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LIBRARY COMMUNITY

Former National Librarian Honoured

by Gwynneth Evans,
Director General, National and International Programs

It is genuinely rewarding to develop a collaborative project with those who share common interests and goals. Such a project is The National Library of Canada and Canadian Libraries: Essays in Honour of Guy Sylvestre, a festschrift celebrating the achievements of the former

National Librarian. The book was launched in the Senate Banking Room at the Centre Block of the Parliament Buildings on November 18, 1996.

During the two years of gestation, the editors and authors kept their sense

of common purpose: to increase knowledge of the National Library and the leadership of Guy Sylvestre; to portray the regional development of libraries in Canada; and to understand the historical context of the fifteen years (1968-



Guy Sylvestre signing a copy of the book for author Elizabeth Hulse.



1983) of Dr. Sylvestre's tenure as National Librarian, when individuals and institutions worked to build a decentralized library network to serve Canadians.

Creating and shaping the book has been a learning experience for edi-

libraries in society and the influence of society on libraries.

Many of us were able to join with Dr. Sylvestre and members of his family for the launch, a delightful culmination of the project. We celebrated joyfully and conversed vigorously at the heart



Left to right: Gwynneth Evans, Marianne Scott, Guy Sylvestre, Richard Paré, Jean-Rémi Brault.

of our nation's government, and remembered many others who were not able to be in Ottawa. Surrounded by familiar faces and supported by "his team" of colleagues, his friends and his sons, Dr. Sylvestre was in great form. He eloquently recounted some of the means he used to achieve his vision of the National

tors Jean-Rémi Brault, representing the Association des sciences et des techniques de la documentation (ASTED), Gwynneth Evans of the National Library of Canada, and Richard Paré, representing the Canadian Library Association (CLA). Discussions with authors Jean-Rémi Brault, Marcel Caya, Hope E.A. Clement, Guy Cloutier, Frances Halpenny, Elizabeth Hulse, Ernie Ingles, Basil Stuart-Stubbs, Eric L. Swanick and Aileen M. Tufts have brought many rewards, as has collaboration with William (Bill) J. Welsh, former Deputy Librarian of Congress and Herman Liebaers, former Director of the Royal Library of Belgium, who offered tributes from outside Canada. In turn, the authors also communicated with many others who shared their memories, ideas and interpretations of this period. It is appropriate that while we celebrated the 50th anniversaries of both CLA and the Bibliographical Society of Canada in 1996, we also learned and came to understand more about the role of

Library and the Canadian library network. He told a few anecdotes, including this one:

“ Early in the seventies, I established a Music Division and succeeded in luring Helmut Kallmann away from the CBC to head it. [Former National Librarian] Dr. Lamb had acquired the Percy Scholes collection, a very large collection of printed scores, books, pamphlets, periodicals, manuscripts and ephemera; and the music holdings of the Library also comprised a great deal of Canadian [material] and other foreign material, all of which required specialized attention if their usefulness was to be fully exploited by musicians and other music researchers. One day, Dr. Kallmann told me that the Library should acquire a piano so that our patrons could decipher the scores in which they were interested. I needed not much convincing, but not so the Treasury Board Program Officer.

NATIONAL LIBRARY

NEWS



MANAGING EDITOR

Gwynneth Evans

EDITORS

Willadean Leo

Jean-Marie Brière

DESIGN

Roseanne Ducharme

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One Langlois (I don't remember his first name) reported to me that the Treasury Board would not approve of our buying a piano. When I met later with the Secretary of the Treasury Board, Gordon Osbaldeston, to go over our program and budget for the following year, the Program Officer, Langlois, was present; in the course of the discussions, he reiterated his opposition to our acquiring the proposed piano. I was fuming, but contained myself for Gordon Osbaldeston is a gentleman and I had and have much respect for him.

I mentioned that, on the occasion of a visit to the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, I had visited the département de la musique, located in a separate, large six- or seven-storey high building on the rue de Richelieu across

from the main building of the Bibliothèque Nationale and found that they had eight pianos, an organ and all sorts of string and wind instruments, which enabled their users to decipher all sorts of music scores. But Langlois demurred; he was not convinced. "Well, Gordon," I then said, "if it is Langlois who is the one to decide, I suggest that you should use your considerable influence to convince the PM that Langlois be appointed National Librarian, and I wish to offer my services to you as Program Officer so that I may tell him how to run the National Library."

