, soft skills and theoretical knowledge that better reflects the complex choices and business carried out by technicians.

Unlike the incredibly uneven and disparate library technician recognition and education of the United States, Canadian technicians have an opportunity to lead their portion of the profession by advocating for better library education leadership. While accreditation is one method of achieving this, there are many options available, including the simple practice of openly discussing issues pertaining to education. There are a number of library technician and assistant associations in Canada and this may be an excellent platform for beginning such discussions.

The issues relating to education extend far beyond the walls of an LIT program. First, there is the need to come to terms with the evolving nature of information work. Secondly, an examination of the type of work performed by information professionals merits exploration. For example, from my own experience, many prospective students seek out LIT programs for a career in libraries because of their love of reading and a very simplistic view of what it means to work in a library. Granted, part of a library educator’s job is to dispel the myths and misconceptions held by new students but there are many who hold on to these views past graduation. The absence of comprehensive mentorship programs and other professional supports can perpetuate inaccurate views of library work from within the profession. In other words, the profession cannot hinge the success of its members entirely on programs that introduce new graduates. There must be a continuum support that encourages growth and leadership for library support staff. It is not enough to hope that library managers and administrators represent the interests of support staff. It is up to that support staff to promote and direct their needs in consultation with others in the field.

The present situation of school libraries provides an excellent example to illustrate this point. In days long gone, those interested in working in school libraries would be encouraged to develop their skills in designing displays, bulletin boards, and storytimes. Students would deepen their understanding of materials, particularly books for children. First and

foremost, they would have to like working with children. In many workplace situations, technicians would be working with a teacher librarian, deferring most decisions to that teacher. There would be a significant amount of basic cataloguing and processing of materials with long periods of work being performed in relative isolation from other staff.

Today, this picture is profoundly different. Consequently, those who seek work in this area must focus on developing their promotional and interpersonal skills. School technicians MUST advocate the importance of their skills and the role they have in supporting student achievement. Although recreational reading remains an important component to student achievement, the role of the library (or learning commons, in some cases) needs to be greatly expanded, calling on skills that are unique to information professionals. These skills include a deep understanding of information literacy and its relationship to long-term student performance. Technicians must be vocal advocates for their own skills and the needs of students. Liaising with teachers and, most importantly, principals and other administrative stakeholders is essential to grounding the centre of learning in the library. School libraries must be treated as “idea” centres, places where ideas are exchanged as well as places of research and exploration. However, if library technicians and the broader library community do not stand up and be vocal about the importance of such libraries, they will continue to erode and, eventually, slip away. The blame will not solely rest on the shoulders of principals or school boards. It will also rest with us.

Having spent eight years teaching in and directing a LIT program, I have observed many changes in employer expectations. Included among these is a growing emphasis on interpersonal skills. Employers seem more willing to train new staff on the idiosyncrasies of their information systems if they are able to hire people with an appreciation for learning, taking on responsibility, being flexible to change and interested in technology. Some of our most stellar graduates are those that have taken on leadership roles. These graduates are willing to organize functions, solicit input from their peers,

promote their ideas and engage in planning – all while maintaining an interest in the developments of the profession. In response to this, we have endeavored to create more opportunities for leadership and community involvement.

A solid future for library workers must be grounded in fortifying our education programs, expanding access to formal and informal continuing education programs, heightening awareness of technician needs and expectations and strengthening collaboration between associations and other interest groups who represent library support staff interests. Accreditation is one piece of this puzzle and may, in fact, provide some binding ingredients for technician interests by calling on their support and involvement in the process.

There is much work to do but there are many shoulders capable of sharing the load.



<http://www.ufv.ca/libtech>

**Check out OALT/ABO's  
response to the proposed  
accreditation for Library  
Technicians**





Ontario Association of Library Technicians  
Association des bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario

Saturday September 17, 2011

Christina Neigel  
Library and Information Technology, Program head  
University of the Fraser Valley

**RE: ACCREDITATION FOR LIBRARY TECHNICIANS: A PROPOSAL OUTLINE**

Dear. Ms. Christina Neigel:

On Saturday September 17, 2011 at the second meeting of the 2011-2012 executive of the Ontario Association of Library Technician/Association des bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario I presented your letter requesting support for your pursuit of an accreditation endeavour for the library technicians programs in Canada. At this time I wish to relay to you that your request for support in your research into accreditation has gained unanimous support from the executive of OALT/ABO.

It has become apparent over the preceding months that post-secondary education within Canada requires reform. These reforms will hopefully better equip those graduating from post-secondary institutions to meet the challenges of the global world. There seems no better place to begin this reevaluation of the programs offered at institutions within Canada than with the library and information profession.

The research you conduct will ultimately assist the library technician within the profession accept or reject accreditation for Canadian college's library and information technology programs, however, the process towards this decision is a necessary and belated one.

Again, I wish to express the support of the Ontario Association of Library Technicians/Association des bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario in your research of the pursuit of an accreditation endeavour for the library and information technology programs in Canada.

