

January 1997, vol. 29, no. 1 ISSN 1200-4472



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#### **Print on Board:** Rare Examples of Shipboard Printing in the Arctic

by Elaine Hoag, Rare Book Bibliographer, Research and Information Services

In his account of the second Grinnell expedition to the Arctic in 1854, the surgeon Isaac Hayes wrote: "Never had I appreciated the value of books as I then

did ... I had selected from the narrow shelf which held the little library that I had learned to love so well during the last long winter, three small books, which I thrust into my already crowded clothes bag ..." Hayes carried a pocket Bible, David Copperfield, and Tennyson's In Memoriam for an entire winter on the overland portion of his journey, considering them well worth the extra weight.

The value of books on long Arctic voyages was increasingly recognized throughout the nineteenth century, beginning with Captain John Ross's search for the Northwest Passage in 1818, through Franklin's final voyage 30 years later, and the dozens of expeditions in search of Franklin that followed. John Ross's shipboard library consisted of 25 volumes for the officers (chiefly accounts of previous voyages), along with 30 Bibles and 60 New Testaments for the use of the crew. The

officers supplemented this common library with their own books. By 1850, Captain William Penny's ship Sophia was equipped with 80 volumes, while its companion vessel, the Lady Franklin, carried 160 works "for the use of the crew during the winter".



Broadside advertising the "Queen's Arctic Philharmonic Society" (photo: National Archives of Canada).







For the greatest enemy during the icebound Arctic winter was not frostbite or scurvy or months without sunlight, but boredom: a boredom that in some men caused a debilitating lethargy, in others madness, and in still others rebellion often with fatal consequences. To counteract boredom, the leader of almost every Arctic expedition instituted a crewman's "evening school", in which officers tutored their subordinates in 1861, the men of Isaac Hayes's ship issued the Port Foulke Weekly News.

On some voyages, the newspapers were not as successful. Lieutenant Joseph Bellot, who served with Captain William Kennedy on an expedition in 1851 to 1852, remarked in his memoirs that he had intended to edit an Arctic newspaper but that the trials of the voyage completely dampened his initiative. Generally, newspapers such as these were

One letter to the editor mentioned that an officer had been caught sneaking out of the storeroom with a package of paper concealed under his jacket!

reading, writing, arithmetic, and sometimes religion. The lessons were often supplemented by a lecture series on nautical subjects. According to all accounts, the industry of the common seaman and his desire for knowledge were remarkable and gratifying.

On his first journey to the Arctic in 1819 to 1820, Captain William Parry suggested that the officers edit a weekly newspaper for their own amusement during the long winter months. Thus, the North Georgia Gazette and Winter Chronicle was born. Officers contributed articles anonymously and the editor prepared a "fair copy" in manuscript to be passed among the officers and crew. The venture was so successful that supplies of paper and ink dwindled alarmingly. One letter to the editor mentioned that an officer had been caught sneaking out of the storeroom with a package of paper concealed under his jacket! When the ship returned to England in 1821, the North Georgia Gazette was formally published, eliciting such great interest that a second edition was required the following year.

The officers on Captain Horatio Austin's voyage of 1850 surpassed the North Georgia Gazette by producing two newspapers: an illustrated monthly called the Illustrated Arctic News and a second paper entitled Aurora Borealis. Similarly, during the winter of 1860 to

produced only in manuscript; the Aurora Borealis and the Illustrated Arctic News, like the North Georgia Gazette, were not published until their authors returned home.

Many shipboard amusements were nonliterary, particularly for the common sailor. Sports, along with chess and cards, were preferred. Singing, dancing and music were important, and "theatrical entertainments" were especially popular. As with the first Arctic newspaper, it was Parry who initiated shipboard theatre on a grand scale, complete with scenery and costumes constructed by the men. The plays were so successful that supporters donated costumes and volumes of plays to outfit Parry's second

Very few expeditions after Parry's were without plays and pantomimes, particularly at Christmas. But at least three such Arctic theatres added a special attraction that Parry's apparently did not: printed playbills announcing upcoming events. For the ships commanded by Penny, Austin, Kellett, Collinson and Belcherall involved in the search for Franklin between 1850 and 1854 — had been supplied with printing presses and type.

The printing equipment was not intended for recreation. Austin and Collinson recorded that the Admiralty's Hydrographic Office had supplied the presses to print "balloon papers". Thousands of these "balloon papers", noting the date,



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National Library News, published ten times a year by the National Library of Canada, is available free upon request. To change your subscription address, please send your current address label, with all appropriate changes indicated, to: Marketing and Publishing, National Library of Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Canada K1A 0N4. Fax: (613) 991-9871. Internet: publications@nlcbnc.ca

National Library News is also available on the National Library of Canada's Web service

WWW URL: http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/ nl-news/enlnews.htm

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National Library News is indexed in the Canadian Magazine Index and the Canadian Periodical Index, and is available online in the Canadian Business and Current Affairs Database.

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The paper used in this publication



meets the minimum requirements of American National Standard for Information Sciences — Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Materials, ANSI Z39.48-1992.

ship location, and wind direction at the time of launching, were scattered over the Arctic to inform Franklin of the location of rescue parties. Such papers are akin to the "cylinder papers" and "bottle papers" containing similar facts that were dropped overboard to gather information on currents.

Despite the huge quantity of these small slips of paper, very few were ever recovered and fewer yet are extant. One such message printed on red silk was sold at auction in 1976 for £1 600! The playbills, printed in a few copies only, are equally rare. The Theatre Section of the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library holds three playbills, while the British Library catalogue includes only half a dozen or so printed on expeditions led by Austin (1850 to 1851), Kellett (1852 to 1854), and Belcher (1852 to 1854).



Advertisement for play performances (photo: National Archives of Canada).

