

# NewsLETTER NouVELLES

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

Another annual conference has come and gone. Sixty-seven attendees were on hand at Queen's University for the three days and four nights of the conference. While attendees had to contend with some rain and more than a few midges, overall, the conference was well received.

On Saturday, May 3 members of the Association meet for the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting; which was to be a somber meeting. Four board and two appointed officer positions remain unfilled. A special conference of the Association has been called for Saturday, October 18, 2014 (location and times to be announced).

I would like to take one last opportunity to impress upon my fellow Association members of the necessity of all members being in attendance at the Saturday, October 18, 2014 special conference and actively participating in the discussion about the future of the Association. As I outlined in the Winter 2014 Issue of the NewsLETTER/NouVELLES the membership is presented with four options for the Association's future:

1. The Association continues to operate as it is.
2. The Association, actively directed by the membership, looks to evaluate and reorganise itself.
3. The Association looks to amalgamate with another organisation.
4. The Association dissolves.

At this time the Association wishes to communicate the following to the membership:

The current board members and appointed officers of the Association:

- i. Jessica Reeve – President (board member)
- ii. Dana Schwarz – External Communication Coordinator (board member)
- iii. Serena McGovern – Internal Communication Coordinator (board member)
- iv. Amrita Maharaj – Archivist, Digital (appointed officer)

The executive of the Ottawa Chapter/Section d'Ottawa:

- i. Vincent Elit – President (appointed officer)
- ii. Krystal Benn – Vice President (appointed officer)

Congratulations to the 2014 Presidential Award Recipient Kate Morrison.

Finally, on a personal note I wish to thank those library technicians that I have had the pleasure of working with both formally and informally over the past four years on the Board of the Association. I now have the honour of not only counting you as my colleagues but also a good personal friends.

Michael David Reansbury  
Past, President

# EDITORS NOTE

As my role as Newsletter Editor comes to an end, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Board of Directors and association members for recognizing the value in the newsletter and for the continued support by way of submissions and feedback. I've said it before but it bears repeating—this is an association built on a solid foundation of strong and supportive membership.

Please continue to voice your opinions and advocate for our profession.

Sincerely,

Shannon Matthews

OALT/ABO Newsletter Editor

## Call for Submissions

We would love to hear from you, all contributions are appreciated. This newsletter is your window of opportunity!

**Please submit your articles to:**

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

Submission guidelines:

- \* 1500 words or less
- \* Indicate the names of the people in photos you submit
- \* With your submission please include your name and a line or two about yourself
- \* We welcome articles in French

### DISCLAIMER:

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

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## REPORT OF THE LIBRARY AND INFORMATION TECHNICIAN AND RECORDS AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 5, 2014

Pat McDonald, Associate Dean, Continuing Education, Creative and Visual Arts / Preparatory Studies, gave a college update. This year the college opened a new Athletic and Recreation Centre. Currently a search is on for a new President for Mohawk. She thanked Dolores Harms-Penner, Program Manager and Kathryn Deiter for their hard work in making the programs reviews successful both for the LT program last year and records management program this year. Comments that have come from other areas say that these programs should be held up as a standard for program development, delivery and review. Dolores Harms-Penner gave a program review. Highlights included:

- Programs have had a very positive year in terms of enrolment, course evaluations and the results of a program review process. Enrolment was up slightly. L
- Programs saw 56 graduates at the Continuing Education Convocation in October 2013. This year the LT program was featured in the Winter 2014 Continuing Education catalogue. One of the grads, Laura Ingles, was featured on the cover. Photos taken at a photo shoot prior to Convocation ceremonies appeared in around the college throughout the winter on banners and other promotional items. Noted was that this year's Ontario Association of Library Technicians/Association des bibliothécaires de l'Ontario - 2012 Award Winner given to the graduate with highest standing in library Technical subjects is Jeanette Charlebois. The Geraldine Hughes Cataloguing Award was won by Louanne Penny and the Library Technician Award for highest marks in all courses taken as part of the LT program is Valerie Blyth.
- The year saw the program settle into the revised curriculum which began in the 2012/2013 academic year – cataloguing courses were revised to cover RDA, restructuring of reference courses, replacing the computer hardware course with one on mobile technologies in libraries, incorporating Library of Congress Classification in the mandatory classification and moving inter-loan to the Circulation course and reworking Client Services course to Library Programming and Marketing Advocacy.
- Students are transferring into the Mohawk Program from Seneca's Continuing Education Program which has been discontinued.
- The program was featured in online advertising by Contact North, a government-funded distance education and training network.
- For the first time a course on Human Relations and Supervision will be offered in a condensed format (7 weeks) in May and June of this year.
- The most exciting and interesting news is that they are in the first stage of developing a post-diploma certificate for library technicians related to libraries and digital technologies. This program is right at the beginning stages and we look forward to hearing more about the program in the coming months.

Liz Aldrey  
Mohawk College Advisory Committee  
OALT/ABO Representative

# Using Competencies to Achieve Workplace Success

Today's libraries require an educated, knowledgeable, and skilled staff, capable of learning and adapting to a constantly changing landscape. Library employees of greatest value are those who understand what it takes to succeed in their current role. In this context it is important to appreciate the importance of training and development, and to see it as a shared responsibility.

While it is essential that managers budget for and actively pursue training and development opportunities for their staff, it is, at the same time, every staff member's responsibility to take charge of his or her own learning and development.

If you work in a library, your success is dependent upon your willingness and commitment to stay current and be a self-directed learner. Familiarity with competencies for library workers will help you set and manage learning goals that will contribute to your success.

## Understanding competencies

Competencies are the skills, abilities and knowledge you need to successfully perform your job and that the library needs for successful achievement of its strategic directions. Competencies provide a common language with which to describe the full range of work that happens in libraries, everything from public service to marketing, from programming to project management, and from collection development to web design.

## About the SOLS Competencies Index

The SOLS Competencies Index has been compiled as a staff development tool for Ontario public libraries. While written specifically for public libraries, much of the index will be relevant to other library settings.

The index will appeal to individuals who want to assess their own performance in relation to their current responsibilities and/or use the competencies as a way of preparing one's self for future positions and greater responsibilities. The competencies will make it easier for staff to identify a focus for training and development.

The index is divided into 5 categories:

Personal/Interpersonal

Management/Leadership

Public Service

Collection Management

Technology

Each category is made up of a number of skill sets and each skill set is made up of a number of competencies. For example, in the Public Service category, there is a skill set called Customer Service. Within the Customer Service skill set, there are four competencies. They are:

Provides assistance to library users in a manner that is warm, welcoming and respectful

Pro-actively pursues opportunities to assist library users, anticipating needs and exceeding expectations

Demonstrates comfort in assisting library users with disabilities and accommodating special needs

Demonstrates a good working knowledge of the full range of programs and services offered by the library.

In the index, each competency is accompanied by a list of knowledge, skills and abilities that describe what competence looks like. The fourth competency above, for example, is described as follows.

**Competency: Demonstrates a good working knowledge of the full range of programs and services offered by the library.**

Associated Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

Understands the need to assist customers in navigating the library's offerings

Offers suggestions to customers on programs and services that are relevant to their needs and interests

Stays current with new/changing programs and services by reading internal publications and frequently checking the library's website.

The description is helpful in assessing yourself in relation to the competency and if it's a competency you are working on developing, the description helps you understand the knowledge, skills and abilities you are working towards.

## How to use the Competencies

A simple way to understand how the competencies might be helpful is to browse the index. In the beginning, don't look for anything specific, but rather,

see if something peaks your interest. Pick a category to explore. If you work in public service, that might be the first category to browse. While you're in there, explore the skill sets that relate to your current work. Perhaps those competencies will seem very familiar to you, or perhaps, they will make you consider a new way of looking at your work.

If you're curious about what's required to do something other than your current job, to advance to a more senior role, go ahead and dip into another category. Aspiring managers, for example, will gain insight into what it takes to be a good manager by reading the Management/Leadership category.