Regards,

Michael David Reansbury

# OALT/ABO Student Award Winners

Every year, OALT/ABO awards one student from each of the LIT programs in Ontario. This award is based on grades and an interest in the profession.



Congratulations, in no particular order, to:

Heather Sutherland - Mohawk College

Jessica Reeve- Algonquin College

Jessica van Keulen- Seneca College

## Jessica Reeve



Jessica Reeve has consistently maintained excellent grades throughout the two year Library and Information Technician Program at Algonquin College. She was actively involved in the classroom and volunteered to assist students in their studies. She served as a Peer tutor, to assist students in first year to achieve academic success. She willingly took on roles in group projects, such

as the dreaded public speaker role, on behalf of her team. She was always flexible, adaptable and helpful. She assisted with events outside of the regular classroom activities, such as volunteering to help with fundraising initiatives for the Algonquin Reads project. She also submitted the winning proposal to speak at the OALT/ABO conference to be held in Ottawa, May 4-7, 2011.

In addition to her classroom studies, Jessica served as a Student Representative on the executive of the CLA-CASLIS Ottawa Chapter for the 2019-2011 term. She attended monthly meetings and helped with running the workshops and programs. She has demonstrated that she is actively engaged in the profession.

~Helena Merriam, Program Coordinator

L.I.T. Program at Algonquin College



# Heather Sutherland



**M**y name is Heather Sutherland, and I live in Riverview, New Brunswick. I am very pleased to be the recipient of the OALT/ABO award for 2011. After a career in business, followed by several years at home raising my two children, I decided to pursue a career in the library field. I now work in an elementary school library, which enables me to share my love of books and reading with so many children.

Through the Library and Information Technician program at Mohawk College, I have learned not only the practical skills needed to perform my job, but so much more. This program has helped me to understand the big issues that library staff face today, and the importance of embracing new technologies, in order to stay relevant in an ever-changing world.



# Jessica van Keulen

**T**here are two criteria for selecting the award winner. First, the student must have top grades, all As and A+s. Jessica certainly met this criteria. The second criteria is the student's interest and activity as a library technician. We always hope to select someone who will contribute to OALT/ABO. Jessica's knowledge of the work of technicians, their workplaces, etc. is excellent. Before coming into the program, she very thoroughly researched library technicians and she continued to do this throughout the program.

Jessica was always the student who when an issue was brought up in class would find out more about it and then bring it back for her classmates. She was always very engaged. She even researched whether or not Merv Tweed was running again in the federal election! In LIT400 we had covered the newest Bill that Merv Tweed had put forward in support of the library book rate, when the election was called. Of course, once the election was called, we had to discuss its effect on copyright and the library book rate. I said "I wonder if Merv Tweed is running again?" Jessica brought me the answer the next day!

~Deborah Kay, Program Coordinator

L.I.T. Program at Seneca College



# 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:** Duda Trickovic

**Currently enrolled at/Alumni of:** I am taking my last 2 courses at Seneca College for the Library and Information Technician Diploma. I should be graduating by the end of 2011.

**Years as an OALT/ABO member:** 2

**Current position :** Library Technician at Branksome Hall and volunteer for AskOn – Ask Ontario doing virtual reference.

**If I had to sum up my job in one sentence:** Everything but boring.

**Best part of your job:** I like all parts of my job. I enjoy interacting with people

and the opportunity to help them find information they need. I also like the technical part of the job, and I enjoy using new technologies. With new technologies emerging on an ongoing basis there are endless opportunities to use them in the library very often with little or no cost.

**Inspiration for working in this field:** I have always liked reading, and I visit my local library on a regular basis. When I was deciding on my second career, I realized that I enjoy spending time in the library. There is just something about smell of old books. But it is not just that. Going through the Library and Information Technician program I realised how today's libraries are much more than books on the shelf. A big part of my job is locating reliable information for library users. Most up to date information is usually found in some of the many subscription databases.

**Latest technological discovery:** I like to read newspapers but because of the excess amount of paper, I mostly read newspapers on-line. I recently discovered that you can subscribe to the digital version of the newspaper for your e-reader. I personally have a kindle, but you can read it on any e-reader. I think that I am going to try it.

**I Keep up to date professionally by:**

Reading, reading and reading. I always read a lot, the only difference today is that the majority of my reading is in digital form.

I find the newsletters of Ontario Association of Library Technicians and Ontario Library Association an excellent source of library profession news.

**First job ever:** Tutoring math

**I can't live without:** Reading

**What I am reading:** Sarah's Key by Tatiana de Rosnay

**Facebook or twitter:** I have a facebook account but I am not very active, I am yet to open a twitter account.

**E-Book or Traditional book:** I am using both but so far I still prefer the traditional book. On the other hand, by working in a school I can see first hand that for younger generations e-books are always the first if not the only choice.

**Prediction for the future:** Technology today is changing so fast, it is hard to even imagine what we will have in six months. When it comes to libraries, we can already see a lot of cost cutting. I read recently that some libraries are closing the reference desk in the library and instead offering only virtual reference service. Virtual reference service will allow for several libraries to pool their resources together, so costs will go down, and at the same time it is easier to offer longer hours for the virtual reference.