The National Library is exceptionally fortunate to possess two broadsides from the Belcher expedition. Neither is listed in the British Library catalogue or held

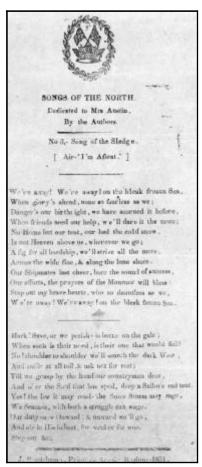
by the Metropolian Toronto Reference Library. The first broadside advertises a performance held on January 6, 1853 by the "Queen's Arctic Philharmonic Society", featuring such selections as "Les Adieux à boeuf et bierre", "La valse des baleines" and the "Narwhal polka". It is noted that a crewman will "supply ices gratis" during the performance. The supply was endless! The text is printed in a variety of types below a fine wood engraving of a ship in full sail, with the printer's name: H. Briant. Briant hinted at the difficulties of printing in the Arctic in his playbill for a performance of *Ham*let on December 21, 1852: "The business of the Printing Office is considerably retarded, in consequence of the ink freezing on the rollers — Printers Devil."

The second playbill in the National Library collection advertises the first two

plays ever performed on Belcher's ship. The Irish Tutor and The Silent Woman were presented on November 9, 1852 to celebrate the birth of the Prince of Wales. Belcher himself gives an account of the broadside: "Near the commencement of November, the following play-bill, printed at the Royal Press, on satin, was placed on my table, ordered to lie there, passed three readings, and received due assent ..." It is possible that more than one copy was printed on satin. But if not, then the National Library copy, on satin, is the very copy that lay on Belcher's desk in November 1852, awaiting his astonished, wholehearted approval.

At the head of the broadside is a finely engraved British royal coat of arms surmounted by a coarsely cut banner reading "The

Queen's Arctic Theatre". The latter appears to be printed from a woodblock separate from the coat of arms. Since such a block would not have been supplied with the type, it was almost cer-



Broadside for "Song of the Sledge" (photo: National Library of Canada).

tainly cut by one of the seamen, who may also have carved the rough, shadowed woodtype in which the play titles are set. The *Illustrated Arctic News* records that for playbills printed on Austin's ship "large type headings as well as ... arms and devices were cut on board by the seamen", so it is not unlikely that Belcher's men would have done the same.

In addition to playbills, a broadside advertising the forthcoming *Queen's Illuminated Magazine and North Cornwall Gazette* was printed on Belcher's *Assistance* in 1852. In fact, the newspaper itself was printed — probably the first printed newspaper produced on board an Arctic vessel. A list of the officers and men employed in Belcher's sledging parties in search of Franklin was issued on the same ship in 1854. During Collinson's voyage (1850 to 1855), an enterprising coxswain named Henry Hester printed a 36-page almanac on blue paper entitled *Polar Almanack for the Year of* 

Our Lord 1854. The British Library holds copies of all these items. In 1961, the members of Canada's Polar Continental Shelf Project discovered a printed form, complete with Briant's imprint, in a metal cylinder inside a cairn on Helena Island. The form, left by Belcher's crew in 1853, was completed in manuscript, detailing the sledging party's position, destination, and provisions remaining.

Though Belcher's voyage appears to have produced the lion's share of Arctic printing, the National Library also holds a broadside printed on Kellett's vessel: a prologue composed by one of the officers and recited before the performance of Charles II on board that ship on November 23, 1852. A delicate musical ornament featuring a lyre and trumpet stands at the head of the text, and two display types are used — a Tuscan ornamental face and a sans-serif — in addition to the text type. The prologue is printed on satin.

A number of song broadsides were printed on board Arctic vessels as well, chiefly during Austin's voyage. In addition to the two playbills produced on Belcher's ship and the prologue printed on Kellett's, the National Library holds a songsheet printed in 1851 by a crew member on the Austin expedition. One of the newspapers of that expedition, the Aurora Borealis, states that no one on board knew how to operate the press, but that both the officers and the seamen soon learned, the latter printing their own songs. So popular was this activity that paper became scarce, and the men resorted to printing on chamois, handkerchiefs, and their own shirts. The British Library records broadsides from the Austin voyage printed on yellow, blue and pink paper, linen and wash leather. Such a scarcity of paper is certainly confirmed by the National Library songsheet, which is printed on coarse brown paper, possibly intended as wrapping paper. There are deckle edges and a watermark, however, and the paper is clearly handmade despite its coarseness.

The broadside is dedicated to Captain Austin's wife "by the authors" and prints

the "Song of the Sledge", no. 3 in a series entitled "Songs of the North". The song also appeared in March 1851 in the last issue of the Illustrated Arctic News, the final item in that journal. The last line of the broadside reads: "J. Beauchamp, printer, Arctic regions, 1851". Indeed, in the spring of 1851, seamen from the Austin and Penny expeditions carried on a joint land search by sledge. Perhaps the

"Song of the Sledge" was sung to relieve the monotony of that trek.

These uncommonly rare and interesting broadsides form part of a large collection of Arctic materials held by the National Library of Canada. The collection can be consulted in the Special Collections Reading Room, and a bibliographical research guide is available.

#### Interested in Your Family's History?

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#### Bibliography of Standards and Selected References Related to Preservation in Libraries

Compiled by Suzanne Dodson, University of British Columbia Library, and Johanna Wellheiser, Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library

February 1996

The National Library of Canada is very pleased to announce the release of a notable bibliography of standards related to preservation, now available on the Library's World Wide Web homepage. The bibliography was created as a result of the National Meeting of Canadian Preservation Specialists hosted by the National Library on October 31 and November 1, 1994 (see "Hans Rütimann: Preservation Ambassador", and "Preservation of the Past for the Future", National Library News, vol. 27, no. 2, February 1995, pp. 1-6, and "Summary: Decisions and Actions from Preservation Meeting", National Library News, March 1995, pp. 8-9). The bibliography is intended as a first step to promoting awareness of standards relating to preservation.