Another approach is to explore those competencies which might be considered core or universal in nature. That is, everyone working in the library, regardless of their job, should master these skills, abilities and knowledge. In this regard, the Personal/Interpersonal category is worth checking out. The same is true of the Technology Core Competencies skill set that is part of the Technology category.

Once you have become familiar with the Competencies Index you may want to use it in a more formal way to create a learning path for yourself. There is a tool for creating a learning path on the SOLS website, including a sample learning path. The tool describes the following four steps which will guide your efforts to learn and grow:

1. Identify your learning priorities based on a thorough analysis.

2. Choose which competencies to develop by browsing the SOLS Competencies Index.

3. Find formal training and design informal learning opportunities.

4. Map it out over the next year in consultation with your manager.

A solid understanding of the competencies needed to do your job will contribute significantly to your own workplace success. In fact, a failure to appreciate the importance of competencies may lead to frustration on the job. The concept is that important!

## Other Ways Libraries Are Using Competencies

In addition to being used by individuals who want to learn and grow, competencies are also an important management tool.

They are used in a number of ways:

- to assess training needs and guide staff development
- to educate staff and board about the nature and scope of the work associated with a particular position
- to write job descriptions and job ads
- to reallocate work and reconfigure responsibilities
- to clarify performance expectations and provide a framework for a performance management system
- to plan for succession and future staffing needs.

Increasingly, competencies are recognized by libraries and other organizations as a valuable tool for strategic HR management. Competencies lead to a shared understanding of performance expectations, increasing the likelihood that every staff member will understand what is expected of them and will, therefore, be able to perform successfully. The concept of competencies is not likely to go away. In fact, they will only grow in importance as libraries continue to change and evolve, and those who work in libraries are continuously being asked to take on new and reinvented responsibilities.

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*Anne Marie Madziak is a library development consultant and leadership coach with Southern Ontario Library Service. She is very committed to helping people learn what they need to learn in order to be successful at work.*

The first three months of 2014 saw the Association involved in a number of meetings centered on advocacy. Library organisations across the country have heard from their members that advocacy needs to be a major focus for the library (and archival) community. What follows is a summary of three meetings that the Association participated in.

## Royal Society of Canada Expert Panel on The Status and Future of Canada's Libraries and Archives

The Association's President made an oral submission to panelist Dr. Patricia Demers, FRSC, Chair (University of Alberta) and Ken Roberts (Hamilton Public Library) on Friday, February 1, 2014 at the Ontario Library Association's Super Conference. Highlighted for the panelist were the biennial salary survey conducted by the Association and the proposal: [Accreditation for Library and Information Technology Programs in Canada: A Proposal](#). The President explained to the panelist present that the Association differs from other provincial and national associations in that the mission and mandate of the Association focuses on library technicians, an often under represented classification of library staff. The Expert Panel asked of those submitting to speak to what challenges organisations and institutions are facing. The panelist were informed that the major challenge facing the Association is that because of the volunteer nature of the Association's administration the continued existence of the Association hinges on library technicians stepping forward to fill roles on the board and as appointed officers.

In response to the Association's oral submission the panelist offered two pieces of information related to library technicians that they had gathered from other consultation. The first is that employers often feel that library technician education is focused on teaching library

technicians to do particular tasks. If a library technician is required or asked to take on additional task outside those that they learned in college there is often a reluctance or inability for library technicians to take on these additional tasks. As a result some employers are reluctant to hire library technicians. Second, it was noted that employers, when advertising for a library technician, are focusing on the technician nomenclature and assume that library technician are receiving extensive technology skills training. The panelist suggested that LIT programs will need to address the discrepancy between the technology skills employers want and what the programs are offering.

The Expert Panel on The Status and Future of Canada's Libraries and Archives expects to have a final report based on their national consultations available in the fall of 2014.

## Value, Influence, and Position Summit: A Strong Voice for Libraries

On Friday, February 28, the Ontario Library Association's Advocacy Committee brought together representatives of:

Administrators for Medium-Sized Public Libraries of Ontario

Administrators of Rural and Urban Public Libraries of Ontario

Canadian Association of Law Libraries

Canadian Library Association

Canadian Urban Libraries Council

Federation of Ontario Public Libraries

L'Association des bibliothèques de l'Ontario-Français

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

Ontario College and University Library Association

Ontario Library and Information Technology Association

Ontario Library Board's Association

Ontario Library Service – North  
Ontario Public Library Association  
Ontario School Library Association  
Ontario Teacher's Federation  
Progressive Librarian's Guild  
Southern Ontario Library Service  
The Association of Library Consultants of Ontario

The main thrust of the meeting was for those organisations present to identify key decision makers to whom a message, not yet clearly articulated, about the value of libraries could be addressed. The key decision makers identified included government bureaucrats and elected official at the municipal and provincial level. While no firm next step was agreed upon all organisations present did agree that further discussions needs to occur between all parties.

## Library Leader's Meeting

The Canadian Association of Law Libraries invited seventy-three (73) library and archival organisations from across Canada to the University of Windsor on Friday, March 28. Representatives from the following organisations were present in person and via teleconference:

Canadian Association of Law Libraries  
Saskatchewan Association of Library Technicians  
Canadian Association of Research Libraries  
Library of Parliament  
Ontario Association of Library Technicians/  
Association des bibliothecaires de l'Ontario  
Bibliographical Society of Canada  
Association of Map Libraries and Archives  
Ontario Public Library Association  
Edmonton Law Libraries Association  
Association of Parliamentary Libraries in Canada  
Legislative Assembly of Ontario, Library, and Re-

search Services  
Librarians' & Archivists' Committee, CAUT  
British Columbia Library Association  
International Federation of Library Associations  
Association of Professional Librarians of New Brunswick  
Newfoundland and Labrador Library Association  
Library Association of Alberta  
Atlantic Provinces Library Association  
Quebec Library Association  
Saskatchewan Library Association  
Vancouver Association of Law Libraries  
Nunavut Library Association  
Canadian Association of University Teachers

It was agreed that a collaborative advocacy initiative would 'ultimately raise the national awareness of the services and expertise provided by libraries, librarians, library technicians, archivists, and information professionals and the importance of access to information'. The first step was to create a mechanism by which organisations can share information; to this end a listserv was created for use by organisations' board members. The second step is to be the formation of a working group to:

- i. Review current advocacy initiatives and the tools created for these initiatives.
- ii. Compile a list of resources that organisations can contribute.
- iii. Prepare a collaborative plan for consideration by organisations.
- iv. Prepare a memorandum of understanding for signature by like-minded organisations.

Michael David Reansbury, President

# LIT Program Updates

## Durham College Update

It's spring, and Durham faculty are reflecting on the past two years. Our first class of LITs are ready to graduate! It's been a rewarding experience and a privilege to teach these new members of the library science community. They are passionate, enthusiastic, and anxious to get started. Best wishes!

Second year students completed two busy semesters learning about related fields like records management, investigating legal and law information, and competing placements at various library and information science organizations. They studied archives and local history with Tammy Robinson (recently appointed to CEO, Cobourg Public Library), records management with Emily Cartlidge (Records Manager and Archivist, Northumberland County), special libraries with Ken McFarlan (Librarian, Lakeridge Health), and database design with Stephen Forbes from our own School of Business, IT and Management. In their final semester they used their networking skills to secure two or more field experience placements. Students had the flexibility to arrange their field experience according to a schedule that worked for them and for their employer. Some attended half days each week, others attended all day Friday, and some completed a project during Reading Week or during exam week. Students found placements at school libraries like Chris Hadfield PS, at legal organizations like the Peterborough Courthouse, the Oshawa Courthouse, or Bereskin & Parr, at public libraries like Ajax, Whitby, Oshawa, Pickering, and Newmarket, special libraries like Ontario Shores, CAMH and Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre, and academic libraries like Trent U, Durham College and UOIT. The support from these organizations and the many others was amazing. I am truly grateful to the staff who accepted the LIT students, supervised them, and were patient with me as I learned the field experience ropes. Clearly, it's been a busy final year for students...and faculty!