**WHY PEOPLE HAVE JOINED  
THE OALT/ABO  
DISCUSSION LIST:  
(SEE PAGE 38 ON HOW TO  
JOIN)**

"I will graduate from the LIT program at Seneca College in 2012 and would love to connect with others in the library field."

"I am here hoping to network and gain industry insight in the library and information field."

"I am a LIT student at Algonquin College. I would like to join the group discussion so that I can stay informed and hopefully help others get informed."

"I am thinking of becoming a member, again. And this week particularly, I would like to know what the LIT are thinking about School Libraries, about what we hear in the news. "

"I will graduating from the LIT program at Seneca College in 2012 and would love to connect with others in the library field."

"I'm a recent graduate, looking for library work in Ontario. I subscribe to a number of library mailing lists, but they are all American, so the Ont. focus of this list really appeals to me."

# Food 4 Fines @ OCAD University: Advocacy, Community Engagement, and Library Promotions

By Shireen Harbin, Circulation Intern,  
OCAD University

The idea for running a Food 4 Fines event came from an OALT/ABO listserv post at the beginning of the year from our very own Jessica Goodman (co-editor of our fine newsletter). The post described the exchange of donations for relief in overdue fines in the public library setting. Could this be done in an academic setting? The question stewed in the back of my head. The motivation came over the quiet of summer as we worked on a large (necessary but not necessarily exciting) weeding project. A Food 4 Fines program would be fun. And we could fill the usually empty Starving Artist Pantry donation bin 'til it overflowed.

I talked over the idea with a few colleagues to see if people thought it was a good idea (they did!). Then I conducted research. I searched a few databases that I had access to through work and through Seneca Libraries (before my student account expired). A few short articles popped up, but they were all centred on public libraries. Google searches, however, provided links to many colleges and universities that successfully ran such projects. These links gave great insight into such questions as how long to run the event, what time of year works

best for hosting it, and how much one donation might equal in overdue fines. I also put out a request for feedback from academic libraries that were running or had run Food 4 Fines programs on the OALT/ABO listserv. I tried to think up as many questions as I could that needed answering, focusing on ways to make the program run smoothly. With the help of my Librarian colleague Katya Pereyaslavskaya, I wrote a proposal for the campaign to be run for two weeks around Thanksgiving.

Our aim was threefold:

- Advocacy - on behalf of our patrons; by allowing them to pay off overdue fines by donating food, accounts could be cleared up, and people who had been avoiding the library because of fines would return to use our resources.
- Community engagement – partnering with other members of the OCAD U community to support a worthwhile cause. Our cause was the Starving Artist Pantry, run by the Student Union.
- Library promotions – promoting the library as an active member of the OCAD U community in an attempt to dispel myths about libraries being passive (or passé) institutions.

Our Learning Zone Librarian, Marta Chudolinska, designed our poster and a logo which we used on all of our communications (including the buttons we had made specifically for the event). We set up a Facebook page and a Twitter account to reach people through social media. As their Starving Artist Pantry would be the recipient of our efforts, we partnered with the Student Union in order to reach student and staff groups by the masses (through email, e-newsletters, etc.) and to arrange pick-ups of donations throughout the campaign.

We had no idea what to expect during the event. Would it be successful?

We ran our first campaign for two weeks in October with great success! People donated to reduce or eliminate fines. People without fines donated to

## Theme Feature

support our worthy cause (we encouraged this!). We received much positive feedback from students, staff and faculty throughout the event. A library staff member wore our button to an organizational meeting and received kudos on the idea behind Food 4 Fines. As always, budgetary concerns arise for libraries, but we found that people continued to pay their fines with cash because they found it to be a more convenient option. Library staff showed their team spirit and support by contributing creativity and ideas toward the efficient running of the program.

Our campaign was so successful in raising donations for the Starving Artist Pantry that we were asked to do it again! This time around we are running our campaign for 6 weeks leading up to the end of term alongside OCAD U's annual Holiday Food Drive. By the end of our second week, we had surpassed donations from our first campaign! And the donations continue to come pouring in. We found that phoning people on our overdue list to remind them that Food 4 Fines was happening resulted in the most donations, sometimes as soon as the next day.

Tips on running a successful campaign:

- Conduct some research and write a proposal – It was particularly useful to present examples of other academic libraries that had run successful programs.
- Get your circulation staff on board – They will be doing the grunt work.
- Employ social media – Facebook, Twitter. A simple and fun way to reach the masses. Also a good excuse to become familiar with social media (this is the first time I've used Twitter – it's so easy!)



*Using Social Media to Promote Food 4 Fines*

- Make it interesting and fun – Decorate your bin seasonally, take photos, wear buttons!
- Make it cost effective – Have staff design the posters and buttons and print them yourself to reduce costs. Borrow a button maker from a friend (button making could even be a library event!) or find a commercial button maker with reasonable costs. We found that having our buttons made in bulk was much cheaper than renting the equipment.
- Write an evaluation – Summarize statistics (ie. how much money was replaced by food donations), highlight successes, and make recommendations for improvements.