"OK, Guy," replied Osbaldeston, "you buy your piano." I was sorry to have let the reference to the piano remain in the text of the submission. From then on, I instructed the staff not

to be too specific when preparing the TB submission. And, as some of you may know, I also acquired, on the eve of my retirement, one of Glenn Gould's grand pianos as part of the Glenn Gould collection. That time, I did not seek Treasury Board approval. ”



But beyond reminiscing, Dr. Sylvestre reminded us all that libraries are part of a continuum. Libraries and cultural agencies require sustained funding, a fact all too evident in Canada and throughout the world community.

For the hosts, National Librarian Marianne Scott and Parliamentary Librarian Richard Paré, the lively communication and conviviality testified to the value of both the festschrift and the gathering. ♦

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY AND CANADIAN LIBRARIES:

Essays in Honour of Guy Sylvestre



A new publication

A tribute to Canada's National Librarian (1968-1983), this collection covers the development of libraries in Canada from the 1960s to the 1980s with essays by some of Canada's most respected librarians, bibliographers and editors: Jean-Rémi Brault, Marcel Caya, Hope E.A. Clement, Guy Cloutier, Frances G. Halpenny, Elizabeth Hulse, Ernie Ingles, Herman Liebaers, Basil Stuart-Stubbs, Eric L. Swanick, Aileen M. Tufts, and William J. Welsh.

Edited by Jean-Rémi Brault, Gwynneth Evans and Richard Paré and co-published by the Canadian Library Association and the Association pour l'avancement des sciences et des techniques de la documentation with the assistance of the National Library of Canada, it can be purchased from CLA and ASTED.

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Order from:

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Order Department
200 Elgin Street, Suite 602
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 1L5
Telephone: (613) 232-9625, ext. 310
Fax: (613) 563-9895

ASTED

3414, avenue du Parc, Suite 202
Montreal, Quebec H2X 2H5
Telephone: (514) 281-5012
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Internet: <http://www.asted.org/>



Winner of 1996 Agatha Bystram Award Announced

by Iris Winston,
Staff Writer

There was once an award named "The Aggie"
Which today we have given to Maggie
Her new Marketplace
Saves time and space
And makes work routines so much less raggy.

— Trent Reid

On November 1, 1996, Trent Reid, Chief of the Finance and Treasure Board library, lived up to his long-standing tradition of composing limericks for notable events. He delivered this tribute to Maggie Butcher of Public Works and Government Services Canada when she was named the winner of the second annual Agatha Bystram Award

for Leadership in Information Management at the November 1 ceremony at the National Library of Canada.

"I am thrilled," said Butcher, Manager of the PWGSC Informatics Professional Services Division, after the lunchtime ceremony. "It was a great honour just to be nominated. I never expected to win."

Her winning project was the Online Information Professional Services Marketplace Initiative, a dynamic elec-

tronic marketplace, in which suppliers can post and update the prices and availability of their products 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Butcher's initiative makes it possible to simplify the procurement process, opens the way to more suppliers, and reduces costs and paperwork for both the public and private sectors.

The Council of Federal Libraries created the Agatha Bystram Award — the "Aggie" — in 1995 to recognize the contribution of one of the federal library community's most respected pioneers in the management of federal information and to encourage others to follow in her footsteps. Agatha Bystram (1934-1994) came to Canada from Hungary after the 1956 revolution. She began her library career as a student and later staff member at McGill University. In 1973, she moved to Ottawa to be part of the federal government's newly created Department of the Environment. Under her direction, Environment Canada was

Left to right: Marianne Scott, jury member Barbara Clubb, Sue Hanley, Maggie Butcher, Susan Dalati, jury member Martha Stone.



at the forefront in automating information services. Her library was also the Canadian focal point for the United Nations' environmental program, INFOTERRA.

"The award was established to recognize Agatha Bystram's commitment to making information widely available through integrated services," says National Librarian Marianne Scott, who also heads the Council of Federal Libraries and the award jury. "We are happy that the "Aggies" have already made their mark in the information community and delighted with the number and quality of the nominees for this year's award. I look forward to the jury's task of selecting a winner becoming more difficult with each year that passes."