**One student accepted a placement at Durham College, where she planned the layout for a special library to support the Legal Research and Information Management program. Then she unboxed, took inventory, catalogued and shelved the new collection, which is comprised of legal resources donated by local law firms and agencies.**

First year students implemented a new practice: Treat Day! Once a week in each semester, students brought treats and enjoyed the community of shared food and camaraderie. During the first semester field experience, students had an opportunity to job shadow staff working in the library and information science field. Thank you to the employers who welcomed these newest additions to the LIS profession; the value and usefulness of the learning they shared with the class throughout the year based on these brief experiential learning opportunities was immense. Based on feedback from last year, additional field trips were arranged, including a visit to Oshawa Community Museum and Archives in the fall, where Jennifer Weymark and colleagues shared information about community partnerships, archives, and programming, and ended our visit with a walking tour (see photo); to Whitehots in Aurora, and to Chris Hadfield PS. All students were released from classes

to volunteer at and attend OLA SuperConference. The program team is grateful to OLA for allowing students to volunteer and receive free access to the conference.



### LITS visit the Oshawa Community Museum and Archives.

Numerous guest speakers visited classes to share their experiences and knowledge. Based on feedback from first and second year students, guest speakers are an important part of the LIT program at Durham. Each spring, the program team uses the feedback from students, the Program Advisory Committee and employers when reviewing the program of study and course outlines. Next year, the LITs will complete a communications course that includes the design, delivery and analysis of primary research as well as report writing. The field experience manual will be revised to reduce the amount of time employers spend on paperwork. And, instructors will continue to plan field trips, use experiential learning when available, and include as many hands-on opportunities as possible to engage students.

Thank you again to the library and information services community for your continued support this past year. The Durham College team wishes you a safe and relaxing summer.

Susan Pratt  
Professor, Library and Information Technician Program  
School of Business, IT and Management  
Durham College

### Mohawk College Update

Faculty and students involved with the library and information technician program at Mohawk College have wrapped up winter term and begun spring term courses, which run from May until August. Ours is the only library technician program in Ontario that is taught entirely online. We are the host college for library technician courses offered through the OntarioLearn consortium, which means that other colleges can also choose to offer our distance education courses. Our program is intended primarily for people who are working in libraries but have no formal library education. Our courses also work well for graduate library technicians or librarians who want to take a course to update their skills or learn more about a new area of library work. More information about our program can be found at <http://ce.mohawkcollege.ca/library>

In the last few years we have updated the curriculum in our program, adding courses such as Resource Description and Access, which covers the new RDA cataloguing guidelines, and Information Technology for Library Technicians, which examines the use of mobile devices and other technologies in libraries.

The library and information technician diploma and records and information management certificate programs have both successfully completed the program review process at Mohawk College in the past two years. Program review is an internal quality control process in which the curriculum, program quality and strategic initiatives are studied. This is done through gathering data from stakeholders and completing an environmental scan. We are pleased that both of these programs received extremely positive reviews.

One interesting initiative that we are currently pursuing is the possibility of a post-graduate certificate for library technicians, to be offered online. More information will be made available here as this opportunity develops.

OALT/ABO members may want to check out our web site in late July, under the "Program of Studies" heading, for a listing of fall term courses. Fall term registration will open on August 5, and courses will run from Sept. 9 to Dec. 16/14.

Dolores Harms Penner  
Program Manager  
Library and Information Technician Program  
Mohawk College

## **Seneca College Update**

Our Winter semester has ended for two sections of students who will be officially graduating with their diplomas on Tuesday, June 24, and our Summer semester has begun on Monday, May 5 for one section of students who are registered in the accelerated program. This year, an academic library was the first to hire one of our grads, followed by a school library and a public library. Last year a special library had the honour, but we have yet to hear from this year's grads about employment in this type of library.

This year's graduating class also was the first group to complete two, three-week field placements. Formerly, the LIT program had included three, two-week field placements since its inception in 1968. Both students and field placement supervisors enjoyed the new length for placements. Students now in each of their third and fourth semesters have six weeks of classes, three weeks of field placement, five weeks of classes and one week for final exams.

An advantage of the new field placement delivery is that our students this year were available to attend the OALT/ABO conference. In previous years, many students participated in field placements at the beginning of May. We are glad that students took advantage of being able to attend the conference and were very proud that three of our students delivered presentations: Diane Briffa, Sarah Emtage, and Bobbi Sabatini. Next year's students will have a hard act to follow.

Our students continued their tradition of attending the Exhibits Hall (EXPO) at the Ontario Library Association Conference. Many also served as volunteers for the conference.

The LIT program has been busy this semester with an internal review. Seneca College conducts reviews of all of its programs on a regular basis and this semester, it was the time for the LIT program. The final re-

port will be reviewed by Seneca's Vice President, Academic. The College requires that the report is divided into four sections on program context, program infrastructure/delivery, curriculum, and program effectiveness, and covers specific content within each section. Some data sources and tools used in the review include internal Seneca statistics, the Ontario Government's Key Performance Indicators (KPI), Seneca's Academic Plan, 2012-2017, program standards from the Canadian Library Association and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, and Seneca's LIT subject outlines. We should have more information to share in the next newsletter.

## **OALT/ABO Student Award**

Bobbi Sabatini is the recipient from the Seneca 2014 graduates of the OALT/ABO Student Award. Some of you in the library technician community already will have been introduced to Bobbi at the OALT/ABO Conference where she gave a presentation entitled *Making a Valuable Difference*. You may have met her at the Ontario Library Association Super Conference where she participated as a volunteer. You may know her from her work as the Vice Chair on the Georgina Public Libraries Board or have seen her at one of the events for the Georgina Public Libraries that she has supported through her activities with the Friends of the Library. At the same time that Bobbi was contributing her time to association and library activities, she maintained a 4.0 GPA in the LITA program and a spot on the President's Honour List. She then shared her skills and knowledge with her classmates by being a peer tutor in Seneca's Learning Centre. Bobbi Sabatini is a great representative for library technicians.

Deborah Kay

Professor and Coordinator

Library and Information Technician Program

Seneca College

## **2014 OALT/ABO Student Award Winner**

### **from Algonquin College: Timothy Yale**

Tim Yale, this years' winner of the Algonquin OALT/ABO Outstanding Student Award is a full time student in the Library and Information Technician program at Algonquin College and is an exceptional student who goes above and beyond in assisting his fellow classmates and the Algonquin community.

In the very first year of the program, Tim organized and led a student study group, to assist fellow students with learning new and difficult course material, especially in the area of cataloguing. He had taken an additional workshop in cataloguing and wanted to share what he had learned with his classmates.

In addition, Tim encouraged and inspired his classmates to participate in the library field from the very beginning. For the first year ever, this resulted in a large group of students participating at the Ontario Library Association conference in Toronto, as well as participation in events and workshops in Ottawa. In May of 2013, Tim presented a talk in the student lead sessions at the OALT/ABO conference in London, Ontario on the topic of RDA.

Tim also volunteered to assist with organizing and maintaining a small satellite library at the college in the Algonquin Centre for Construction Excellence building, for the Interior Design program, in his first year at the college. Then this year, as a second year student, Tim has taken on a leadership role for this library and is supervising a group of first and second year students to work in this library, assign duties and report to me and to the coordinator of the Interior Design program of his progress.

Last May, he came to the college after classes were over to help me with a presentation I gave at Kaleidoscope [a professional development conference for employees of Algonquin]. He also assisted me in a class I presented for the Practical Nursing students, where he helped a class of about 100 students search a medical database from their laptops.