Food 4 Fines is a great way to show patrons that the library is not just a place to hold books and that library staff are a caring group of advocates and leaders that can be creative in contributing to their community.

Many thanks to the respondents of my listserv request. In particular, I would like to thank Cyndi Smith, Library Technician at Georgian College Library, for answering each of my questions in such detail and sharing the success of their program with me. They run their Food 4 Fines program year round! Now that's inspirational!





# Here's to the End of Silos

By Michael David Reansbury, President

It is that time of year when invoices start to arrive for renewals of subscriptions, whether they are electronic or print. While one might assume that a single, rather large, company would send just one invoice for all products they supply \*cough\* EBSCO \*cough\* this is not the case: each silo within the company sends its own separately. Not only does this make budgeting and reminiscing a rather large pain in the age of transparency such practices begs the question why are companies still continuing their operations in silos?

I wish that I could say it is just companies that continue to practice operational management in terms of silos but this is simply not the case. The library profession itself still continues to operate in silos. Case in point: when OLA was considering format changes to Super Conference it was decided to offer streams; public, special, academic and school, to name the most pervasive. For it is reasoned, given the feedback OLA received about Super Conference that those that work in each type of library only want to attend sessions geared towards that particular type of library. In effect library staffs, like large corporation like their silos.

Given the adherence to the idea that we work in and network in silos it is reasonable that many in the profession advocate in silos. The line of argument would go: a library technician working in a school library, for example, is the best positioned to advocate for school library technicians. There is one very large, glaring flaw to this line of reason: it is based on an assumption.

On Friday November 18<sup>th</sup> I attend an all day symposium at U of T titled: Academic Librarianship – A Crisis or an Opportunity. The problem with the name aside<sup>i</sup>, listening to the panels and speakers by day's end I had come to one single conclusion: academic librarians are not the best positioned to advocate for themselves. In this specific case the eureka moment came when a speaker from the University of Western Ontario libraries was discussing her recent experience during the strike this fall by librarians at Western<sup>ii</sup>. Of the possible choice of people at university that were positioned to advocate: the librarians themselves, students, faculty, I realized that none of these groups would have the greatest impact on proving to the administration the importance of librarians. The key

advocates that would ensure administrative never question the importance of library staff and libraries to the institution again would not be found, necessarily, daily on the campus: alumni.

In a time of government fiscal restraint universities and colleges are looking to donors to make up for short falls in budgets. While alumni have always been dollar signs to university and colleges they are now much more significant and crucial potential decimal points on excel spreadsheets. Had enough alumni of Western, those that graduated from the MLIS program, those that received under graduated degrees and have gone on, like myself, to complete an LT diploma, hell, those now working as lawyers in law firms, doctors and nurses in hospital where their lively hood and that of their clients depend on the work of library staff written a letter to the university senate or had tweeted 140 characters at their dismay that the university might undervalue trained library staff how much quicker would a resolution have occurred?

comment from a Toronto Star article. As one possible way to cut library expenditures it was put forward that TPL should stop purchasing DVDs as it is duplicating a service offered by video rental stores. Helen Morris a patron that only uses the library to take out physical books questioned the logic behind this move by saying “A DVD is no different than a book or a book on tape or a magazine. It's just another form of media.<sup>iii</sup>” A library technician is a library technician. We are not grain.

i See my president's message for my discussion on these two concepts

ii Kristin Hoffman, 'Academic Librarians on the Front Lines', Academic Librarianship – a Crisis or Opportunity?, Symposium, Koffler House, Toronto, 18 Nov. 2011.

iii Wagner, Vit. 'Should libraries be in the video business.' Toronto Star. Dec. 4, 2011. <http://www.thestar.com/news/article/1096939--should-libraries-be-in-the-video-business>.



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**“ I do know however that keeping libraries and their staff filed neatly away in separate silos serves no one.”**

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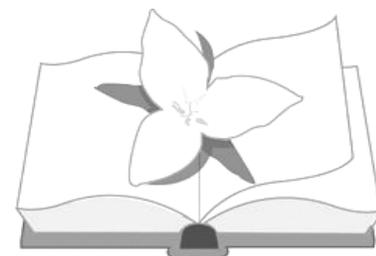
Not being a farmer or having studying agriculture I can only assume it is reasonable to keep grain in silos. The ancient Egyptian did and their civilization flourished for some 2000 years. I do know however that keeping libraries and their staff filed neatly away in separate silos serves no one. As information professionals we may not know any facts, statistics, or structural hierarchies for libraries other than the one we currently work at but we can find out. So saying I do not know is not an option. If instead you wish to say I do not want to know well that is your own choice.

In a last ditch attempt to sway those still firmly entrenched in their silo to step out I wish to share a

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**Have you visited our website lately?**

**[www.oaltabo.on.ca](http://www.oaltabo.on.ca)**



**OALT / ABO**



# A Successful Equation

By Cathy Rivard,  
LIT graduate,  
Seneca College '11

**P**revious Career: Almost 15 years as a Software Quality Assurance Analyst, most recently for a company that developed and hosted e-commerce solutions for online shopping prior to taking a year off to attend Seneca College.