Winner Maggie Butcher received a framed certificate, and her name has been added to a wall plaque, which is on display at the National Library.

Susan Dalati of Revenue Canada and Sue Hanley, Steve Clarke and Manuel Melo of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada received honourable mentions for their information projects. Susan Feeney of the Australian Bureau of Statistics also received special recognition for her innovative use

Did you know...

that in October 1996, Martha Stone, a member of the Agatha Bystram Award jury, was elected president of the International Federation on Information and Documentation (FID) for a four-year term beginning on January 1, 1997?



IFLA Today

by Ralph W. Manning,
Heritage Officer, National and International Programs
and member of the IFLA Professional Board

of technology during an exchange assignment with Statistics Canada. All received certificates recognizing their contributions to information management.

The awards ceremony was held during a luncheon at the Library, hosted by the CFL as part of its annual seminar. Sponsors of the ceremony were Geac, CANEBSCO and SilverPlatter Information Inc.



The theme of the 1996 CFL Fall Seminar was "E-Docs: Do You Know What's Going On?", and those attending had many opportunities to answer that question, and learned enough to ask new questions about electronic publications. Among the topics that were discussed:

- Electronic publishing in the federal government
- A multifunctional approach to electronic publications at the National Library
- Digitization at the University of Toronto
- Preservation of electronic records
- Electronic publishing and librarians

A summary of the seminar proceedings is available in *Liaison* 97-1 (January-February 1997), the newsletter of the Council of Federal Libraries, at the World Wide Web site. Address: <http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/cfl-cbfg/liaison/eliason.htm> ◆

Did you know...

that Maggie Butcher, the winner of the 1996 Agatha Bystram Award for Leadership in Information Management, won a gold medal for her work on the Online Information Professional Services Marketplace Initiative at the 1996 Government in Technology Conference on September 16, 1996?

What are the two most common and commonly expressed perceptions of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)? The first: IFLA is a complicated, bureaucratic organization. The second: IFLA always holds its annual meetings in enviably exotic places. Both these perceptions are

true — but a close examination of IFLA makes it possible to appreciate why a complicated bureaucratic structure and meetings in far-flung locations are valuable, indeed necessary, to IFLA's work.

STRUCTURE

IFLA's membership is composed of national associations, institutional members and personal affiliates. Biennial meetings of all members constitute the IFLA Council. Each member chooses the professional unit(s) in whose work it wishes to participate.

IFLA has 27 sections, each of which deals with a type of library (e.g., parliamentary libraries, art libraries) or a particular library function (e.g., cataloguing, conservation), and 12 round tables, which are small groups of persons with comparable professional interests (e.g., audiovisual and multimedia, continuing professional education). The organizational members of each section choose individuals to form a standing committee, which manages the section.

Sections and round tables are organized by their areas of interest into eight divisions (e.g., general research libraries, bibliographic control). In most cases, divisions are administrative units coordinating the work of the sections and round tables. Sections, round tables and divisions all report officially

to the Professional Board, which is made up of a chair, a secretary and one representative from each division.

The other groups that need to be mentioned are the Executive Board, which administers the Federation, and the core programmes which develop, promote and coordinate professional work according to a specific type of library activity (e.g., advancement of librarianship in the Third World, preservation and conservation). Each core programme is hosted at a sponsoring library. The National Library of Canada, for example, hosts the Universal Dataflow and Telecommunications (UDT) Core Programme.

CONFERENCES

There have been 62 annual conferences since IFLA was founded in 1927 (no meetings were held from 1940 to 1946). The site of each conference is chosen from among the invitations received from potential host cities. The two most recent conferences were held in Istanbul (1995) and Beijing (1996). Future conferences will be held in Copenhagen, Amsterdam, Bangkok and Jerusalem. The chief advantage of holding IFLA conferences at sites around the world is that it increases opportunities for librarians to attend conferences close to home and benefit from sharing information and experiences with colleagues from other



countries. A particularly good example was the meeting held in 1994 in Havana. Of the 1 371 delegates from 81 countries, almost one-third (433, or 31 percent) were Cubans. Moreover, 26 countries from Latin America and the Caribbean were able to send delegates to Havana in 1994, the first time that IFLA had held a meeting in that part of the world. In contrast, only five Cubans were able to participate in 1995, and only three were able to travel to Beijing in 1996. The experience in Beijing was similar, with more than one-third (800 attendees, almost 34 percent) of the 2 384 delegates coming from China. Equally encouraging was the fact that the Republic of Korea and Malaysia were among the largest delegations at that meeting.