Tim also participated in the Student focus group for the college's Program Quality Review (PQR) process. Even requests I make of him, that might be a long shot, such as when I received a request from a colleague for a student to write an article for an International Journal, based out of Australia, Tim agreed to assist. He subsequently had his article published in the November 2013 issue of *Associates: the electronic library support staff journal*. Tim also volunteered on a service trip in Guatemala with *Librarians without Borders* last spring, assisting with setting up a school library, teaching children information literacy skills, and assisting with Spanish translation.

Tim won the Dedication & Involvement Award from Algonquin College in April 2014. In the nomination letter, the following testimonials were included:

"Tim Yale has volunteered with the Interior Design program, helping organize its Resource Library collection over the past two years. He has worked tirelessly on the project and assumed the leadership role this past year, supervising and mentoring other students, introducing them to ResourceMate, and organizing their respective duties. Our Resource Library and our students have benefitted greatly from Tim's enthusiasm and dedication. On behalf of our grateful faculty and student body, I strongly endorse Tim's nomination for Algonquin College's Volunteer Appreciation Award."

Kurt Espersen-Peters,  
Internal Coordinator + Professor, BAA-Interior Design

"Please consider Tim Yale for a volunteer award. Tim assisted myself and his professor during a Nursing Research course lecture in the Practical Nursing program. The objective of this particular class was to provide students with information about the main nursing literature database and to practice navigating through it. Tim was instrumental in providing approximately 100 nursing students with hands-on, real-time assistance using the database on their own laptops. Students found this session extremely valuable not only for completing the assignments in this course but for many of their other courses in which research is part of the expectation. Nurses are mandated to use research findings to inform their practice – Tim helped to launch these students toward providing quality care based on the best available evidence."

Susan Eldred RN, BScN, MBA, PhD©  
Coordinator, BScN Year 3  
Simulation Coordinator  
Health and Community Studies

Finally, Tim gives feedback on what is working in the class and what needs improving, in an objective fashion. As a coordinator, this helps me keep a pulse on what is happening in the classroom and is very useful information. Tim always cares about students doing well and he is conscientious and contributes to the college as a whole. Tim is dedicated and involved in the library field, at the college and in the community and I strongly recommended him for the OALT/ABO Outstanding Student Award.

Helena Merriam  
Coordinator and Professor  
Library and Information Technician  
Algonquin College

# Updates from the Ottawa Chapter/ Section d'Ottawa

This article is also available in French, on our website at: <http://ottawa-oaltabo.comze.com/fr/newsletter-nouvelles-may14>

## **New Executive Members for our 2014 Chapter Year**

On Monday February 24<sup>th</sup> 2014, the Ottawa Chapter/Section d'Ottawa held its Annual General Meeting at Biagio's Italian Kitchen Restaurant. We had 10 members in attendance. At this event, we approved the 2013 Executive and Committees Annual Reports and held the elections for the 2014 Executive. The new Executive members are as follows:

**President:** Vincent Elit

**Vice-President:** Krystal Benn

**Treasurer:** Ann Censner

In addition, at our first Executive meeting, we appointed the following Committee members:

**Archivist:** Vincent Elit

**Website Coordinator:** Linda Landreville

**Translation Coordinator:** José Gélinas

We would like to thank the 2013 outgoing Executive members and Committee members for their ongoing support of the Chapter: Jessica Reeve, Krystal Benn, Vincent Elit, Abbie Gourgon, Linda Landreville and José Gélinas.

## **Announcement of the launching of our new website**

During the 2013 Christmas holidays, the Chapter's Executive and Committees released our new website. This re-launch follows a complete restructuring of our web site, as well as a re-design, along with new resources. We are still undergoing revisions, so, all comments/questions can be sent to our Website Coordinator.

For recent updates from Executive and Committee members, visit our blog '**tête-à-tête**', through our website.

## **Discontinuance of the print edition of 'tête-à-tête'**

With the re-launch of the Ottawa Chapter/Section d'Ottawa's website, the Executive has made a deci-

sion to discontinue the publication of our semi-annual newsletter 'tête-à-tête'. We will now provide regular updates via our website blog 'tête-à-tête'. RSS subscription is available by visiting <http://ottawa-oaltabo.comze.com/feed/>

We would like to thank all of the Ottawa Chapter/Section d'Ottawa members who provided articles, all our Newsletter Editors who edited and published our articles in both print and electronic versions, and all our Translators, for providing translation services to our bilingual publication. Our newsletter 'tête-à-tête' began with its inaugural issue in 1979, with 2-3 issues per year for the last 33 years, concluding with its last semi-annual issue in Fall 2012.

## **Sponsorship to the 41st Annual OALT/ABO Conference**

Again this year, the Ottawa Chapter/Section d'Ottawa was able to sponsor a student, to allow the student to attend. Stephanie Pegg, from Algonquin College, was chosen to go to the 41st Annual OALT/ABO Conference, using funds from the Jean Desislets Student Sponsorship Fund, together with a recent donation from the Association. We also received a donation from Barbara Cope, a long-time member of the Ottawa Chapter/Section d'Ottawa. Look for an article from Stephanie to appear on our blog after the conference.

Details on the Jean Desislets Student Sponsorship Fund (JDSSF) can be found on our website.

## **Looking at the year ahead**

The Executive and Committees of the Ottawa Chapter/Section d'Ottawa are currently in the process of planning/ identifying a number of potential workshops and information sessions for the coming year. If you have any suggestions, or would like to recommend a contact, please let us know.

E-mail/Courriel [ottawa.oaltabo@gmail.com](mailto:ottawa.oaltabo@gmail.com)

Website/Site web <http://ottawa-oaltabo.comze.com>



OALTOttawa

# Meeting the OALT/ABO Community

## One Member at a Time

Dylan Edwin Hoover

"Library technician? Is that, like, a computer guy who works in the IT department of a library?" This question, or some variation on it, has lingered over me for the past two-and-a-half years since I began studying at Seneca for an L.I.T. diploma. Not that I can fault people for thinking that – since 6<sup>th</sup> grade, I've been a wiz with computers, and I'm never too far from my faithful laptop. Information technology is something that's always been in the background of my life, but it's the information side that always held the real fascination for me: what facts and figures people seek, what they do with them, and how these things shape their lives.

I first began to consider career in the library industry when I was at the University of Western Ontario, undergoing that kind of existential crisis peculiar to post-secondary students. "What am I going to do for the rest of my life?" was the question on my mind. After a fortuitous encounter with my school's Women's Issues Network and the opportunity to work part-time as a library assistant, I had found my answer. I began to ask around for help in weeding and managing the collection under my care, sending emails to U.W.O. library staff and lurking on listservs, and after one particularly enlightening discussion with a future SysAdmin at the B.C. Libraries Co-op, I felt I had found where my career path would lead by the time I completed my B.A.

A Master's degree was above my price point and had weaker employment options besides, so some careful research soon led to application for Seneca College's L.I.T. program. My planning paid off, and within 4 weeks I had gone from considering possible post-graduation options to moving into the residence at Newnham. During my time there, I truly found how the library tech path was for me. I learned how to make MARC records, met Corey Doctrow, taught my classmates HTML, discovered a love for European comics, volunteered with INALJ.com as an assistant editor, and ultimately found that *je ne sais quoi*



which made being a technician such an interesting part of the modern library world.

Being a recent graduate, I'm on the lookout for work. The Partnership and iSchool job boards has my rapt attention each morning, and I've made it my plan to visit as many library conferences as my budget will allow in this coming year. Being able to meet people, share information with them, and come to know who they are is really part of what makes the culture of library people shine, and it's for these reasons that I'm so glad I can be a part of it.



Tell us about yourself! Send us a glimpse of what it's like in your library, what prompted you to work in the library and information field, what is it you find most rewarding about your line of work. We're all library technicians but we each play very different roles in the every day operations of our workplaces. Let's use this platform to learn from and inspire one another.