Current Job Title: Senior Business Analyst/Social Software Specialist, The Dominion of Canada General Insurance Company.

**Blazing New Trails:  
Software QA Analyst +  
Library and Information  
Technician Diploma =  
Wiki Gardener**

I used to have a hard time explaining how someone with an Honours B.A. degree in History from Queen's University ended up testing software for a living. The simple answer was "by accident", as the opportunity arrived through a former co-worker while I was working at an insurance company and looking for a change. I discovered an aptitude for software testing and worked at several different companies for almost 15 years, until I felt again it was time for a change. Now it's even harder to

describe how my education as a Library and Information Technician brought me to my new job as a "Social Software Specialist". Again, the simple answer involves my personal network: a former co-worker with a connection to my manager. But the better answer is that my experience testing software plus my recent library education are ideal preparation for being a Wiki Gardener.

Without the personal connection to this job, I would never have found it. "Library and Information Technician" was nowhere in the job description. The references to "social software" were more likely to attract candidates with marketing backgrounds who thought the job was about using Web 2.0 tools to promote an insurance company. But this role is all about helping users find and organize information. My library doesn't have any books in it; it's a software application, in this case a Wiki, that serves as a repository of business analysis documentation for a large group of business analysts. It also contains lots of other information about projects, procedures, and training that helps my co-workers get their jobs done.

It only took a few minutes to determine that my recent education as a Library and Information Technician was ideal preparation for a Wiki Gardener. Effective gardening requires the ability to organize information effectively, and involves lots of coaching and instruction for the user group that consumes and creates that information. Learning how to use the software tool and being able to teach others are vital. Promoting the adoption of the Wiki in the organization (both the software tool and the information repository itself) is at the heart of every task. My experience testing software adds to my effectiveness, as I learn new software quickly and can apply problem solving skills to enhancing the use of the software to achieve our needs.

I'm sure that there are many roles out there in all kinds of organizations, public and private, which are a great fit for a Library and Information Technician. Be flexible about what you consider a "library", and look for opportunities to help companies manage their "information". This approach to job hunting is

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**“ Make the most of a unique combination of skills...and you’ll find that you can be a library technician even if your actual job title says something else.”**

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challenging, and you will probably have to convince a prospective employer that what they’re looking for is a library technician long before they would ever figure that out. But fortunately many in our chosen field have other career experiences in addition to their library education and experience.

Make the most of a unique combination of skills to help others solve their information problems, and you’ll find that you can be a library technician even if your actual job title says something else.



**WHY PEOPLE HAVE JOINED THE  
OALT/ABO  
DISCUSSION LIST:  
(SEE PAGE 38 ON HOW TO JOIN)**

“I am a library and information technician student at Durham College and exploring a variety of avenues to gain further knowledge and to help support future career searches. “

“A colleague suggested that I send a library technician job opening to your discussion group.”

“I am planning to go back to school in 2012 to take the library and information technician program. I thought this discussion group might provide more info on this particular career.”

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDERS!  
UPCOMING 2012  
CONFERENCES**

**OLA: February 1st –  
4th Toronto,  
Ontario**

**OALT/ABO: May 3rd –  
5th King City,  
Ontario**

**CLA: May 30th –  
June 2nd Ottawa,  
Ontario**

*Do you have any suggestions for  
improvements to the website?  
We also accept content for  
promotion of OALT/ABO events,  
job postings, etc send your ideas  
and comments to  
[info@oaltabo.on.ca](mailto:info@oaltabo.on.ca)*

# Would I Choose This Career Path Again?

By Pam Casey, CTT+  
President, Information Now

**M**y life has taken many twists and turns over the last 57 years but would I travel the same path, if given the chance?  
ABSOLUTELY.

As I was growing up in Ancaster, my dream was to go into nursing. Almost made it, except for failing biology in grade 13. This ended that career path.

So off to the next path, which was Social Work.

I graduated as a Social Service Worker from Mohawk College in Hamilton and then got married. We moved to Montreal and then a second career path ended. I am not bilingual and most of the clients in Quebec are French speaking – only.

We moved back to Ontario and after small jobs and 3 children, went back to work. I heard about this great job – Library Technician in the local school board. It was close to the kids, summers and winter breaks off, so off I went. I worked for the Halton

School Board for over 8 years, all the while volunteering in many different positions in community groups.

Then the business world opened up for me and I went to work as a business searcher for the library at GSK in Mississauga. That led to me managing a library for NPS Pharmaceuticals. While I was at NPS, I started my business. This was meant to be a hobby business as I never intended to leave NPS. But the future was not meant for me to be at NPS, and so when the Canadian operation closed, I got the push I needed and Information Now became a full time company for me. Now to the present – November 2011. I am working with several clients and thinking of expanding my business to take on workers to assist me.

Things are wonderful.

