

Ontario College and University Library Association



Cynthia Williamson
OCULA President
Mohawk College

2008 OCULA Membership: 497
(including 85 new members)

To begin, I'd like to thank every member of 2008 OCULA Council for their support: what a great team. I would also like to thank my boss, Jo-Anne Westerby, Director, Academic Teaching and Learning at Mohawk College for her support of my OCULA activities and my colleagues' patience during my year as OCULA president. It was a wonderful year and that is due directly to all of you. My thanks are also extended to OLA staff – what a supportive and energetic group of people!

OCULA Council 2008 Accomplishments and Activities:

Lorna Rourke, Chief Librarian at St. Jerome's College, University of Waterloo was recognized as the OCULA Academic Librarian of the Year for 2008.

The OCULA award for student or new professional for an outstanding idea for a Super Conference session went to Debbie Chaves, Science Librarian at Wilfred Laurier University. She won with her session proposal: "What New Academic Librarians Need to Know

about Mentoring."

At the 2009 OLA Super Conference, OCULA offered 33 sessions. Conference planners Caroline Stewart and Kristin Hoffmann co-ordinated 60 presenters and 33 convenors from a variety of institutions including university, college, and government libraries. The OCULA conference sessions covered a wide variety of topics: information literacy, space planning, reference services, and internationalization. One of the highlights of the conference was the OCULA Spotlight Speaker session: Mark Leggott, University Librarian at the University of Prince Edward Island, who provoked and inspired with his talk, "Disrupting the Library Transporter Beam".

The ever-popular annual Academic Spring Dinner was held at the Faculty Club at the University of Toronto in April. Julie Hannaford and her colleagues Sandra Langlands, Don McLeod and Marian Press, all of the University of Toronto libraries, organized an evening to remember. We mingled, enjoyed a lovely dinner and listened to an entertaining talk about the creative class by Dr. Kevin Stolarick, a colleague of Super Conference keynote speaker Richard Florida.

In June, OCULA and Ryerson University Library hosted the premiere Toronto screening of *Hollywood Librarian*. Don Kinder and Madeleine Lefebvre, both of Ryerson University Library, were instrumental in the success of the evening. We had a full house and are grateful for the help at the door from Sally Wilson of Ryerson and Shelagh Paterson, OLA Executive Director. Everyone enjoyed seeing Director Ann Seidl's take on librarians as portrayed in film, not to mention the inspiring real life librarians featured in the film.

In the fall we continued our efforts

to venture outside of Toronto and held an event in Kingston, organized almost single handedly by Vice-President/ President Elect, Nathalie Soini. We gathered at the Donald Gordon Centre at Queen's University for lunch followed by talks from Karen Bordonaro of Brock University and Cory Laverty of Queen's University. Karen talked to us about ESL Students in the Academic Library and Cory spoke about the Evolution of Information Literacy. Dinner was held at Old Fort Henry. There, we enjoyed a talk by local historian and Professor Emeritus of Geography at Queen's University, Dr. Brian Osbourne.

We are coming to the end of a five-year strategic planning cycle, so we decided to survey our membership in order to help create our next strategic plan. We spent some time at council meetings planning the survey and it was posted in November; 167 members responded. A summary of the results is published in the Spring 2009 edition of *InsideOCULA*.

OCULA publications continue to thrive under the leadership of our editor Jennifer Peters-Lise (Seneca College). We published three issues of *InsideOCULA* in 2008. The *InsideOCULA* blog has been enriched by the contributions of Laura Howell (University of Waterloo) and Carol Perry (Guelph University), and our New Academic Librarian Guest Bloggers. We've created a new page on our website where we will post short videos from academic librarians. The idea is to tell folks about what we do, to give an idea of the breadth and depth of the variety of work done in academic libraries in Ontario.

In the areas of advocacy, this year we looked at copyright and net neutrality. We also looked at the next stage of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

At the last couple of OCULA

meetings for 2008, we started planning for a new OCULA Internship. It will fall to the 2009 Council to finish the plan and implement the new Internship position. This will be a fabulous opportunity for a new librarian to gain experience at an academic library and I hope that it succeeds and becomes an ongoing responsibility for OCULA.