Address: http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/ resource/presy/eintro.htm

#### **Summer Digitization Projects Launched**

by Iris Winston, Staff Writer

"The National Library's projects are an important step in providing cost-effective access through the Information Highway to information about Canada, while contributing to the local community and economy."

So said Industry Minister the Honourable John Manley, who was at the National Library on September 25, 1996 for the launch of the Library's four summer digitization projects. He spoke enthusiastically about the program and the partnership that had made the work possible (see "Digitizing Collections", *National Library News*, vol. 28, no. 9, September 1996, pp. 6-8).

Through the SchoolNet Digital Collections Program, funded via the Youth Initiative, 420 high school and post-secondary students across Canada spent the summer "gaining on-the-job experience in technology and business skills, and, at the same time, enriching the stock of Canadian material on the Information Highway".

Twelve of the students were employed at the National Library through the program, and they were able to see their handiwork on the World Wide Web on September 25 at the official unveiling. The Minister, National Librarian Marianne Scott and Ottawa Centre Member of Parliament Mac Harb, along with several of the students' parents, were among the first to view the finished products after the official unveiling at 4:30 p.m.:

• The Glenn Gould Archive: a multimedia virtual exhibition based on the Glenn Gould 1988 exhibition materials and catalo-



Student Ann Nguyen describing "North" project to the Honourable John Manley.



Students Jeremy Sill and Caterina Shaw showing Canadian Music Periodical Index project to Ottawa Centre MP the Honourable Mac Harb



The Glenn Gould Web site: demonstration by (left to right) students Evan Ware, Alain Bard and Janson LaBond, for Industry Minister the Honourable John Manley and National Librarian Marianne Scott.

- gue, together with a detailed chronology and links to related sites (http://www.gould.nlcbnc.ca/)
- North: Landscape of the Imagination: the catalogue and selected materials from the Library's 1993 exhibition, which presented the Canadian North as seen by artists and authors

(http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/north/)

- Index to Federal Royal Commissions: an Internet-accessible research tool (http://www.nlcbnc.ca/ifrc/)
- Canadian Music Periodical Index: a comprehensive research tool for identifying articles in Canadian music literature (http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/cmpi/)

"I am delighted that I can now have a look at these four collections wherever in the world there is access to the Information Highway," said Mr. Manley as he sat in front of one of the four screens as members of the digitization team demonstrated the projects in action.

"This is a program that benefits everyone," said Dr. Scott. "Digitization is an important means of making the Library's collections and indexes more widely accessible and of increasing Canadian content on the Internet. These projects have also enabled these young people to gain technological skills that will help them to build their professional lives."

Two of the students, Janson LaBond and Chris Robertson, saw an immediate benefit to the program. They were contracted to continue working at the National Library during the fall on related short-term projects.

The projects are also available at the SchoolNet Web page (http://www.schoolnet.ca/collections/). For more information on the digitization projects, contact:

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Internet: doug.hodges@nlc-bnc.ca

# Available Now! The Accessible Canadian Library II

This revised second edition of the 1986 guide is both an information resource and a valuable tool for library decision-makers and staff members who are working to make their libraries as accessible as possible. Readers are offered comprehensive lists of options and practical information for making appropriate choices. Also included is a directory of related organizations, agencies and electronic and printed information sources.

For a free copy of *The Accessible Canadian Library II*, contact:

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Internet: publications@nlc-bnc.ca

#### An IFLA Backgrounder

The International Federation of Library Institutions and Associations (IFLA), which celebrates its 70th anniversary this year, was founded in Edinburgh in 1927. An independent, international, non-governmental association headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands, IFLA was created to promote international understanding, cooperation, discussion, research, and development in all fields of library activity, including bibliography, information services and the education of library personnel, and to provide a body through which librarianship can be represented in matters of international interest

IFLA has almost 1 400 members, most of them library associations and institutions. Its members represent 138 countries and, because of the essentially corporate nature of its membership as well as its worldwide representation, IFLA has enormous depth of expertise upon which to draw in the development of its professional activities. These activities are undertaken by some 45 professional units, which are grouped in eight Divisions. The Sections and Round Tables are IFLA's basic professional groups, concerned with types of libraries and library activities. Each Section proposes its own programs, which

are reviewed by the Division's Coordinating Board. The overall professional program is directed and monitored by the Professional Board.

IFLA also has five Core Programmes, which provide stable long-term support for specific professional activities. The Universal Dataflow and Telecommunications (UDT) Core Programme is housed at the National Library of Canada; Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World (ALP), at Uppsala University, Sweden; Preservation and Conservation (PAC) at the Bibliothèque nationale de France; Universal Availability of Publications (UAP), at the British Library; and Universal Bibliographic Control and International MARC (UBCIM), at the Deutsche Bibliothek, Frankfurt

IFLA's long-term policy is based on the assumption that the international library profession has common goals and concerns, though the level of its development may differ from region to region and country to country because libraries and librarians operate in specific and distinct social, economic and political environments. Despite these different situations, they share common concerns, particularly the cultural, social and educational role of libraries in society; the

improvement of access to and availability of information, the enhancement of the library profession and the development and application of information technology.

IFLA continues its work in all areas throughout the year primarily through its Core Programmes and professional units. It also holds an annual conference hosted by one of the member countries. Here, it presents the professional program to the membership at large. IFLA is now developing a new Medium-Term Programme, which will cover the years 1998 to 2001. The Professional Board has determined that the strategic direction over these years will focus on the electronic environment as it affects IFLA's objective to promote librarianship globally, particularly through the provision of equal access to information, literacy programs, and preservation of the world's documentary heritage.

In the next issue of the *National Library News*, Ralph Manning, Heritage Officer at the National Library of Canada and Chair of IFLA's Division of Management and Technology, will present a detailed view of IFLA at work, and an assessment of the 1996 conference in Beijing.