So why did I tell you all of this? Recently over the past year, with the downturn of the economy, things are getting very unsure. Libraries are closing, librarians and library technicians are losing jobs and the future is not looking good for employment.

So give up? Too much doom and gloom? NEVER!!!!

So what I have done to survive? I network, network, network through all sorts of mediums, I take courses, webinars, and I attend conferences.

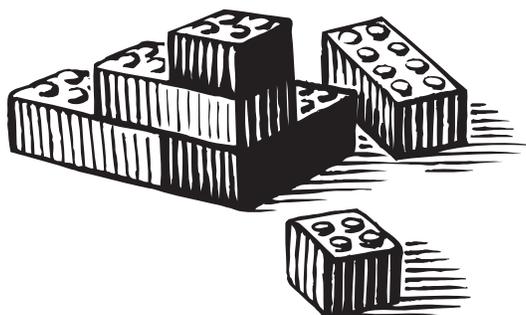
I am on Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, Windows Live, and every discussion list that I see which is useful for me.

Below is a list of the 24 groups that I am involved in on LinkedIn. The group I started on LinkedIn is called Job Skills for Future Library Careers. We now have over 1,055 members from the global community and it is a thriving group with lots of discussions.

## LinkedIn Group List

- Job Skills for Future Library Careers
- NPS Allelix Alumni
- SLA Toronto Chapter
- SLA Toronto West SUBGROUP
- SLA Solo Librarians Division
- SLA Knowledge Management Division
- Special Libraries Association

- SLA Toronto - Solos SUBGROUP
- Buslib-l
- Knowledge Workers Toronto
- Network of Information Professionals
- CILIP: Library, Information and Knowledge Professionals
- GSK Employees and Alumni Network
- Company of Women
- Internet Librarian
- Pharmaceutical & Health Technology Division (PHTD) of the SLA
- Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Professionals Worldwide Network
- Future Ready Begins Today
- Taxonomy Community of Practice
- ARMA Toronto Chapter
- Career Sustainability
- Consultants Network
- Education Institute - The Partnership
- Information, Knowledge and Content Management Specialists



I don't actively participate in the discussions in each of the groups above but I certainly do monitor what is happening.

I also belong to OALT/ABO, Special Library Association, Company of Women, and Knowledge Workers of Toronto. I am considering other associations but for right now, that is it. I try to attend the meetings of each group and when I do attend, I network.

Is it hard to network? Yes it is. I have a hearing issue which makes it difficult to talk and chat and I get butterflies every time I walk in the room. I want to go

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## **“So what have I done to survive? I network, network, network through all sorts of medium.”**

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to the people I know and escape talking to anyone else. But NO – that would not get me anywhere.

So my recommendation is that the door is never closed on ANYONE!!!! Just got to keep trying. I live in Burlington and I have worked in Mississauga, Pickering, North Toronto, Brampton and downtown Toronto. I go wherever the job takes me. I have a car (which I know makes it easier) but I usually take public transportation to my contract rather than drive.

So what are you going to do after you read this article? You should go and get involved (my group would be great) but any group is good. Talk to someone you don't know and start using social media tools. One of my great friends (Marion Doucette) is a guru in this area. Attend OLA in February 2012 and of course go to the annual conference of OALT/ABO in May 2012 (which this year is in King City at the Seneca College Campus – “Blazing New Trails/Découvrir de Nouvelles Voies”).

Please contact me if you would to have more information about anything that I have written about.

Pam Casey, CTT+, President, Information Now

Burlington Ontario

[pamcasey@informationnow.ca](mailto:pamcasey@informationnow.ca)

[www.informationnow.ca](http://www.informationnow.ca)

*"You can never quit. Winners never quit, and quitters never win." - Ted Turner*



# Moving with the Times

By Janice Russell,  
Library Technician,  
Niagara Health System

**M**y Library Technician role changed when I was asked to do a presentation during the meeting of our senior management team. It was a situation of convenience since my manager, who is also a librarian, was unavailable on that day. Our medical library has minimal staff which leads to another factor. I'm the sole full time person and therefore have an understanding of all regular tasks.

The manager and I discussed the presentation and decided on content that was familiar to me and would also work as an update. The 5 – 10 minute allotment included questions afterwards. I created a Power Point slide show to convey an overview of the library's e-resources, performance (using statistics), recent achievements and accomplishments related to classroom training, and future plans. It was a good opportunity to promote our services and I may be expected to do this again when needed.

However, due to the content and audience I felt this presentation was more appropriate for a manager/librarian. So I posted a question on LinkedIn, the business-oriented social networking site, to the group entitled Library and Information Technicians. I asked if other Library Technicians had been called on to do similar presentations. The answers were

interesting. While they expressed the usual presentation type tasks such as entry level training and presentations for peers, the thought that traditionally librarians have done presentations not only for senior management was evident. I came to the conclusion that as the boundaries in library intersect, anyone who is capable of making a clear presentation may be asked to do so irrelevant to their title.

P.S – the meeting was postponed until the next month and evidently my manager will be there to present and I will assist. You never know how it will all turn out but preparation is the key as “next time” is just around the corner.