THE FUTURE

IFLA's strategic direction over the next four years will focus on the electronic environment and its effects on IFLA's objective of promoting librarianship globally. The organization is particularly concerned with issues related to literacy and equal access to information. The importance of regional activities is demonstrated in the work of the Core Programme for the Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World and the Division of Regional Activities, which administers the three sections dealing with regional activities in Asia and Oceania, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Africa. In addition to its annual General Conference, IFLA organizes a biennial pre-conference for participants from the developing world. To ensure that candidates can participate, IFLA sees to it that they are carefully selected and fully funded so as to provide a lasting benefit to the home countries.

The Beijing Conference

As already noted, the latest IFLA General Conference was held from August 25 to 31 in Beijing. Its theme was "The Challenge of Change — Libraries and Economic Development". There is no doubt that the excellence of the conference organization and the warmth of the hospitality reflected the great importance of libraries, librarians and IFLA in China. Premier Li Peng was present to open the conference, and his remarks emphasized the importance of libraries and information in the changing world of Chinese society.

The keynote speaker was Fei Xiaotong, Vice-Chairman of China's Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. Using the conference theme, "The Challenge of Change", he described his personal experience with books and literacy, explaining that when he was born, 86 years ago, there were no public libraries. Instead, intellectual families established family study rooms for their children. When he went to university in the 1930s he was "most gratified by their well-stocked libraries and had the feeling of a caged bird set free to fly into the vast sky". He noted a direct link between economic development in rural areas and a demand for knowledge and culture, which leads to the development of libraries. "With a history of thousands of years, the library is a treasure-house invented by man in ancient times to gather together knowledge. Computer, communication and digitalization technologies are forcing libraries which have traditionally kept to themselves into a new stage of global cooperation and networking," he remarked. He concluded his keynote presentation by saying: "Librarians across the world should set themselves the lofty task of striving to create a global society in which people enjoy peaceful co-existence and in which each has their proper place, and each

has their role to play. Let us encourage and urge each other on to accomplish this noble mission."

After the 1995 IFLA General Conference in Istanbul, during which guest lecturer Frances D'Souza strongly encouraged IFLA to adopt a public stance on freedom of expression, IFLA established the Committee on Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (CAIFE), which is to report in 1997. In Beijing, another guest lecturer, Marianna Tax Choldin, presented a thoughtful and insightful paper about access to information and freedom of expression. Noting that "every country ... has problems with access to information and freedom of expression", she went on to say that "outsiders cannot solve this kind of problem; only people who live inside a country can do it." She concluded her paper by stating that "humans have an irrepressible drive to express ourselves freely" and that "this drive can prevail over the force of censorship, despite all obstacles". CAIFE is expected to recommend an IFLA programme "that will guide the IFLA membership in their efforts to support and promote freedom of expression."

The 1996 General Conference concluded with an unusual event. The rare occasion of back-to-back conferences of IFLA and the International Council of Archives (ICA) presented an opportunity for a special joint session. This event was held on September 1, 1996 and resulted in the approval in principle of a Beijing Agenda, which will outline a collaborative program for IFLA and ICA over the next four years. A working group was established, and it was proposed that the Beijing Agenda be approved by both organizations by December 1996 as a flexible working document outlining a framework for cooperation.

IFLA'S Medium Term Programme 1992-1997 comes to an end with next



year's Council meeting. All of IFLA's professional units are well into the process of developing the new Medium Term Programme for 1998-2001.

Although scope statements and general goals will be prepared for the four-year period, it has been decided that the rapid pace of change demands more flexible Action Plans, and these will be

developed for 1998-1999. The following statement was prepared by the Professional Board to guide the professional groups:

"IFLA's strategic direction over the next four 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 informa-

tion, literacy programmes and preservation of the world's documentary heritage."