Send your submissions (1500 words or less) to [oaltabonewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:oaltabonewsletter@gmail.com)

# Ontario Library Association Super Conference 2014

## "A Universe of Possibilities"



**Lawrence Alvarez from the 'Tool Library' and Mandissa Arlain from Ryerson University.**

**Katherine More (Seneca College), Deborah Kay (Seneca College), Dolores Harms Penner (Mohawk College), Helena Merriam (Algonquin College), Nicole Doyle (Durham College), Susan Pratt (Durham College) and Sandra Lee (Southern Alberta Institute of Technology)**



**Gail Hulnick from the session "Get your story told: Mainstream and social media skills".**

After a year's worth of planning that included attending several meetings, searching for speakers and exchanging multiple e-mails, the Ontario Library Association's Super Conference finally arrived! The theme for this year was "Universe of Possibilities". I was excited not only to be attending for the first time as a planner, but also see what goes on behind the scenes running such a big event.

I attended the last three days of the conference to assist in the four sessions that were presented on behalf of OALT/ABO. We had a variety of topics for attendees to choose from such as, the inner workings of special libraries, presenting yourself on social media and workstation ergonomics. Each session had great attendance, a lot of discussion and information to take home. I am most proud to have had my friends, Brenda Wong & Karen Sawatzky present their session on the "Hidden World of Law Libraries" for our association. Their presentation provided an exemplary perspective for LITs on what it is like to work in a law library.

OALT/ABO was also fortunate to have Lawrence Alvarez present his session on creating the "Tool Library" in Toronto. This new type of library helped inspire a movement in Toronto to open the kitchen and seed library.

I was able to set aside some time to attend sessions including Jason Redshaw's, from Welland Public Library on 'Core technology competencies for public library staff'. This session stood out most to me because I too have experience training staff on information, computer and digital literacy. I also work in the Niagara region, so this was a good opportunity for me to learn what other local public libraries are doing. For the rest of the conference, I spent my time looking at each booth and catching up with old friends and colleagues. I noticed many familiar faces of LIT students I had met from my class visits on behalf of the association.

At the end of the conference, I had the privilege to sit at one of the front tables close to the stage to see Chris Hadfield. He is a very humble, funny and an amazing role model to all Canadians.

Overall, I was exhausted but happy to say that I was part in making this conference successful. I could not have done this without the help of Lisa Elchuk, the former OLA Super Conference Planner. She was always there to answer any of my questions or concerns. I also want to thank Mandissa Arlain from Ryerson University who assisted me as Conference Convener for two of our sessions.

Unfortunately, I will have to step down as OLA Super Conference Planner due to relocation for my career that has made it difficult to attend the meetings. I am very thankful to have experienced this opportunity and highly recommend readers to volunteer in any way for the OLA Super Conference.

Dana Schwarz  
External Communications Coordinator



**Chris Hadfield, Canadian Astronaut.**

# **2014 OALT/ABO Conference**

## **“Initiative & Innovation”**



i. Jessica Reeve (President) ii. Serena McGovern (Internal Communications Coordinator) iii. Jillann Rothwell (Conference Committee) (Kingston Frontenac Public Library) iv. Cyndi Smith (Past, President-elect) v. Kathi Vandenheuvel (Archivist, Physical)

**Susan Morley**



i. Kathy Heney  
ii. Vicky Lynham (Treasurer, Halton/Peel)

# **~ My OALT Conference Reflection ~**

## **By Diane Briffa, Seneca LIT Grad 2014**

### ***The Planning Process...***

"Write what you know" is a quote by Mark Twain. It is this advice that guided me to decide on my topic 'Crafts for the Non-Crafter'. Having led a craft club for over 10 years as a former public elementary school teacher, I know a fair bit about doing crafts with kids. Since my topic proposal was approved several weeks earlier, I was committed to coming up with a 'Top Ten' of inexpensive and easy-to-use craft ideas. I drafted a chart to organize these ideas according to themes/concepts, as well as how each craft could be adapted to different age groups. This planning chart also helped me develop my handout of craft instructions for my session participants; the handout was not required, but I thought it useful given my large topic coverage. I then planned my PowerPoint slides around the handout. I preceded this with a general introduction, followed by a demonstration of the craft, and ending with participants having a chance to make the craft shown. Rather than me continuing to talk, I thought it more interesting to have a kid's voice! So I enlisted the help of my nine year old niece and created a short video clip of her demonstrating one of the handout's crafts. I embedded this in the PowerPoint and concluded my presentation with a Q & A and a handing out of the craft supplies shown to participants.

### ***How the Presentation went...***

Overall, I believe the presentation was well-received. Comments were positive. At first, participants were a bit reticent during the Q & A time, but once one person bravely shared, the others soon followed. I hope the participants gleaned some useful tips. The handout helped bridge the fact that I had many more ideas to share than

I could possibly show within the thirty minute time frame. For me, it was a worthwhile experience.

### ***So why attend? Why participate?***

I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to be a student presenter at this year's annual OALT/ABO conference in Kingston. I am fortunate for a few specific reasons: I met up with classmates (two of whom also presented!), I practiced my oral presentation skills, I saw downtown Kingston and the lovely Queen's University campus, and as a presenter, my trip expenses were subsidized by OALT and Seneca College.

If you are considering presenting, do give it some thought. While it does require effort and preparation, it should be a gratifying experience both personally and professionally. You will be supported by your LIT peers, your professors, OALT and your college. You will be able to create your first LIT memory as a new graduate! Other advice?

- Present on a topic for which you are very familiar.
- Frame your presentation around your audience – what knowledge or skill do you want to impart?
- Proofread your printed materials.
- Test your presentation to make sure all links or video aspects are in working order.
- Practice your presentation aloud.
- Remember to smile and allow yourself to enjoy the experience!

*"Get it down. Take chances..."*

--William Faulkner

# OALT Conference 2014

## Blogged by Mary Margaret Smith

<http://infobrokersite.com/2014/05/04/651/>

This year the OALT Conference was held in Kingston, Ontario at Queen's University. It was 3 days of engaging and educational presentations and workshops addressing **Initiative & Innovation** in the library world. Here are a few highlights from the sessions I attended.

### DAY 1

The major themes in the sessions that I attended were partnerships with cultural and arts organizations, engaging and learning through play, and using technological resources successfully including virtual classrooms, social media and free presentation software.

The first morning I got to play with LEGO™ in a session presented by Emma. It was called **LEGO™ My Library**. She took us through the steps of setting up a LEGO™ programme in a library setting and passionately shared her good and bad experiences in making this programme a success. How does play relate to libraries and building literacy. It's all in a song she shared with us: "Talk, Sing, Read, Write, Play. Raise a reader everyday!"

Then I was off to **Creating Animated Instruction Videos** presented by Adele, Lydia and Alana. Using [Powtoon.com](http://Powtoon.com) we were able to create a video of our own using some "tips and tricks" provided by the presenters. Powtoon is a very user-friendly program useful for creating short marketing, instructional and how-to videos.

In the afternoon, Stephane Levesque from the University of Ottawa introduced us to the [virtualhistorian.ca](http://virtualhistorian.ca) This is an interactive web-based site that presents lesson plans, historical resources and learning tools supporting Social Studies education. It has been developed in accordance with the new Ontario Curriculum and strongly emphasizes inquiry learning and teaching history outside the box.

The last session of the day was **What's Hot in the Law Today** presented by Dalton Burger and Nicole Doyle. The presentation was most useful in highlight-

ing ways to link breaking news stories to Canadian government documents including Bills, Acts, Hansard Reports and Supreme Court decisions. This allows the reader to learn more about hot news stories and follow their development.

### DAY 2

On the second day of the conference I went back in time to 1815 and learned about an ambitious adult programming series called **Austentation** presented by the Kingston Frontenac Public Library. Living up to the motto, "information inspiring imagination", Kimberly explained that the events were held in celebration of the 200th anniversary of Jane Austen's *Pride & Prejudice*. The programme included lectures, book talks, film screenings and a Grand Ball. This created an opportunity for the library to generate "buzz", excite adult patrons, create new community partnerships and strengthen existing partnerships. **Austentation** was a great success and now opens the door for future possibilities.