The LinkedIn logo, consisting of the word "Linked" in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by "in." in a smaller font inside a dark square.

**Library and Information  
Technicians  
Group**

## Profiles

(CoP) for the organization. It continues to this day as a knowledge sharing tool, and has grown out of practices promoted by early CoP/KM pioneers Etienne Wenger and Jean Lave. Simply put it's a way of capturing tacit knowledge (the stuff stored in your head) so it can be useful to others.

# Meet Susan Morley

Manager, Information & Knowledge  
Management

Global Learning Services | CSA Group

I have worked in the Information Services Industry for 30+ years, and as my title indicates I am responsible for Information & Knowledge Management at CSA Group (aka Canadian Standards Association). You may recognize this engineering services firm as Canada's first Standards Development Organization (est. 1919), which is also a certification, product evaluation and testing body. We deal with a vast range of subject areas, from the Canadian Electrical Code to Solar Cells and most things in between, and the collection of the "Information Centre" collection reflects this diversity. Founded in 1970 as a staff library, the Information Centre now provides hard copy and electronic collections serving local and international staff. All managed under my guidance, as a solo librarian.

As part of CSA's Knowledge Management initiative, in 2007 I established a Communities of Practice

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“Volunteering and professional development often complement one another.”

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Volunteering and professional development often complement one another. This is my 2nd year with the Engineering Division of the Special Libraries Association 2012 conference committee, chairing the "Standards Update" session. In my "spare time" I volunteer as the webmaster for the Chinguacousy Garden Club (Ontario Horticultural Association) and help out with some public gardens. I'm also acting church historian and webmaster (<http://www.nbpc.ca/>) for North Bramalea Presbyterian Church.



## Friendly Reminder

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

**Thank you for your continued support!**



**MOHAWK**  
COLLEGE

## Update from Mohawk College - Library and Information Technician Program

**H**appy New Year to OALT/ABO members from the Library and Information Technician Program at Mohawk College. May the year ahead provide you with the opportunity to enrich your professional and personal life.

At Mohawk our convocation is held annually in the fall. This past November we were very pleased to recognize our graduates from the library technician diploma program and from the records management certificate program. From our graduating class, we have honoured five of our graduates in particular with awards based on their academic achievement: Anita de Angelis and Marina Dmitrievskaia with the Geraldine Hughes Cataloguing Award, Heather Darlington and Deborah Lunt with our Library Technician Award, and Heather Sutherland with the OALT/ABO Award. All of our graduates can be very proud of their hard work in achieving their goal by completing our program and graduating as library technicians.

Our winter term registration is open and courses began on Friday January 13. The final deadline for registering for winter courses, where there is still space available, was Thursday January 19.

OALT members may be interested in taking courses in our program for professional development, and as a graduate library technician you can consider yourself as meeting the prerequisites for any course. Our courses are all taught online. Courses for this winter are:

LIBRLT335	Multimedia
LIBRLT405	Law Libraries and Legal Research
LIBRLT375	School Libraries
LIBR10004	Health Libraries and Resources
LIBR10002	Government Information
LIBR10003	Cataloguing Electronic & Internet Resources
LIBR10036	Strategies for Instruction for Library Technicians

Details of winter term courses, and a list of upcoming spring courses are listed at

<http://disted.mohawkcollege.ca/library>

under "Program of Studies".

From February 1 to 4, Mohawk will again be joining with the library technician programs from Seneca and Algonquin colleges, as well as the OALT/ABO, to share a booth at the OLA Super Conference in Toronto. If you are at the conference, please stop by to say hello.

If there are any questions about our courses, please contact me at 905-575-2309 or email

[dolores.harmspenner@mohawkcollege.ca](mailto:dolores.harmspenner@mohawkcollege.ca)

Respectfully submitted,

Dolores Harms Penner

Program Manager

Library and Information Technician Diploma Program

Records and Information Management Certificate Program

Mohawk College

[www.mohawkcollege.ca](http://www.mohawkcollege.ca)

# Durham College Launches New Graduate Certificate Program in Legal Research and Information Management

By Nicole Doyle

**A**re you looking for a way to enhance your skills and be more marketable to special libraries or non-traditional employers? Library Technicians looking for professional enrichment now have an exciting opportunity! In Fall 2012, Durham College will launch the new Legal Research and Information Management Graduate Certificate program. This program has been designed for graduates from library and information technician programs, as well as those with related professional experience. This two-semester program will be offered in condensed/hybrid format, with all on-site classes occurring on Wednesdays and Thursdays and the remainder of the program being delivered online. Students will gain advanced level skills in legal, government, and corporate research, managing and accessing information, and be exposed to intellectual property/copyright law, social networking and knowledge management technologies and systems. Graduates will be able to help law firms, government offices and other private business address the challenges of accessing, managing, and communicating in the information age. A two-semester "applied legal research" project will put the skills learned in class into practice. For more information, please visit our website at: <http://www.durhamcollege.ca/programs/legal-research-and-information-management-graduate-certificate/> or contact Nicole Doyle in the School of Justice and Emergency Services at Durham College