It is certain that "the challenge of change" addressed at the Beijing conference will continue to be a primary IFLA concern. ♦

COLLECTIONS

Electronic Publications: Update on a Multifunctional Approach at the National Library of Canada

by Rolande Blair,
Director General, Information Resource Management

Adaptation of an address delivered to the fall seminar of the
Council of Federal Libraries held in Ottawa in November 1996

First, allow me to demystify this title and clearly state what I want to cover in this article. The National Library of Canada has a triple role with regard to Canadian electronic publications. First, it is mandated to acquire, preserve and manage a growing collection of Canadian

electronic publications online. Secondly, the Library has a part to play in the development of Canadian content on the information highway. And thirdly, legal deposit and the Management of Government Information Holdings policy confer upon the National Library the responsibility for acquiring government publications to ensure that they are preserved and accessible. This role extends to electronic publications.

PART I:

GUARDIANSHIP AND MANAGEMENT OF CANADIAN ELECTRONIC PUBLICATIONS

The Library's mandate makes the institution crucial in the accessibility and

preservation of Canada's published heritage. Does this mandate extend to electronic publishing? We firmly believe that the mandate of national libraries in their role as guardians of a nation's heritage cannot be dictated or restricted by the emergence of new formats. There has been a constant evolution in the media used by humanity to communicate or preserve its knowledge: stone, papyrus, paper, stable electronic formats, and now, "bits" somewhere in cyberspace. Yet the mandate of national libraries as guardians of a nation's heritage has not actually changed. In fact, the ephemeral nature of the latest development, purely electronic publications not associated with any physical support, further underlines

the importance of this role. The challenge is significant for libraries in general and the National Library in particular, because of the nature and complexity of these documents.

How has the National Library faced this challenge? The first issue to be resolved was the definition of an electronic publication. We chose a relatively broad definition with criteria that emphasized its application. Our definition reads as follows: "An electronic publication is any work which is encoded and made available for public access through the use of a computer by its creator. A remote-access electronic publication is one that is made available over a communication network. A tangible electronic publication is one that is published on a physical carrier."

The second problem involved the identification and acquisition of electronic publications. Our initial efforts focussed on non-commercial serial publications, for copyright reasons as well as to facilitate identification and network location. Close to 200 titles are now accessible on our server. Recently, we extended our efforts and began to acquire monographs, with particular attention to government publications. Our aim is to obtain a dozen of the most significant government titles by the end of the fiscal year, in addition to the publications of ten federal departments.

Strategically, it is obvious that the issue of legal deposit and its application or non-application to purely electronic publishing (i.e., with no physical



support) will have a preponderant influence on the ways in which we acquire and manage Canadian electronic publications. Will it be possible to apply legal deposit to electronic publications? The Library is seeking legal advice on this question, but it is a new field, and the answer may be slow in coming.

If legal deposit is not used in the short term, what strategy must the Library consider if it wishes to maintain its role as protector of a heritage which is even more threatened than it is ephemeral? Obviously, a role limited to that of a preferred information server is not appropriate, since it fails to guarantee the preservation of heritage documents and their long-term accessibility. The Library is studying a range of possibilities and models, and is seriously considering asking for the support of its partners, especially federal partners, to help ensure short- and long-term access to these documents.

ACQUISITIONS

The acquisition of electronic documents has posed some interesting challenges. Locating titles that meet the selection criteria, and negotiating the rights to use their titles with the publishers concerned, are very onerous tasks in terms of human resources, since the time required for numerous communications with publishers must be added to the time necessary for identifying and locating publications.

Because of the complex nature of the documents, acquisition protocols are frequently determined by the protocol used for electronic distribution on the Internet by individual publishers such as e-mail, file transfer, mirror technique, and so on. Security issues are also a factor.

Other problems stemming from the nature of electronic publications are: hypertext links (e.g., where a document begins and ends), different formats (the Library prefers standardized formats, which avoids burdensome con-

version problems), different versions of the same document, or the integrity and authentication of documents.

ACCESS ISSUES

Intellectual access to electronic publications takes place at three levels: via an individual record found in the AMICUS database which gives the URL address; via the file structure used by the server for text access (alphabetical order and access by title, author, subject and keywords); and via Internet search tools.

It is becoming increasingly obvious that an adequate document management system and a hierarchical system for document storage will become essential for ensuring effective management of and user-friendly access to our electronic collection. The current structure will not accommodate the influx of documents. A study of our virtual collection requirements has been carried out, and we are considering, in the relatively short term, the purchase and installation of the necessary structural elements. It is a question of priorities and resources.