#### **Survey on National Policy for School Libraries**

In 1993, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) organized a pre-conference seminar on school librarianship, sponsored by UNESCO. Participants included members of the International Association for School Librarianship (IASL) and there were representatives from 28 countries. Professor Anne Galler of Concordia University, Montreal, and Gwynneth Evans, the National Library of Canada's Director General of National and International Programs. were part of the group. Professor Galler was a Fellow at the National Library of Canada from 1994 to 1995. During this time, with the Library's help, she conducted a survey of national policies for school libraries.

The survey was undertaken as a practical application of the 1993 IFLA Policy for School Libraries that: "IFLA should urge its member associations to work with other educational and professional bodies to encourage national educational authorities to develop a policy on the role of school libraries in national development, as part of their national education policy; to introduce necessary legislation; and to improve financial support for school libraries and centralized support services for school libraries."

Its main objectives were:

- to sensitize educators, administrators, government bodies and politicians to the importance of school libraries in developing literacy, reading and research skills.
- to provide evidence that many countries do not have a national school library policy.
- to collect information on standards and guidelines from those countries with school library policies.

A questionnaire (first tested on five national libraries) was sent to 100 countries whose chief executive officers were members of the Conference of Directors

of National Libraries. Responses were received from 51 of the recipients.

Approximately half of the responding countries (26) have national school library policies. Among those without national policies, responsibility for school libraries falls to regions (11), municipalities (2) or individual schools (1). Two of the remainder are currently formulating policies. The others (9) have no policies in place.

In the great majority of cases, responsibility for official policy falls to the Ministry of Education or Education and Culture. Where there is no official government policy, 16 of the respondents said that another agency (unnamed) regulated school library policy. In 14 cases, the alternative agency (e.g., library association) had documented that policy. Where an official policy existed at any level, 20 respondents said that it was administered by: Ministries of Education (and Culture) (9); provincial, state or local boards (6); the national library (1); the library association (1); the state education commission (2); or the school authority (1).

It is also worth noting that there was general agreement about the importance of school libraries in national development: "The School Library constitutes an indispensable element in the educational process because it contributes toward the complete training of students." (Peru)

"The school library is a basic necessity which furthers quality teaching, and the development of equal opportunity." (Spain)

"The school library is essential today for quality education." (Jamaica)

"An up-to-date school library which is well-located, well-stocked and well-documented offering a multitude of multi-faceted services, acts as the informational base as well as the centre of activity and the focus of all documentation and information for the appropriate educational and/or training institution." (Hungary)

"The school library supports the school in its educational and pedagogical role....[It] serves teachers and pupils as a centre of information, study and leisurely activity." (Switzerland)

The National Library is working with representatives from the Canadian school library community, IFLA and IASL to test the feasibility of drafting a school library manifesto for UNESCO consideration.

### **Countries that Responded to Survey**

Angola	Estonia	Liechtenstein	Singapore
Australia	Finland	Lithuania	Slovakia
Belize	France	Madagascar	South Africa
Botswana	Germany	Malawi	Spain
Brazil	Greece	Malaysia	Sri Lanka
Canada	Hungary	New Zealand	Sweden
Chile	Iceland	Northern Ireland	Switzerland
China	India	Pakistan	Thailand
Cuba	Indonesia	Peru	Trinidad
Czech Republic	Ireland	Poland	Turkey
Denmark	Israel	Portugal	USA
El Salvador	Jamaica	Qatar	Wales
England	Kazakhstan	Russia	

#### The Future of Communication Formats

by André Paul, Acquisitions and Bibliographic Services

An international conference on "The Future of Communication Formats" took place at the National Library of Canada from October 7 to 11, 1996. The conference was organized cooperatively by the Banque internationale d'information sur les États francophones (BIEF) and the National Library of Canada, with content planning overseen by an international scientific committee. Approximately 170 individuals from almost 20 countries attended this gathering, a stimulating occasion because of the themes explored and the range of opinions expressed.

The conference focussed on the state of communication formats, and orientations and strategies to be considered in this field, among institutions and at the international level. All participants, especially those from countries creating or developing their national bibliographic and information systems, were able to take advantage of both informal exchanges and papers delivered by documentary network and information transfer specialists. The conference dealt with bibliographic data formats, particularly MARC and UNIMARC; Internet data transmission formats such as SGML and the Z39.50 protocol; electronic publishing formats such as HTML; and multimedia data formats. The conference also dealt with the issue of conversion of data in "traditional" MARC formats to Internet formats such as SGML, concentrating on prototypes studied and tested at the Library of Congress, among other sites.

The conference organizers judged that the time had come to review the choices for communication formats and evaluate the impact of new means of access to information created by networks such as the Internet, in both highly developed and less developed countries. There are questions about the advantages or necessity of adopting SGML to replace traditional formats, and about ensuring that the adoption and management of a new

format type would have beneficial effects, not only professionally, but also in terms of economic and human investments.

The following is a glance at a few of the papers and key points as an enticement to read all the papers, which will be published in the conference proceedings. This overview is strongly influenced by the excellent summary presented by Marcelle Beaudiquez, Director, Direction du développement scientifique et des réseaux, Bibliothèque nationale de France.

The conference got off to a splendid start with an address by Derrick de



Speaker Derrick de Kerckhove.

Kerckhove, Director, McLuhan Program in Culture and Technology, University of Toronto, who believes that "the interactive society is with us". His conclusions were very positive for librarians, since it is his opinion that in this new information world where "everything can be translated", librarians are necessary as never before. Both organizers and producers who manage and structure this virtual world, librarians are above all the only ones able to authenticate information and attest to its reliability.

The session on bibliographic formats stated its questions clearly: "Is There a Need to Maintain? to Modify? to Reject?" Taking a historical perspective,

Tom Delsey, Director General, Corporate Policy and Communications, National Library of Canada, traced the evolution of the MARC format and explained the three chronological waves of worldwide distribution of a veritable family of MARC formats to 60 countries. These working formats were complemented by the development of the UNI-MARC format, the international format for exchanging bibliographic data.