Ontario Library Boards' Association



Lynn Humfress-Trute
OLBA President
Middlesex County Library Board

2008 OLBA Membership: 954

2008 was a year in which OLBA council focused upon increasing their membership's awareness of the learning program for excellence in governance, *Leadership by Design*. As well, it was a year in which many opportunities arose for networking and developing partnerships.

- ❖ January 2008: the *Leadership by Design* element, "One Place to Look" was launched at Super Conference. The next element, the "Leadership Development Toolkit" was simultaneously introduced for comment and feedback before the spring distribution.
- ❖ Feb 2008: The OLBA Council Executive met with the SOLS

- Board of Directors to discuss how we might work together to promote good governance standards and training throughout Southern Ontario.
- ❖ Feb 2008: OLBA strategized their Action Plan for 2008.
- ❖ April 7, 2008: history was made! The Ontario Trillium Foundation awarded an amount of \$31,000 to OLBA to fund the research project for the next element of *Leadership by Design*, namely "Learning from our Peers".
- ❖ The OLBA website manager, Ian Hunter, introduced the feature, "Headline Stories" on the website along with many other website facets. This is a wonderful resource designed to capture noteworthy news stories featuring provincial, national and international libraries.
- ❖ May 2008: OLBA joined with Ontario Library Services, North and attended the OLSN Conference in Sudbury. The two organizations mutually supported and promoted training and learning opportunities for board trustees / members.
- ❖ June 2008: OLBA and OPLA held a joint meeting to discuss commonalities and areas of mutual support, marketing for membership and lobbying opportunities.
- ❖ June 2008: OLBA voted to award scholarships for northern members to attend Super Conference 2009.
- ❖ July & Aug 2008: OLBA council traveled to places far and wide throughout the province in order to conduct the research studies for *Leadership by Design's* "Learning from Our Peers" element. This research was carefully documented and compiled into a database by Margaret Andrewes and Randy Loucks, consultants engaged by OLBA.
- ❖ Two editions, Spring and

Winter, of *Inside OLBA* were produced.

- ❖ The Awards committee liaised with OPLA to re-design the criteria and nominating procedures for the W. J. Robertson Medallion.
- ❖ Sept 2008: The number and amounts of the travel scholarships awarded by lottery to northern Ontario board members to attend Super Conference was decided upon.
- ❖ Planned and developed many workshop sessions aimed towards Public Library Board Trustees attending Super Conference 2009.

Ontario Public Library Association



Cindy Weir
OPLA President
Orangeville Public Library

2008 OPLA Membership: 1358

It has been a privilege to hold the position of President of OPLA this year and to work on your behalf.

This has been a year of new beginnings with the new Executive Director of OLA and a time of goodbyes to the previous Executive Director and the Deputy Director.

In consultation with OLA staff, and because the OLA Board of Directors Executive were investigating new directions for OLA, we abandoned our Strategic Priority Document and

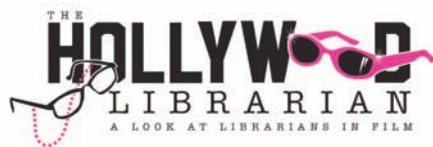
have become more action / activity oriented. While a plan of direction is important we will wait to revise our priorities until we have seen the directions of OLA Board Executive.

Membership is key to the viability of our association and so we have continued this development. Within that initiative we have worked on three areas:

1. Increasing membership
2. Communications to our membership
3. Meetings and networking opportunities for you.

This past year we have been investigating the possibility of block memberships to increase our membership numbers. We now have this process in place for a pilot project for those in the 613 area code. Our Vice Chair Bessie Sullivan took on the role as leader for this and has worked extensively with the OLA staff on this project.

Paul Trumphour took a lead role into injecting new life into the OPLA website to make it more interesting and useful to our membership. The new and improved website is more current and contains world and local news of interest to public librarians. We included an OPLA Council Portfolio page to enable you to know who to contact about particular topics or committees. Brian Pudden from the OLA office was invaluable at making those last minute additions, deletions and changes for us.



The realization that our members need to have networking opportunities and to socialize with each other more often than just once a year at the Super

Conference has resulted in our first event planned jointly with OCULA. A spring reception and viewing of the "Hollywood Librarian" will bring us together in the Kingston area. RA in a Day will again be held in the fall.