Physical access poses an interesting problem, since it is linked to the copyright issue. The National Library must reserve its conclusions in this regard until it receives legal advice. However, the National Library strongly supports the principle of equitable, affordable and universal access being applied to these documents as well as other documents that are held in its collections. For the moment, there is no charge for access to any of the documents on our server. They are accessible via workstations in the Library's Reference Room and, for outside clients, via the Internet and the Web site. The question of commercial publications is, however, far from settled. Internationally, consideration is being given to scenarios involving automatic payment of fees, which would be maintained at a minimum level.

STORAGE AND PRESERVATION ISSUES

At present, there is no electronic support which is recognized as a long-term archival support. This means that, for preservation purposes, immediate consideration must be given to information transfer from tape to tape or from CD to CD, which is commonly known as "information refreshing". The process is very costly. However, there are systems that automatically safeguard the information they monitor. In the long term, we anticipate using this type of system to store our electronic collections. Strategically, given the scope of the problem, the Library is interested in the decentralized storage of electronic publications, at least for the short term. The involvement of federal partners appears to offer an option which the National Library intends to favour.

PART II: CREATOR OF DIGITIZED DOCUMENTS

Another sizeable challenge for the National Library, given the popularity of the Internet and its use as a world network for communication and access to information, a challenge which the National Library shares with its partners in the cultural world, is the need to ensure and maintain a Canadian presence on the information highway. The Information Highway Advisory Council is concerned about the dearth of Canadian content on the highway and has made a specific recommendation in this regard. Involvement of and stimulation by the government and the private sector are considered essential if the production and availability of Canadian digitized documents are to be ensured.

In addition to participating with partners in the library community in Industry Canada's digitization initiatives, the National Library has attempted to develop its own digitization program, as



its limited means have allowed. Project selection is based on several principles. Preference is given to projects involving the digitization of search or location tools designed to promote access to unique collections hitherto accessible only through manual catalogues that must be consulted on site. Two examples, the Index to Royal Commissions and the Canadian Music Periodical Index, clearly illustrate this priority. Emphasis has also been placed on independent "thematic" projects which, focussing on a specific topic, are an attempt to attract the attention of the general public to Canada and Canadians. For example, there is the project on famous Canadian women, which was recently expanded to include illustrious women who made their mark as bibliographers and librarians. Another favoured option is the "virtualization" of our exhibitions such as "North: Landscape of the Imagination", an exhibition on Glenn Gould, and another on science fiction and fantasy in Canada. Needless to say, the Gould site has already attracted many "visitors".

Here are a few points that had to be considered with regard to digitization:

- Cost: digitization is estimated to cost between \$2.00 and \$6.00 per page, plus equipment and software, selection and preparation of material, general expenses and training.
- Standards: these are intended to protect a minimum of interactivity. Publishers avoid adopting standardized formats such as SGML, because of the complexity of the standard itself, and also out of fear that their publications will too readily become the object of unauthorized access. Some people feel that this standard may not be in general use until the copyright issue is resolved.
- Copyright: obtaining permission to convert documents subject to copyright into "bits" and make them

available on the Internet is a specialized activity whose costs in terms of time cannot be minimized. If networking "heritage" collections or copyright-free documents is being considered, the problem does not arise. But if the plan is to convert recent publications, the whole new issue of library-publisher relations in connection with electronic publishing resurfaces.

- Preservation: there is a mistaken belief that electronic products will eliminate or substantially reduce the need to preserve originals. This is false, for two reasons. First, digitization is not stable and cannot therefore be considered a long-term preservation method unless data are periodically "refreshed". And secondly, the conversion process itself creates a number of additional challenges with respect to the use of originals.
- Integrity: is error-free digitization really possible if text-mode rather than image-mode is used to optimize searches? This makes digitization a sizeable and burdensome task.
- Selection: this may be the greatest challenge each institution must face. Establishing digitization priorities becomes a crucial problem, owing to the size of collections and the potential costs of this activity.