The presentation by Françoise Bourdon, Assistant, Direction du développement scientifique et des réseaux, Bibliothèque nationale de France, echoed the position adopted by Library of Congress representatives: yes, MARC formats do have a future. Ms. Bourdon also addressed the parameters to be taken into account when selecting an internal bibliographic format.

Alan Hopkinson, Systems Librarian, Middlesex University, London, dealt with the Common Communications Format (CCF), adapted for small libraries. He supported the status quo and the search for solutions in creating links to deal with the impossibility of converting CCF to MARC.

The second part dealt with "Internet Formats", the theme and subtitle of which was "The Ideal Solution? A Step in the Right Direction?" To aid our understanding of current and emerging information technologies, Global Village Research President Terry Kuny outlined the standards used in the Internet environment, presenting a typology of the range of standards and standards producers. Two messages were clear: without standards, "things deteriorate", leading to possible chaos; and it is impossible to be entirely "standard-free" if you are seeking any interactivity with others.

In this context, Jean-Marc Czaplinsky, Assistant, Direction de l'informatique et des nouvelles technologies, Bibliothèque nationale de France, demonstrated the significance of using the Z39.50 protocol to exchange bibliographic data online.

Ultimately, the Z39.50 standard and the exchange of bibliographic data on the Internet support each other and permit savings in format conversion.

Adel El Zaïm and Sylvie Tellier, respectively Director, Unité de recherche, Application des autoroutes, and Director, Centre de documentation at the Centre de recherche informatique de Montréal, examined the marriage "for love or for reason" between Internet formats and bibliographic formats. They dealt with metadata, Text Encoding Initiative (TEI) coding, automatic information retrieval, Meta-Content Format (MCF) and transferring responsibility for document description to authors. Their conclusion was that metadata should be added as close as possible to the data source, thus effectively combining the worlds of the Internet and the library.

With the session on electronic publishing formats, subtitled "Beyond the Records, the Actual Documents", we returned to the first link in the electronic chain. Jacques Chaumier, President and CEO, Bureau van Dijk, Paris, explained that the task of the electronic publisher depended greatly on the source document (print, electronic, formatted or not, composite, revisable and multimedia). SGML predominates, and HTML is becoming the standard "de facto if not de jure", being integrated in numerous office automation tools.

In his paper entitled "Toward a Universal Library", Normand Montour, Senior Consultant, DOCUMENSA, Montreal, proposed the idea that librarians will be transformed from "guardians of the written word" in a "cave of books" into "information wholesalers", because of the advantages of SGML.

Beth Sandore, Coordinator for Imaging Projects, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, explained that even if "a picture is worth a thousand words", it must be accompanied by a descriptive record if it is to be used correctly. She outlined the 13 basic elements defined in 1995 to describe an electronic image: the "Dublin Core Elements".

American experiences with the conversion of MARC data to SGML were described by Sally MacCallum, Chief, Network Development and MARC Standards Office, Library of Congress. She reiterated the three foundations that will underpin the Library's future use of SGML: a) an obligation to continue han-

dling both traditional-format publications and electronic-format publications; b) the necessity of catalogues for managing and identifying collections; and c) the assumption that catalogue records will continue to hold descriptive information on the document itself, information on the subjects of the document being analyzed, and information coded and standardized to facilitate lo-

cation of former or recent cataloguing data. Document Type Definitions (DTDs) have been carefully developed and are accessible on the Library of Congress Web site.

Claude Schnéegans and Robert Dupuy, respectively Project Leader and Director of Inforoute et Multimédia at Tecsult Eduplus, Montreal, presented the BIEF (Banque internationale d'information sur les États francophones) pilot project that converted the MARC format to the SGML format using the ENSEMBLE database, a major multilateral descriptive union catalogue of bibliographic data collected by BIEF information centres using CDS/ISIS software. It was theoretically demonstrated that it is possible to represent all the information contained in a MARC record in an SGML record.

This international conference achieved the objectives set by the organizers. Participants indicated that they were very satisfied with the quality of the speakers and the opportunity to exchange ideas on this important and timely issue, which is fundamental to the mission of all libraries: preserving publications, creating and exchanging data concerning these publications, and providing access to both the publications and the data. Communication formats are crucial in effective interaction between institutions that deal with information.

The conference proceedings will be available on CD-ROM in January 1997, and will be provided free of charge to conference participants. The proceedings include the texts of every paper delivered, in both English and French, as well as the summary report and the recommendations discussed and approved



Conference participants.

at the meeting. The proceedings may also be obtained from the BIEF, in print form or on CD-ROM. The papers and their translations are accessible via the Web sites of the National Library of Canada (http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/) and the BIEF (http://www.acctbief.org/).

#### **DID YOU KNOW ...**

that the March 1996 edition of the National Library's microfiche *CANUC:S*, a union list of serials in the social sciences and humanities, is now available? *CANUC:S* contains more than 180 000 serial titles held by more than 400 Canadian libraries.

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### **Resource Sharing**



### Making the Connections

#### **MARA Loading Hits New High**

by Emilie Lowenberg, Chief, Union Catalogue Division

During the month of October 1996 the National Library processed almost 350 000 machine-readable accession reports to the national union catalogue, the highest number of reports processed in a single month since the start-up of MARA reporting in 1983. Since the union catalogue database was transferred to AMI-CUS in 1995, the volume of MARA loading has increased significantly. Over the first 16 months of AMICUS operations more than two million MARA records were processed, resulting in the addition of close to 600 000 new records and more than 1.8 million new holdings to the database. In total, the union catalogue database on AMI-CUS now contains well over 6.5 million records with more than 17 million holdings attached.

The increased volume of loading is due in large part to a substantial increase in the number of libraries reporting to the union catalogue through MARA. Over the past several months seven new MARA libraries have joined the program. Among them are several major university libraries, including those at the University of Alberta, the University of Waterloo, and Lakehead University, and a number of libraries from key federal government departments and agencies, notably the Library of Parliament, Statistics Canada and the Supreme Court of Canada. There are now 24 libraries reporting via MARA (see sidebar).

