

Report on ALA Conference, June 20-24, 2003, Toronto Canada.

Things I learned at ALA (seriously!)

1. There is no time while you are at a convention to visit with family!
2. One should never get sick at a convention, you miss a lot.
3. You're more motivated if the library pays for some of your expenses. Staying in a nearby hotel beats commuting an hour each way.

Sessions Attended:

1. "The Star in the Maple Leaf: Canadian Jewish Resources and Literature"—very useful and interesting sessions, especially for my own personal research and interests. It covered topics such as the Jewish Studies Collection at the University of Toronto", The Jewish Public Library of Montreal, Jewish Resources at McGill University, and Hebraica and Judaica at the Library and Archives of Canada.

2. "One Conference, One Book" group discussion of the conference's "official book", one of my all time favorites which I had read twenty years ago, "The HandMaid's Tale"—discussing it with so many librarians from both the U.S. and Canada, and with a 20 year perspective, was fascinating. .

3. Virtual Reference Canada—heard two presentations—had interesting implications for our Virtual Reference Service
4. Heard Margaret Atwood, author of The HandMaid's Tale", "Oryx and Crake" and several other works of fiction speak to several hundred librarians. She gave a very inspiring talk, discussing the two books mentioned above and reminiscing about several high school experiences. Since I attended school in Toronto the same time that she did I related immensely to these presentations.
5. visited several vendors and received helpful information, i.e. guides for HRAF, information about EndNotes from it's vendor, etc.
6. looked at several poster sessions including "Why Electronic Reserves Go Down". from the University of Wisconsin at Madison
7. –attended session about the National Yiddish Book Center, its organization and future including digitization plans
8. Attended a session entitled "Role of Faculty of Education Resources Centers in Preparing Preservice Teachers".