PART III:

FEDERAL ELECTRONIC PUBLICATIONS

Because of legal deposit and the responsibilities deriving from the policy on Management of Government Information Holdings, the National Library is required to acquire, preserve, promote and facilitate access to federal publications, which are explicitly covered by legal deposit. Although the validity of legal deposit may be questioned with respect to electronic publications, the Library nevertheless retains its role as guardian of the national heri-

tage, including Canadian electronic publications.

The Library has begun its campaign to acquire federal electronic publications. The institution plans to speed up this process, and the goal is to store important government publications and the key publications of at least ten departments on its server by the end of this fiscal year. Government publishers were invited to a meeting in the fall of 1996 to discuss this goal and ways of reaching it.

The National Library admits that the preservation of electronic publications represents a significant challenge which it will find difficult to meet alone. We have therefore begun to approach certain departments to discuss possible scenarios in which these departments would be asked to share the responsibility of preserving their publications, at least in the short term. The Library is part of a task force focussing on access to and distribution of government information in electronic form.

Finally, I would like to reiterate a strong conviction. The current electronic environment, encompassing electronic publications and electronic information transmission and communication networks, is defining a new field of action for libraries. We must not miss the boat. The Internet and electronic publishing offer libraries a leading role which Derrick de Kerckhove, Director of the McLuhan Program in Culture and Technology at the University of Toronto, describes as "the back office that manages and organizes this virtual world" (see "The Future of Communication Formats", *National Library News*, vol. 29, no. 1, January 1997, pp. 8-9). Otherwise, he points out, there is a risk of finding ourselves in the situation of Molière's gentlemen in *Les Précieuses Ridicules*, who "know everything but have learned nothing". ♦



SERVICES

Introducing ... the Canadian History and Society Research Service

Continuing to focus resources on core services, the National Library of Canada has established the Canadian History and Society Research Service (CHSRS). Consultation with clients and partner institutions resulted in useful suggestions on the general subject areas to be included in the scope of CHSRS, ideas for research products, and possibilities for affiliations with other institutions and organizations who share the

Library's mission of supporting research in Canadian studies. Created in response to users' requests and based on the Library's collection strengths and staff expertise in Canadian studies, the CHSRS aims to provide in-depth reference, research support and referral services to those studying the development of Canada and its society.

CHSRS: PURPOSE

The objectives of the Canadian History and Society Research Service are to bring together the Library's services in the research areas of Canadian history and society, and to make the institution's collection strengths and staff expertise better known and easier to use. The results will improve the Library's services to clients, both individuals and institutions, and more effectively use the Library's resources by consolidating them.

The "historical approach to the development of Canadian society" is one of the Library's three areas of collection emphasis, the other two areas being Canadian literature and music in Canada. Some of the subject areas in

which CHSRS offers specialized services and products are: genealogy, native studies, women's and gender studies, labour history, French-English relations, regions in Canada, immigration history, and government and law. Evolving client demands and research trends will ensure that new areas are added to this list. For example, there is increasing interest in the fine arts in Canada (such as photography), and in the historical experience of ethnic and racial minorities in Canada, their contribution to this country's development, and their changing roles in society.

CHSRS serves the information needs of a wide variety of individual and institutional clients both within Canada and abroad. Academic researchers, independent scholars, genealogists, and members of the general public address enquiries to CHSRS, as do universities, schools, centres for Canadian studies, business, legal and media organizations, Canadian publishers, and government departments and libraries.

CHSRS offers a broad range of information products and services. Research guides, specialized reading lists, bibliographies and finding aids for selected subject areas, themes, issues, historical events and types of documents, can all assist researchers.

CHSRS also makes available information in electronic form about Canadian history and society on the National Library's World Wide Web site. By offering research tools and guides, the Library is able to serve many clients at once, while continuing to help individual researchers who have specific needs. Some of the products are publications such as *Canadian Reference Sources: An Annotated Bibliography*, *Reference Sources for Genealogy*, and the three guides to the Library's official publications collections from the United States, Great Britain and France. Accessible on the Library's Web site are "Guide to Canadian Labour Resources" (<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/services/elabhis.htm>) and "Celebrating Canadian Women", a series of biographies and bibliographies (<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/digiproj/women/ewomen.htm>). Products planned for the near future include a research guide to Canadian political science, and thematic finding aids to works in the Rare Book Collection on such topics as the War of 1812, the Rebellion of 1837 in Lower Canada, and Arctic exploration.