Next was **Reading Through Each Other's Eyes** an interesting "summer challenge" reading experience based on reading all the *Chronicles of Narnia* in a week (one book per day). Sarah presented this workshop. "Challenge" participants were encouraged to read, create reflections and share them on the [thelionscall.com](http://thelionscall.com). The reflections were varied in format and media and included everything from Haiku, short films, drawings, poetry, clay sculpting, essays and even ranting. Every person was encouraged to express their reflection in their own style.

**The Cost of Gifts: What Truly Lies Beneath the Surface** was a presentation that I attended addressing the benefits and liabilities that come with in-kind donations to libraries. These donations are often books, book collections, manuscript collections, artwork, archives material and photographs. Surprisingly, many people don't realize that there can be overwhelming costs associated with their well-meaning, free gifts. You can learn more by viewing this presentation prepared by Natalie LeBlanc.

I don't have much experience with video conferencing so I was quite excited to attend **It's Virtually the Real Thing: using videoconferencing in your library**. Karin, an instructor from The Royal Botanical Gardens, highlighted the advantages of using technology to extend an organization's reach in order to exchange information, create learning opportunities, and enhance communication. She assured us

that the technological learning curve was pretty straightforward and of course libraries have no shortage of great ideas and programmes to share! Video conferencing would work for a number of important audiences including students and seniors.

Delicious chocolate chip cookie count by "Day 2" stands at 4. (OK, maybe 5) Yikes!

### DAY 3

One would think that by day 3 of the conference my head would be muddled up with learning so much new information and meeting lots of new people. But it wasn't and I thoroughly enjoyed my last two sessions.

The first was presented by Alexandra and was called **Understanding Social Media in Libraries**. I was fascinated by the statistics that she had gathered together for Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest and Twitter. Why is social media important to libraries? These technological venues provide opportunities for libraries to increase membership, reach a different demographic, promote the collection, publicize programming, share history, provide reference and encourages community feedback. However, it is important to take some time to plan and post appropriately.

- How will you post? By computer or by mobile phone?
- Find your voice. Will it be funny, quirky, formal or professional?
- Make a posting schedule so you are consistent and avoid "cluster posting".
- Check back often to keep the communication going.
- Develop a strategy to deal with negative comments.
- Provide information and training for staff members.

Measure your success using analytics and other statistical methods like surveys.

I finished the conference by attending **The Library Chronicles** an innovative cultural union between the Kingston Frontenac Public Library and 5 local theatre companies. The goal was to create "site specific theatre" using all the spaces of library including non-public spaces such as offices and closed stacks. Why would the library consider programming like this? Lester Webb outlined the following as motivation for this literary/theatre experience:

- To reinvent the image of the library

- To create branding/marketing that would bring the library to "be top of mind"
- To promote community partnerships
- To present the library as a "welcoming space"
- To increase the exposure of the library in the community
- To challenge casual users and non-users to see the library differently.

To be disruptive and allow library patrons to see art in the making

**The Library Chronicles** was a success for the library and the participating community theatre groups. Four different original plays were performed in the library space generating positive exposure and creating long-lasting partnerships. The project was shortlisted provincially for the Minister's Award for Innovation. The delicious, irresistible Chocolate Chip Cookie total by Day 3 is possibly 6. Let's not talk about Lemon Danishes.

*Mary Margaret is a Library and Information Technician with several years experience working in libraries, museums, archives and education. She lives in Kitchener, ON and is currently seeking employment.*



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# Making a Valuable Difference

## by Bobbi Sabatini

I was very honoured to be selected to present a session at the 41<sup>st</sup> OALT/ABO conference. When I first heard about the opportunity at the student meet and greet it sounded like a wonderful chance to learn more about the Ontario Association of Library Technicians/Association des bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario while at the same time, exploring the positive changes that going back to school has brought to many aspects of my life. In reading through the past experiences of previous presenters, I was encouraged by the welcoming atmosphere at the conference. I am happy to say, this was absolutely true of my experience as well.

When it came to deciding what I might possibly present that would be of interest to a room of library professionals, I decided on something that has become of greater importance both personally and professionally. Making a valuable difference to me means doing what I can to help others. This has always been a part of my life, however, with the skills I have learned while taking the Library and Information Technician program, I have been able to implement new processes to increase efficiencies and improve record keeping for fundraising events and other projects. Working together as part of a team where everyone is sharing their unique skills and talents means that everyone benefits and it is less likely that any one individual feels overwhelmed.

The biggest obstacle I've found to getting involved is generally not knowing what to expect. There is a fear of signing on for too much, or not being able to follow through on promises. The best solution to this issue would be communication and lots of it! Conversely, not knowing how best to share our expertise or what opportunities exist also keeps us from sharing our talents.

Through my own experience on volunteer boards and event committees, each situation is unique, has its own challenges and possibilities. You never know what will come of getting involved and making a valuable contribution. The positive impact of helping, from the smallest involvement to the more intricate is immeasureable for both sides. There are two things I find myself repeating to my kids over and over; One – you don't know if you can do something or if you like something until you try it, and Two – with every situation you have the opportunity to make it better, it's up to you to make that choice and give your best effort.

In an effort to make my presentation more interactive, I chose to include an origami project in order to illustrate different points and because it is quite pretty when it is finished. The completed project looks complicated and overwhelming for a beginner, however, when taken step by step with everyone working on a piece, the end result is achieved much quicker with everyone sharing in the accomplishment. It was also fun to see everyone working together to fit it together.

Being able to attend and participate at the conference was an overwhelmingly positive experience and I would encourage all LIT students to submit a proposal. The conference itself was well organized and offered many interesting sessions and activities and lots of networking opportunities. Meeting other library technicians from all over Ontario and seeing what a welcoming, supportive group the OALT/ABO is, has inspired me to become a member and see what opportunities exist within the association to become involved.

## Kingston 2014

Trolley cars, little black bugs, implements of torture, an 8 year old criminal, a 200 year old guard, a stuffed goat, a ghost in prison, a ghost at the Fort, free pens, a free DVD, free University degrees, rain, hockey, giant suspended slices of geode, awards, more little black bugs. These are some of the things I experienced or heard about at my OALT/ABO Conference.

My (fortunately in rain hiatus) tours – and I always go on tours – were by trolley to the prison museum and to Old Fort Henry. Now I'll need to go back in the summer so that I can see the real goat mascot. I'm not keen to go back to the prison museum because of the aforementioned implements, although it was a very interesting place – and free. My free DVD came as a part of an ergonomics class letting us know the weakest parts of our anatomy and how to protect them at work.

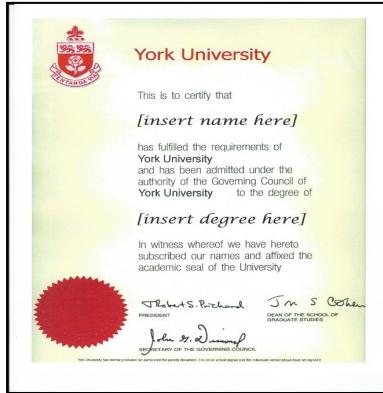
My free degree was part of a campaign the Writers' Union of Canada had executed to point out that free material, e.g. in course packs, was depriving writers of their livelihood.

hood. Their point was that if you give away my output, I'll give away yours.

Did I mention that the speaker also gave all of us one of the books he has written. The title is *The Uninvited Guest* by John Degen. From the librarian who gave a terrific presentation on the Toronto Public Library's campaign to avoid cuts to its budget, I got a t-shirt. Other presentations – Austentation, Library Chronicles, using social media - I attended gave me bundles of ideas that I would like to see implemented in our local public library. If you're curious about the giant geodes, they were hanging in the BioSciences Centre where we had our amazing and informative sessions.

C'était une grande plaisir de revoir nos collègues d'Ottawa pendant l'Assemble générale annuelle. Good on you for travelling to Conference just for the meeting.