#### What Has Changed?

MARA loading was interrupted in September 1994 when staff began to migrate the DOBIS database records to AMICUS. Following the implementation of AMICUS in July 1995, the National Library resumed MARA loading, first processing the files that had been back-

logged during the migration, and then processing new files. With the move to AMICUS, MARA loading has improved significantly. Generic conversion programs have been developed that make it easier to bring new reporting libraries on stream, even though a certain amount of "tailored" conversion still has to be programmed for each new library. Improvements have also been made to the software used for the record-matching process, and the error logs that used to be generated in printed form and worked on manually are now displayed online. while a number of the editing and revision functions have been automated.

Libraries reporting to the union catalogue through MARA now have the option of sending their records electronically by means of a standard file transfer protocol (FTP) rather than copying them on to magnetic tape and sending them through the mail. FTP is quickly becoming the preferred option among reporting libraries and is now used by half the libraries currently reporting through MARA.

The introduction of new searching capabilities in AMICUS has also provided an incentive to capture more of the data reported in MARA records. Changes to MARA conversion programs permit records in the union catalogue database to be enriched by subject headings, added entries, and bibliographic notes contained in MARA records. The objective is to provide more bibliographic information and improved access to records in the union catalogue database.

The MARA conversion programs have also been enhanced to accommodate a wider range of records. In addition to records for printed monographs and serials, the MARA conversion programs can now handle records for microforms, sound recordings, and cartographic materials.

All in all, the changes made in the MARA program since the migration of the database to AMICUS have helped to improve significantly the volume, currency and accuracy of reports to the union catalogue, and to decrease substantially the level of manual intervention required to build and maintain the database.

## Libraries Reporting via MARA

Athabasca University
Brandon University
Canada Centre for Inland Waters
Carleton University
Huron College
Lakehead University
Library of Parliament
McGill University
McMaster University
Memorial University
Queen's University
Statistics Canada
Supreme Court of Canada

Université de Montréal
Université du Québec
Université Laval
University of Alberta
University of Calgary
University of New Brunswick
University of New Brunswick,
Law Library
University of New Brunswick,
Ward Chapman Library
University of Saskatchewan
University of Toronto

University of Waterloo

#### What's Next?

AMICUS will soon be migrated to a new Digital Alpha server running on UNIX. The migration will mean that MARA loading will be interrupted once again, but only for a short period. Once the migration is complete, the new systems platform and operating system are expected to mean further improvements in the efficiency of MARA loading and expanded capacity for adding new records and holdings to the union catalogue database. In the meantime, the National Library is continuing to add new reporting libraries to the MARA program and to implement further enhancements to facilitate reporting, streamline record processing, and improve access to the database.

For further information, contact:

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Fax: (819) 953-0291 TTY: (613) 992-6969

Internet: emilie.lowenberg@nlc-bnc.ca

The main purpose of this series, "Resource Sharing: Making the Connections", is to share information so that those involved in resource sharing can learn from each other and ultimately provide improved services. Ideas for topics for future columns can be submitted to:

Carrol Lunau National and International Programs National Library of Canada 395 Wellington Street Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N4

Telephone: (613) 996-3262 Fax: (613) 947-2916 TTY: (613) 992-6969

Internet: carrol.lunau@nlc-bnc.ca

## A Window on Canadiana: Serving Researchers at the National Library

by Mary Jane Starr, Director General, Research and Information Services

"Access is the heart of the library", according to S.L. Weibel.\* And at the National Library of Canada, access is becoming both simpler and more complex. The simplicity derives from the National Library's role in providing a window on Canada's published heritage. But since the Library is also a gateway to Canadian information, the "window" can be said to have a number of "panes". Hence the complexity, as there are many means of using the Library to study Canada and its development as a nation.

Currently, the Library's clients use traditional mail (as the song goes, "we get letters, we get letters, we get lots and lots of letters"), the telephone, and, increasingly, the World Wide Web. And, every year, more than 6 500 individuals come to the National Library and register as on-site clients.

Our registration statistics for on-site access reveal a great deal about the origins and interests of our researchers. For example, two-thirds of those registering during 1995-1996 described themselves as "members of the general public", while another fifth indicated that they were students or faculty members at academic institutions. The other registrants were affiliated with schools, colleges, businesses, government departments or non-profit organizations.

Geographically, the breakdown is not unexpected: the on-site users are predominantly from the National Capital Region, followed by Ontario and Quebec. More surprisingly, perhaps, researchers from the Western provinces outnumber their Atlantic counterparts by three to one. Then there are those who hail from other countries, with the United States accounting for more than three-quarters of our foreign researchers.

When registering, researchers are asked to identify their areas of interest. Leading all subjects, by a notable margin, are history and genealogy. A second tier of interest comprises government and law, literature, business and economics, and music. Subjects such as Canadian science and technology account for other research topics.

Based on the interests of clients and on the strengths of the collection, the National Library focusses its research support on three areas of emphasis. For more than 25 years, the Music Division has served the information needs of those studying music in Canada who draw upon the Library's comprehensive print, manuscript and sound recording collections. In 1994, the Canadian Literature Research Service was established, consolidating staff expertise in children's literature, literary manuscripts, and writing and publishing in Canada. The latest development is the Canadian History and Society Research Service. Based on the Library's strong collection of official publications, newspapers, theses, monographs and periodicals, the Service is designed to meet and anticipate the information needs of the majority of our clients.