ISSUES

OPLA has been active in meetings regarding the 15 million dollars from the Ministry and the concerns of Bill 128. Copyright continues to be an issue for libraries as does funding. Your Council will continue to investigate and work on your behalf.

COMMITTEES

Elise Cole of Oakville Public Library continues as our representative and was re-elected as the Chairperson of the Ontario Public Library Monitoring and Guidelines Committee. This is the committee responsible for the writing of the Accreditation Guidelines and accrediting or re-accrediting the libraries in the province.

The Readers' Advisory Committee has once again had success with the RA in a Day training that has become an annual event not to be missed. This committee also offers sessions at the Book Expo held each year in June and provides readers' advisory aids on our OPLA website.

Child and Youth Services Committee is now ready to move forward with the survey to create the new *Benchmark and Statistical Report*. We have an agreement in place for Counting Opinions to conduct the survey and do much of the analysis. The intent is that we will have a framework in place to provide you with more usable data that can be analyzed over several editions of the document.

The Education Committee that includes our Conference Planners have put together many amazing sessions as part of the EI and at this conference.

The Awards Committee should be commended for the work they did in making the difficult decisions this year as to who would be the recipients of the variety of awards.

Your Council has worked tirelessly this year and I would like to thank all of the members of Council and committees for their continued support of OPLA activities and their hard work.

On a personal note I have had the opportunity to meet and work with many new people and attended some very special events – library openings, A is for Apple; and met the "new leaders in libraries" who are part of the SOLS Advanced Public Library Leadership (APLL) Institute.

Thank you for this incredible opportunity.

Association des bibliothèques de l'Ontario-Franco



Céline Marcoux-Hamade
Présidente d'ABO-Franco
Toronto Public Library

2008 ABO-Franco Membership: 123

- ❖ ABO-Franco a offert au congrès de 2008, six ateliers en langue française qui ont été très bien reçus par les participants. La généalogie, la sélection de ressources académiques, Chaque enfant préparé pour la lecture sont certains des sujets présentés au congrès.
- ❖ Des fournisseurs de matériels en français étaient au congrès de OLA.
- ❖ Le Prix Micheline Persaud a été présenté à Monique Brulé pour reconnaître son travail au sein de son conseil scolaire pour les servies en français ainsi que sur plusieurs comités de ABO-Franco.
- ❖ ABO-Franco a continué de travailler avec Knowledge Ontario pour développer un service en français. Dans le cadre du congrès de OLA 2009 Knowledge Ontario et SOLS ont annoncé que la banque de données Actualité Francophone plus incluant accès a plusieurs journaux, périodiques et médias en français va être disponible au début de 2009.
- ❖ ABO-Franco est représentée sur la table de concertation du livre Franco ontarien.
- ❖ Le Prix Tamarack (à travers « Forest of Reading® ») a été inauguré en 2008 et le premier gagnant sera annoncé en 2009. Un comité de sélection a été mis en place pour continuer et améliorer le programme en 2009-2010.
- ❖ ABO-Franco presented six workshops in French at the OLA Super Conference in 2009. Some of the topics covered were Genealogy, Selection of Academic Resources in French and Ready for Reading.
- ❖ Vendors of French materials were exhibitors at Super Conference.
- ❖ Le Prix Micheline Persaud was presented to Monique Brulé to recognize her work with French services in her school board

as well as her works on many committees with ABO-Franco.

- ❖ ABO-Franco continues to work with Knowledge Ontario to develop French service. Knowledge Ontario and SOLS announced during the OLA conference that Actualité Francophone Plus, which includes many newspapers, magazines and media in French, will be available early in 2009.
- ❖ ABO-Franco is represented at the round table discussion regarding Franco-Ontarian's literature.
- ❖ Le Prix Tamarack (with "Forest of Reading®") was started in 2008 and the first winner will be selected in 2009. A selection committee has been set up to continue to improve the program for 2009-2010.

OLITA's Digital Odyssey sold out once again in 2008 with a total of 120 delegates attending the event at Toronto's CNIB Centre on Friday, June 6.

The topic of accessibility was particularly timely this year, as is reflected with the high number of delegates and the fact that 39 of the delegates were not OLA members.

Although the Digital Odyssey isn't intentionally planned as a for-profit event, I'm pleased to report that the final budget showed a \$5,324.14 positive balance.

Thanks to Margaret Williams and her committee for an incredibly well organized event.