## 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](http://thepartnership.ca/partnership/bins/index_ei.asp)

**Professional Learning Centre**

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

OALT/ABO is now on

**facebook**

Look for us under

“Ontario Association of  
Library Technicians”

# ARE YOU SUBSCRIBED TO THE OALT/ABO DISCUSSION LIST?

## How to subscribe to the discussion list:

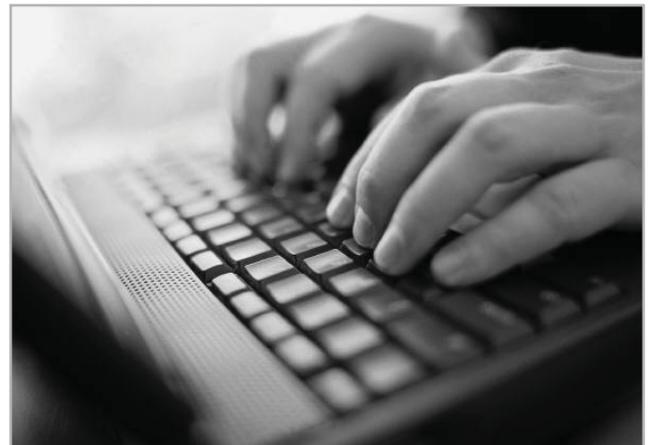
1. Go to the oaltabo website:  
[www.oaltabo.on.ca](http://www.oaltabo.on.ca)
2. Click on Discussion List under the left side Navigation menu
3. Enter your email address in the box in the middle of the page and click on Yahoo! Groups Join Now!
4. You see a page showing "Confirmation Message Sent"
  - 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.



# WHY PEOPLE HAVE JOINED THE DISCUSSION LIST:

“I would like to join the group because I am planning on enrolling in a LIT program and would like to learn more about the career and issues related to being a LIT from those already in the field.”

“I am a recent graduate of Seneca's Library Technician program, and would like to keep abreast of issues concerning the profession, as well as partake in a dialogue with other library technicians.”

“As a 'solo' Library Technician, I think it's important to connect and learn from each other in a forum such as this.”

“Travaille à La Cité collégiale. Réception des périodiques, renouvellement des abonnements, catalogage des livres et référence. Recherche idées pour promouvoir biblio.”

“I would like to know what is happening @ other elementary school libraries.”

“I am a Library Tech at OPL. Joining the group would be an opportunity to connect with other libraries & to keep up to date with trends, issues & concerns.”

“I am a library technician at a high school library and would like to connect with other LITs.”

## 2011 – 2012 Executive Contact List

**President:** Michael David Reansbury  
michaeldavidreansbury@gmail.com

**President-Elect:** Maria Ripley  
mariaripley5261@hotmail.com or  
mariaripley5261@gmail.com

**Treasurer:** Daisy Collins  
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**Membership:** Amy Dwyer  
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**Chapter Coordinator:** Millie Yip  
millieyip@gmail.com

**Conference Coordinator:** Carolin Toppan  
carolin.toppan@yahoo.ca

**External Communications Coordinator:** Donna Brown  
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**Internal Communications Coordinator:** Amna Hussain  
amna.hus@gmail.com

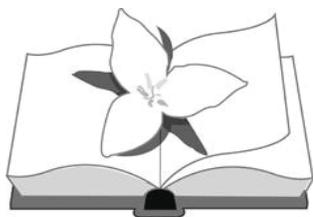
**Newsletter Editors**  
**Julie Cristinzo and Jessica Goodman:**  
oaltabonewsletter@gmail.com

**Archivist:** Kathi Vandenheuvel  
kathi.vandenheuvel@lambton.on.ca

# Welcome / Bienvenue

A very special welcome to all our new members:

Andree Bastien  
Tina Beaudoin  
Valerie Benigno  
Anna Botelho  
Pat Buczkowski  
Thomas Carter  
Timothy Coogan  
Cynthia Duncan  
Lisa Elchuk  
Lisa Henderson  
Patrick Kavanagh  
Patrice Peterkin  
Pierre Robichaud  
Ela Rusak  
Jasmine Seto  
Heather Sutherland  
Lyn Wisniewski



OALT / ABO

## Call for Submissions

We would love to hear from you, all and any 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
- \* Your blogs or blogs you enjoy, websites, your social cataloguing profiles; GoodReads, Shelfari, LibraryThing
- \* Photographs

**Please submit your articles to:**

**[oaltabonewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:oaltabonewsletter@gmail.com)**

Submission guidelines:

- \* Length is up to you although we will accept longer submissions if room permits.
- \* Microsoft Word Documents
- \* Accompanying photos (including of yourself ) and/or graphics are encouraged and can be submitted with your piece. Please send as a “.jpg” file.
- \* Indicate the names of the people in photos you submit
- \* With your submission please include your name, job title and place of employment (if applicable)
- \* We welcome articles in French

**The deadline is March 1st, 2012**

**Thank you!**