Beyond concentrating our resources on those subjects that dominate both the Library's collections and scholars' concerns, we have recently responded to suggestions for greater information exchange between Library staff members and researchers. A series of monthly seminars, entitled "Savoir Faire", offers opportunities for scholars and staff to discuss topics of particular interest. The first seminar, led by Dr. Robert MacMillan, was based on his work on Paul Radin's scholarly studies and the prehistory of the Kwakiutl Nation. Mary Bond, senior reference librarian and

<sup>\*</sup> S.L. Weibel, "The World Wide Web and Emerging Internet Resource Discovery Standards for Scholarly Literature", *Library Trends*, vol. 43, no. 4, Spring 1995, p. 627.

bibliographer, described the making of Canadian Reference Sources: An Annotated Bibliography, at the second seminar (see "Compiling Canadian Reference Sources: An Annotated Bibliography" National Library News, vol. 28, no. 1, January 1996, pp. 9-10). This forum enables all of us, staff and researchers, to share knowledge and expertise. Moreover, Library staff can learn about how the collections are used and, by consulting clients directly, improve the institution's services.

The seminar series is an excellent means for bettering services for on-site clients, but we are also striving to improve access for clients outside the Library. In this regard, the most dramatic developments are emerging from our digitization projects (see elsewhere in this issue). By creating electronic access to reference and research tools hitherto available solely to on-site researchers, the National Library is opening its collections to many more individuals, both in Canada and abroad. Two recent examples of research tools that are now electronically accessible are the Index to Royal Commissions and the Canadian Music Periodical Index (see "Digitizing Collections: The National Library in Partnership with Industry Canada", National Library News, vol. 28, no. 9, September 1996, pp. 6-8). These projects help to bridge the information gap between off-site researcher and collection.

The National Library is also using its World Wide Web site to render other information sources more accessible to clients across Canada and around the world. "Canadian Information by Subject" (http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/caninfo/ ecaninfo.htm), for example, is a classified guide to Internet sites with Canadian content that grows daily and is an increasingly important source of Canadian information. The Library's "Guide to Canadian Labour Resources" (http:// www.nlc-bnc.ca/services/elabhis.htm) focusses on some major reference works and National Library collections as well as resources held by the National Archives of Canada and the library of federal government department Human Resources Development Canada. "Services to Genealogists and Family Historians" (http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/services/egnlogy.htm) gives information on the topic of family history, as does *Reference Sources for Canadian Genealogy*, which includes information on bibliographies of works in the National Library's collection (see elsewhere in this issue).

These digitization projects have several purposes: they respond to clients' needs; they enable researchers to be more independent in their quest for information; they offer Canadians across the country equitable access to National Library services; and they take account of diminished resources by shifting emphasis

from one-to-one service to one-to-many service.

The National Library is constantly striving to attune its collections and services to Canadians' information needs. Specialized resource-based services, inhouse seminars and digitization projects are among the many means the Library uses to bring together researchers and the information they seek, and to confirm the National Library's place as a primary resource for the study of Canada.

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# **Public Programs**

## Spotlight on... Women's Achievements

by Hélène Charbonneau, Research and Information Services

On October 2, 1996, the Honourable Hedy Fry, Secretary of State for the Status of Women and Multiculturalism. was at the National Library of Canada to launch "Women in Canadian Librarianship and Bibliography: 10 Pioneers", an electronic information source now available at the Library's World Wide Web site. The 10 women recognized by the Library are Margaret Beckman, Elizabeth Dafoe, Marie-Claire Daveluy, Sheila Egoff, Marion Gilroy, Adèle de Guerry Languedoc, Jessie Mifflen, Elizabeth Morton, Marie Tremaine, and Freda F. Waldon. Librarians, bibliographers, historians, authors, editors and administrators, they were all significant in Canada's development, as noted by National Librarian Marianne Scott, who declared, "We are delighted to have this opportunity to give recognition to the achievements of Canadian women, the contributions they have made to our society, and the roles they play in our heritage."

Dr. Sheila Egoff was among the guests of honour, and the National Librarian cited her legendary accomplishments as a children's librarian and author, adding: "By profiling [these achievements] on the Internet site, we hope her contribution will become better known outside the company of bibliographers and librarians."

The project adds information to "Celebrating Women's Achievements", the Library's 1995 project that recognizes the work of 21 Canadian pioneers in music, literature, history and society. "I am extremely pleased that the National Library of Canada has chosen to use its Web site to celebrate these influential women," declared Dr. Fry. "Increasingly, today's young people look to the

Internet as the medium of choice for obtaining information and exchanging ideas with others across Canada and around the world. The choice is particularly appropriate since both the Canadian Library Association and the Bibliographical Society of Canada are celebrating their 50th anniversaries this year. The members of both these organizations



The Honourable Hedy Fry (top).

have been instrumental in helping to uncover the vital role of women in the development of our country."

Dr. Fry proceeded to talk about the cultural legacy of women in the arts, the 1996 theme of Women's History Month. "Everyone here this morning is well aware of the rich contribution Canadian women have made to Canada's cultural tapestry. And yet, throughout our history, women's artistic and cultural accomplishments have often been overlooked and undervalued, largely because of women's unequal status in society. Women's History Month is a way to open up the history books and shine the spotlight on the many outstanding achievements of Canadian women in every aspect of the arts."

And, for the National Library, Women's History Month is another opportunity to promote the published heritage of Can-

ada, and make the nation's information resources more accessible.

"Celebrating Women's Achievements" can be found at: http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/digiproj/women/ewomen.htm.

Find out more about 21 pioneers in Canadian music, literature, history and society

- Emma (Lajeunesse) Albani, Opera Singer
- Félicité Angers (Laure Conan), Writer
- Robertine Barry (Françoise), Writer
- Martha Munger Black, Adventurer, Member of Parliament
- La Bolduc (Mary Travers), Singer, Songwriter
- Victoria Belcourt Callihoo, Métis Historian
- Mary Shadd Cary, Editor and Civil Rights Advocate
- Harriet Vaughan Cheney, Eliza Lanesford Cushing and Eleanor H. Lay, Writers
- Isabella Valancy Crawford, Writer
- Helen Creighton, Folklorist, Folksong Collector
- E. Cora Hind, Agriculturist and Journalist
- Marie Lacoste Gérin-Lajoie, Pioneer Quebec Feminist
- Rosanna Leprohon, Writer
- Agnes Maule Machar, Writer
- Kathleen Parlow, Violinist
- Barbara Pentland, Composer
- Ethel Stark, Conductor
- Emily Jennings Stowe and Augusta Stowe Gullen,

Pioneer Women Doctors

# CANADIAN LIBRARY/INFORMATION SCIENCE RESEARCH PROJECTS

Compiled by Freda Taylor Christopher, Reference Librarian

The following is a list of those Canadian research projects, both completed and ongoing, that were reported by individual researchers and interested organizations to Library Information Services from April through September 1996.