- ❖ OLITA was responsible for organizing 30 technology-related sessions at OLA's 2009 Super Conference, including OLITA's spotlight session: Top Tech Trends with Paul Takala, Anita Brooks-Kirkland and Walt Crawford.

Our Super Conference planners Andrea Kosavik, Bartek Kawula and Rebecca Larocque did a stellar job in 2008.

- ❖ OLITA recognized innovation in the province by selecting Niagara Fall's Online Payment for Library Borrowers project for the 2008 OLITA Award for Technological Innovation.

The Niagara Falls project is an easy-to-use, low cost solution to receive payments from clients for online sales, room rentals and fine payments. The project was developed in-house by staff and links up the invoicing system and its ILS to a PayPal account to offer users an easy and safe means of executing financial transactions. OLITA thanks the award

Ontario Library and Information Technology Association



Michael Vandenburg
OLITA President
Kingston Frontenac Public Library

2008 OLITA Membership: 1836

OLITA Council's 2008 Accomplishments Include:

- ❖ 2008 Digital Odyssey: Accessibility and Technology in Libraries

selection committee members Barb Longair (Chair), Dan Scott, Mike Cunningham and Anthony Petryk for their efforts in selecting this project from a strong field of submissions.

- ❖ OLITA provided regular contributions to *Access*, OLA's magazine on technology related issues in 2008 and continued to develop our InsideOLITA blog www.accessola2.com/olita/insideolita/wordpress/

In 2008 OLITA reviewed our *InsideOLITA* blog, and looking to ALA's Techsource Blog as a model, decided that in order to increase the number of posts and become more relevant to our membership we would reach out to Library IT leaders in Ontario and ask for regular postings from them. We are excited to report that Art Rhino, Anita Brooks-Kirkland and Dan Scott have agreed to contribute.

Also in 2008, OLITA worked with Larry Moore in his efforts to get the Library Networking Group off the ground and explored ways to make the site OLITA's new communication tool. This work continues in 2009.



2008 Digital Odyssey

Ontario School Library Association



Lisa Weaver
OSLA President
Toronto District School Board

2008 OSLA Membership: 2129

- ❖ OLA, People for Education Research Study presented at Super Conference 2009 – Exemplary School Libraries in Ontario
- ❖ Elementary School Libraries received and reported on \$17 million dollars worth of resource funding
- ❖ Elementary School Libraries received a second grant of \$10 million dollars worth of resource funding – reporting deadline March 2010
- ❖ Draft School Library document reviewed by new Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat and the re-write is in progress
- ❖ Continued representation to TALCO, OTF Curriculum Forums and various ministry committee meetings
- ❖ Continued support in implementing board access to Resource Ontario component of Knowledge Ontario
- ❖ Extensive renewal of the OSLA website
- ❖ Worked with ABO-Franco to launch Le Prix Tamarack
- ❖ Nominations Committee filled seven vacant positions on council

- ❖ Attempted to revitalize use of the listserv in an unmediated fashion, unsuccessfully, however there was expressed interest in LNG but the move to the site has been slow
- ❖ Education Institute opportunities continued to be offered and moderately attended
- ❖ Super Conference featured speaker Will Richardson
- ❖ Establishment of a new School Library Community award
- ❖ Four well received issues of *The Teaching Librarian* published
- ❖ Canadian Library Association's Teacher-Librarian of the Year: Diana Maliszewski
- ❖ Award for OSLA's Teacher-Librarian of the Year goes to Michael Rosettis
- ❖ Award for OSLA's Special Achievement goes to Jefferson Gilbert
- ❖ OLA's Larry Moore Distinguished Services award goes to Anita Brooks-Kirkland

Some facts and figures of interest

(January 1 – December 31, 2008):

- ❖ Members: 5,222
- ❖ Super Conference registration: 4,550
- ❖ Forest of Reading® votes: 161,805
- ❖ Festival of Trees™ guests: 6,500
- ❖ Number of EI sessions: 267
- ❖ Number of participating EI sites: 3,610
- ❖ Top Selling OLAStore items:
 - Twilight Movie - READ Poster (ALA Graphics)
 - Guided Inquiry: Learning in the 21st Century (Libraries Unlimited)
 - Marvelous Minilessons for Teaching Beginning Writing, K to 3 (International Reading Association)