-Stacy Goddard, Brighton



## A few more conference pics...



Sharon Wigney (Sault Ste. Marie), Penni Chalk & Stacy Goddard



Susan Morley



- i. Jessica Reeve (President)
- ii. Michael David Reansbury (Past, President)
- iii. Jillann Rothwell (Conference Committee)  
(Kingston Frontenac Public Library)

# 2014 Presidential Award Winner

## Kate Morrison

This presentation commemorates the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ontario Association of Library Technicians/Association des bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario **Presidential Award** - the highest, honourable recognition given by the association to a member in good standing. It recognizes the outstanding contributions and developments for the association as well as the leadership, commitment and persistent endeavours for which a member significantly contributes to advance the Association and our profession. I am proud to share that since the first presentation back in 1984 to Danielle Amat of Ottawa, we have honoured 27 members into this OALT/ABO 'hall of fame' for their outstanding achievements. It was only in years 1993, 2001 and 2013 had we no one to honour, thus representing 90% award recognition over the past 30 years. We should be very proud of our members!

This year's Presidential Award Committee consisted of Maria Ripley, Pam Casey and Susan Morley. All proud recipients of this prestigious award. Thank you to those who took the time to prepare and submit the nomination form for this year's award winner, it was a comprehensive and complete document that made our job extremely easy.

It takes dedicated members who volunteers year-after-year to make OALT/ABO evolve, expand and grow and the recipient of this year's Presidential Award is an exemplary example of one dedicated member. A member since student days at Mohawk back in 1996 and a graduate of the Mohawk Library and Information Technician Program in 1997, this year's nominee has a track record of being an active, enthusiastic, and most willing supporter of all things OALT/ABO.

Over the past 18 years the nominee of this year's Presidential Award held numerous positions within the Halton-Peel executive - Regional Director, Secretary, Vice-President and President.

As Regional Director of the Halton-Peel Region in 2003, during the historical changes to OALT/ABO's new governance, it was important to this year's nominee that the changes being proposed by the Constitutional Committee be communicated and therefore imperative that the Constitu-

tional Committee be invited to speak to the members of Halton-Peel at an ABM on March 27, 2003. An informed discussion and decision by the Halton-Peel members was made on the proposed Constitutional changes and the outcome was brought forward to what became a 'historic' last 'Provincial' ABM where Regions voted as blocks and a new 'one member, one vote' governance was implemented – a fantastic effort for a Regional Director.

As President of the Halton-Peel Chapter in 2006, this person was passionate to pen its first 1<sup>st</sup> Constitution for the Chapter. Streamlining the governance meant easier recruitment and more member involvement with only President and Treasurer positions to be filled.

Tonight's nominee continues to be an active member of the Halton-Peel Chapter by being one of the 'Executive' who endorses the cheques and assists with planning events for members when possible; as well, is a former member of the School Chapter.

In 2006 and 2007, the Conference Planning Team had a member who was filled with great ideas joining their team. With energy to spare and experience to share the nominee became OALT/ABO 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Coordinator in 2010. These are the only 'documented' contributions provided on the nomination, but we know this person was the 'behind the scenes' helper and worker bee for many conferences.

This year's nominee has contributed numerous articles to the OALT/ABO Newsletter, presented and facilitated many conference sessions for both OALT/ABO and OLA Conferences. In 2011 and 2012 the nominee became the OALT/ABO planner for the library technician stream offered at OLA Super Conference, coordinating a minimum of four sessions on various days geared towards or enhancing the services and knowledge of library technicians to library professionals of all levels.

This person is no stranger to volunteering for OLA, and as such championed the qualities of Library Technicians. Since 2008 she's been an active participant on both the Silver Birch Non-Fiction and the Red Maple Forest of Reading Committees. In fact, she even Chaired the Silver Birch Non-Fiction Selection Committee one year which from what 'a little birdie shared' was only an honour held by librarians. Congratulations on this career first.

To conclude, we've adapted the words to the poem "*To Our Volunteers*" by Lisa Ellinwood – we feel they speak true to the person receiving the award tonight.

She is a

Very special person, with

Overwhelming eagerness, to support and assist with all

Little things that make a difference. It is her

Unspoken words and actions, along with her

Need to help. It is her

Time that she has given, and the

Emotional support provided too many. It is her

Endless energy, and the

Responsibilities she has endured.

Ontario Association of Library Technicians/  
Association des bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario honours you, **Kate Morrison**, as the recipient of the 2014 Presidential Award.

Congratulations, Kate!

Note: Kate was presented the Presidential Award at a Halton-Peel event on Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup>.



Maria Ripley, Susan Morley, Kate Morrison, Pam Casey



Kathryn Suffoletta, Lynn Purdy, Pauline Robinson, Kate Morrison, Doug Wilford, Stella Clark, Vicki Lynham, Susan Morley, Liz Aldrey, Tracy Morgan, Maria Ripley, Pam Casey



Kate, and her husband Keith

# Welcome NEW members!

Sonja Wiebicke

Stephanie Pegg

Maren Halliday

Tara Csircsu

Kristen Junek

Pei-Yi Yang

Sarah Coffin

Krystal Benn

Kendra Miller

Lebon Tchiza

Judith Daoust

Cindy Wong

Dylan Hoover

Ann Kelly

Cabot Yu

Christy Harper

Rachel Lerch

June Turner

Sandra Flinkert

Robin Grace Dennis

Melissa Rutledge

Deidre Sullivan Ferrier

Rebecca Leclair

Diane Briffa

Beth Wilson

Shelia Gick

Denise Liu

Karen Hardy

Laurie Robins

Kemala Vranjes

Joanne Berrigan

Lucy Dow

Jackie Hassefras

Richard Wong

Liesl Joson

Jason Rouatt

Najeeb Ahmed

Severn Township Library

Mary Ann Pegg

Irena Ndreka

Kerri Hutchinson

Louise Theriault

Ashley Hua

Jeanette Mulrain

Samantha Tuck

Nadine Gordon

Christine Maxwell



# Milestone Anniversaries

## **Members Celebrating 40 Years**

Talsma, Theresa

Cheney, Ronn

Henry, Pat

Landreville, Linda



## **Members Celebrating 10 Years**

Reid, Ene-Pia

Matthews, Shannon

Murray-Bannister, Beth

Knapp, Cassandra

Hunt, Donna

Avery, Debbie

Liu, Denise

Villaruz, Albert

## **Members Celebrating 35 Years**

Froud, Margot

## **Members Celebrating 30 Years**

Daunt, Maria

## **Members Celebrating 25 Years**

Barten, Valerie

## **Members Celebrating 20 Years**

Censner, Ann

## **Members Celebrating 15 Years**

Ziebell, Theresa

Suffoletta, Kathryn

## **Members Celebrating 5 Years**

Worden-Huffman, Lesley

Clark-Mills, Sally

Drake, Angela

Gick, Sheila

Blazecka, Christina

Churcher, Carole-Ann

Muth, Ethel

Bickell, Jana

Hallahan, Lori

Hunt, Kathryn

Hussey, Gail

Jarnicki, Elizabeth

McMillan, June

Mullins, Linda



# Book Review

## “Seeing Green” by Annabel Hertz

by Jorie of Jorie Loves A Story

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As I began the story inside Seeing Green, my mind instantly propelled me backwards into my own childhood’s eye of knowing fully the importance of Earth Summits and the ability to have world leaders openly discuss and talk about a pro-positive future for saving the environment as much as endeavouring to harness practices which will not continue to forsake natural resources. As a young girl I could see the fragility of the Earth simply by observation of the natural world outside the confines of my everyday wanderings. There are examples of the harshness humans can inflict on nature and on natural resources if you bend your eyes, heart, and mind towards viewing the natural environment through the eyes of those who inhabit the world outside our civilised cities and towns. The ecological ramifications are deeper than any of us could hope to emphatically understand yet within the hope of what we can achieve lies the greatest surge to rectify our mistakes and champion the wisdom from what we have learnt in their wake.