The research projects are classified as either ongoing or completed investigations. Within these divisions, the arrangement is alphabetic by name of researcher(s), although the title is given first. Titles are highlighted to facilitate scanning. The entries comprise, if available: person(s) responsible for the research, address of institution where the research is being done or was completed, sponsoring body or body financing the research, starting date and completion date (if applicable), estimated costs, project title and citations for reports on the project.

### PROJETS DE RECHERCHE EN BIBLIOTHÉCONOMIE ET EN SCIENCES DE L'INFORMATION

Compilé par Freda Taylor Christopher, bibliothécaire de référence

Cette liste porte sur les projets de recherche canadiens, terminés et en cours, qui ont été signalés au Service d'information en bibliothéconomie par des chercheurs et des organismes intéressés entre avril et septembre 1996.

Les projets sont répartis en deux catégories, selon qu'ils sont terminés ou en cours, et sont classés par ordre alphabétique d'après le nom du chercheur, même si le titre apparaît en premier lieu. On a mis les titres en caractères gras pour faciliter la consultation de la liste. Les notices contiennent, dans la mesure du possible, les renseignements suivants : nom du (des) responsable(s) du projet, adresse de l'établissement où la recherche se fait ou a été effectuée, organisme chargé de parrainer le projet ou de le financer, date du début et de la fin du projet (s'il y a lieu), coûts approximatifs, titre du projet et références aux rapports sur le projet.

#### SECTION 1: ONGOING RESEARCH PROJECTS/ PROJETS DE RECHERCHE EN COURS

Canadian academic research libraries in a period of declining resources. Auster, Ethel; Taylor, Shauna. University of British Columbia, School of Library, Archival and Information Studies, 1956 Main Mall, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z3. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada=Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada. 1995-1998.

Courses for librarianship in a networked environment. Craven, T.; Bent, Dale; Nelson, M.J.; Quintana, Y. Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Western Ontario, Elborn College, London, ON N6G 1H1. The University of Western Ontario Academic Development Fund. \$41 700. 1995-1998.

World Wide Web displays of bibliographic records. Cherry, Joan; Cox, Joe; Ko, Winnie. Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto, 140 St. George Street,

Toronto, ON M5S 1A1. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada=Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada. 1995-?

Defining and maintaining universal access to basic network services:
Canadian experiences in an international context. Clement,
Andrew; Regan Shade, Leslie. Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto, 140 St. George Street,
Toronto, ON M5S 1A1. Industry
Canada=Industrie Canada. 1995-1998?

Developing information policies for a Canadian "information infrastructure": public interest perspectives. Clement, Andrew; Marshall, J.; Easun, S.; et al. Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto, 140 St. George Street, Toronto, ON M5S 1A1. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada=Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada. 1995-1998.

Canada-wide health and medicine archives information network. Craig, Barbara. Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto, 140 St. George Street, Toronto, ON M5S 1A1. Hannah Institute for the History of Medicine. 1996-1998.

Needs assessment for a guide to historical resources in Canadian health and medicine. Craig, Barbara. Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto, 140 St. George Street, Toronto, ON M5S 1A1. Hannah Institute for the History of Medicine. 1995-1996.

### Computer-assisted abstracting.

Craven, T. Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Western Ontario, Elborn College, London, ON N6G 1H1. Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada=Conseil de recherches en sciences naturelles et en génie du Canada. 1993-1996.

The preservation of the integrity of electronic records. Duranti, Luciana; Eastwood, Terry; MacNeil, Heather. School of Library, Archival and Information Studies, University of British Columbia, 1956 Main Mall, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z3. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada=Conseil de

recherches en sciences humaines du Canada. 1994-1997.

### The Dewey Decimal Classification as technobureaucratic discourse.

Frohmann, Bernd. Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Western Ontario, Elborn College, London, ON N6G 1H1. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada=Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada. \$35 925. 1994-.

Design criteria for multimedia information sources in an educational context. Large, John A.(PhD), Director, Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, McGill University, 3459 McTavish Street, Montréal, QC H3A 1Y1. 1995-?

Computer assisted information literacy instruction (CAILI).

Simmons, Peter; Jordan, Mark. School

of Library, Archival and Information Studies. University of British Columbia, 1956 Main Mall, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z3. 1995-1996.

Audio description as a tool for indexing moving image documents. Turner, James I. (PhD), Associate Professor, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, École de Bibliothéconomie et des sciences de l'information, Université de Montréal, C.P. 6128, succ. centre-ville, Montréal,

SECTION II: COMPLETED RESEARCH PROJECTS/ PROJETS DE RECHERCHE TERMINÉS

QC H3C 3J7. \$55 000.

The politics of information: a discourse analysis of information science. Frohmann, Bernd. Graduate School of Library and Information

Science, University of Western Ontario, Elborn College, London, ON N6G 1H1. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada=Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada. \$27 500. 1991-1994.

Process modelling through the application of Ishikawa ("fishbone") diagrams. Howarth, Lynne C.; McConnell, Mary; Mitlewski, Sonya. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada=Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada. 1993-1996.

### READ UP ON IT

Every year, the National Library of Canada produces a free **Read Up On It** kit that helps teachers, librarians, parents and group leaders to encourage reading of Canadian books.

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- d'antan», comprend des listes annotées en anglais et en
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