I should not have smirked in acknowledgement of a behest of disillusioned frustration towards America’s inability to take the bull by the horns on the global stage to initiate environmental protocols, but how could I not smirk? Herein the smirk refers to growing up in a country bent towards change but hindered by the ability to make change happen in a way that is not only feasible but truly with the best intentions backed by the knowledge of how to properly put the right changes into action. A murmuring echo of a conversation I had with a German friend of mine and myself had around the Christmastide a few years back came startling back into focus as we had a rather hearty debate by how in the infancy of my country, her country had already triumphed such remarkable strides towards true green living practices such as a non-waste ordinance in cities to recycle all glass bottles – whether in the privacy of your house or out in the errands of your life. Recycle bins are as viable and visible as rubbish bins, which I could sympathise with as that was one of my dreams for my own future whilst living with the knowledge that progress takes a slower road towards the change she felt was second nature.

I had to nod in recognition of the fact that women’s fashion designs have completely jumped the rails as far as

what a true woman’s figure actually can hold within its being! At 18, I was plumb aghast, appalled, and properly gobsmacked by how fashion had altered its perception of real women and real bodies, whilst attempting to compartmentalise all of us into a cookie-cutter blueprint which does not exist in the real world. I hope all women rock the creative out-of-box mentality I have done in seeking femininity in a world bent against the true essence of the woman divine.

I loved Arcani’s Aunt Lilian’s sense of knowing how to uplift her niece’s spirits even without knowing the full details of what stressed her to the brink of needing a cup of comfort and love. The novel is writ with a no nonsense approach of being true to self-identity as much as understanding ethnicity from a new perspective of a modern woman making her way in the worlds whilst holding onto the elements of what make her whole as a Native American. Owning her heritage and marvelling at how her sister Caroline would fail a test if asked of her Hopi roots.

Arcani herself is lit afire by an intense desire to help the Earth and to pull back the excessive need of humanity’s drive towards consumption and exploitation of viable natural resources. Through her eyes we are taken back to a near-future outlook in the 1990s where hope was a thin determined line towards socioeconomic change in a lack of green-minded initiation. She sees the world as a half empty glass of exhausted lost causes through the apathy and stagnation she observes by how everyday life and the errands therein function. Her anguish over knowing her heart’s calling and the inclination of obstinate opposition deflects her rage but reaffirms her grit in rising above the stacked challenges to make a difference in a world bent against anything changing at all.

Her reconnection to her parent’s origins and the roots of her history as a Hopi were explored as she returned to where her parents had once lived. By going back to find a semblance of what once was she started to reveal bits of her authentic self and in so doing, enabled her to move forward towards a future that would be decided on her terms; not on the wanton hopes of others. She even found a soothsayer whose wisdom painted a calming balm of grandfatherly love around her shoulders which was ached for as a connection of the heart. His guidance allowed her to see what was blocked to her before their encounter: at times when a blockage of progress cannot be released due to a conflict which is not easily resolved, one must seek the middle way of eclipsing the muddlement of stasis. Life provides us with an innate ability to determine our own fate whilst giving us the opportunity to impact the lives of those we endeavour to protect by changing the way in which we live today.

# 43 Films that feature Archivists

Compiled by Anne Daniel and Amanda Oliver  
Submitted by: Connie Sutherland  
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I am an archives assistant at Western Archives at Western University. I also love film or “the movies” and like many of you, I am often curious about how our profession is portrayed in the media, library or archives!

In last month’s issue, I really enjoyed the list that Serena McGovern compiled with 10 films that feature libraries. I had a chat about film with Serena at the OALT/ABO 2014 conference. I let her know that coincidentally, my colleagues Anne Daniel and Amanda Oliver, who are archivists at Western Archives, have been compiling a list of movies which feature archivists. I asked them if they would mind if I shared the list they compiled, and are happy to do so. They have done a lot of research, and there are even movies on the list from the 1940’s, all of which have an archives or archivist in them! It would be a dream to be featured, librarian or archivist alike!

The list is from their research paper: "Archivists in film", that is being presented at the Archives Society of Alberta's May 2014 Conference.

I have starred the movies I have **not** seen. If you want to see a recent film with what I believe is a realistic, non-stereotypical portrayal of an archives--and an archivist, check out “Enough Said”. This is one of the best films I have ever seen! James Gandolfini and Julia Louis Dreyfuss star in this sweet love story. This was sadly, Gandolfini’s last film before his sudden death.

So with thanks to my colleagues, here it is...if you can think of any more, please send me an email. Do enjoy...

TITLE	Production Date
8 mm	1999
Age of Stupid	2009
Agnes of God	1985
American Splendor	2003 *
Amityville Horror 2: The Possession	1982 *
The Avengers	1998 *
Bartleby	2001 *
Blade	1998

Call Northside	1948 *
Carlton Browne of the FO	1959 *
Carolina Skeletons	1991 *
Chinatown	1974
Citizen Kane	1941
Cloud Atlas	2012 *
Company You Keep	2012 *
Deceived	1991
Enough Said	2013
Erin Brockovich	2000
Girl with the Dragon Tattoo	2011
In the Name of the Father	1993
Just Cause	1995
Lives of Others	2006
Mama	2013 *
The Mask of the Dimitrios	1944 *
Misfiled: An Archival Murder Mystery	2006 *
The Nasty Girl	1990 *
National Treasure	2004 *
Older than America	2008 *
Possession	2002 *
Red	2010
Rollerball	1975
Scream 3	2000 *
Secret Nation	1992 *
Serpent's Egg	1977 *
Shooting the Past	1999 *
Silent Hill	2006 *
Star Wars II Attack of the Clones	2002 *
They Might Be Giants	1971
Time Machine	2002 *
Treasure	1990 *
Vampires	1998 *
Watermelon Woman	1996 *
You are Here	2010 *

## **Here are some recent reasons people have given for joining the OALT/ABO listserv:**

- I'm a current LT student and want to find out more about the field and what challenges and opportunities exist for LTs
- I am working on a Lib Tech diploma and am a member of OALTABO
- I am looking to hire
- I am a library tech student who would like to learn more
- I am a Library and Information Technician student at Mohawk College. I would love to be part of this group to keep abreast of library issues and events from the point of view of library technicians!
- Just started the Library Tech program at Langara here in Vancouver. We don't seem to have a BC-based group like yours so I thought I'd try to join just to see what sorts of topics come up
- I'm a library tech student from Vancouver BC, and I think learning about challenges and procedures in other provinces is all a benefit in the field
- I am a Library Technician, wanting to get back into work force. Looking to re-connect with the community and update my knowledge
- I am a library technician I currently work at Georgian College
- I am a student in my second and last year of the Library and Information Technician program at Durham College and I was hoping to join to find out information about different libraries
- I recently graduated as a library technician and am currently seeking employment. I also wish to learn more about the library community in general

- I am a library technician who was unfortunately laid off after 11 years in a law firm. I am always looking for job possibilities...
- I am a library tech student and am interested in following what is happening in your discussion board
- I am a library technician working in a school library
- I am a member of OALT/ABO. I would like to have a greater presence within this organization
- Hello, I am looking for employment in the library field. I hope this group can help me with some ideas about employment/study
- I am a Library Tech at Loyalist College in Belleville and I wish to be kept up to date with information and issues that other Library techs are discussing
- I'm taking courses in Mohawk College's Library Technician program, and need to view job postings to complete an assignment
- I'm a library technician at Algonquin College Library
- I am currently a full-time library technician student at Seneca. I would welcome the opportunity to take part in a discussion group relevant to my new career!
- I graduated in 2007 (College de Maisonneuve, Montréal) and work as a library technician in Quebec City. I am interested in knowing about the work of Library technicians in other provinces
- I am a student soon to graduate in the LIT program and Algonquin and would like to learn more about the opportunities around the province
- I am just finishing my first year as an LIT student at Durham College
- Library Tech Student @ Mohawk College and new Student Member of OALT



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