CHSRS also provides a referral service to information resources outside the National Library. A benefit to clients whose research needs can be better answered by other institutions, the referral service ensures that researchers find out about all relevant sources in the National Library, as well as information resources and specialists located elsewhere.

CHSRS AND THE RESEARCH COMMUNITY

The National Library views the Canadian History and Society Research Service as a contribution towards helping those seeking information about



Canada. The Library continues to work closely with other institutions, such as the National Archives of Canada, the Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions, federal government libraries with related or complementary collections and expertise, and the Department of Canadian Heritage and its affiliated cultural agencies, particularly the Canadian Museum of Civilization, the Canadian War Museum, and the National Gallery of Canada. We are also collaborating with organizations such as the Canadian Historical Association, the Canadian Political Science Association, the Association for Canadian Studies, the Bibliographical Society of Canada, the International Council for Canadian Studies, and others. By working

together we can ensure that Canadians can learn more about their country, themselves and each other.

For further information on the Canadian History and Society Research Service, please contact:
 Franceen Gaudet
 Acting Director
 Reference and Information Services
 Division
 National Library of Canada
 395 Wellington Street
 Ottawa, Ontario
 K1A 0N4
 Telephone: (613) 992-0655
 Fax: (613) 943-1112
 TTY: (613) 992-6969
 Internet: franceen.gaudet@nlc-bnc.ca ◆

Library Statistics recommended basic data elements and an implementation plan primarily inspired by the *Annual Survey of Canadian Public Libraries*, which was then carried out by Statistics Canada as part of the Culture Statistics Programme. The correlation between data elements to be collected and the method of data collection was an important factor, especially after it was decided to recommend that Statistics Canada include all library categories in its survey. Due to a lack of resources, the report's recommendations were never implemented.

It became urgent to establish the National Core Library Statistics Program when Statistics Canada suspended its *Annual Survey of Canadian Public Libraries* after 1990-1991. As a result of interventions by the Canadian Library Association and the Association pour l'avancement des sciences et des techniques de la documentation (ASTED), the National Library prepared another set of core statistics, less elaborate than the one recommended in the Task Force's 1988 report. In the final proposal, developed in consultation with a number of Canadian library associations, 16 data elements were identified as the minimum required data. Taking into account the National Library's coordinating role in the area of Canadian resource sharing, data elements based on interlibrary loans were added to the profile, to ensure national coverage of essential information and to avoid a two-stage collection of data (see "National Statistics for Canadian Libraries", *National Library News*, vol. 25, no. 12, December 1993, p. 12).

The Program was largely based on partnership. Where statistics were already being gathered, arrangements were made to incorporate the data into the National Library Program. Since each province and territory collects statistics on its public libraries, the cooperation of the Provincial and Territorial Library

RESOURCE SHARING

National Core Library Statistics Program

by Ralph W. Manning,
 Heritage Officer, National and
 International Programs

Adaptation of a presentation to the annual conference of the Association pour l'avancement des sciences et des techniques de la documentation (ASTED), November 1996

A series of events led to the National Core Library Statistics Program (see "Update: National Core Library Statistics Program", *National Library News*, vol. 27, no. 9, September 1995, pp. 5-6). Everything began at an invitational meeting in March 1987 at the National Library of Canada which dealt with statistical surveys of Canadian libraries. The meeting had been called in response to the fragmentation, and, in some cases, the absence of statistical data on Canadian libraries. The hope

was that a plan would be developed with a view to a more comprehensive, stable perspective on Canadian library statistics.

At the end of the meeting, the National Librarian immediately formed a small task force to establish an overall set of core data elements for all categories of libraries and to recommend a method of gathering and analyzing data. The Task Force on Canadian Library Statistics was specifically mandated to recommend a statistics collection method based on a partnership of organizations that were already collecting statistical data on libraries.

Completed in April 1988 and published by the National Library, the *Report of the Task Force on Canadian*



Directors Council (PTLDC) was used to advantage for sending these compilations to the National Library, which ensured an overview of public library statistics. In the same way, the Canadian Association of Research Libraries was able to provide data for its members as a whole and for members of the Ontario Council of University Libraries and the Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries. This information, and the information provided by the *Conférence des recteurs et principaux des universités du Québec*, ensured excellent representation of large and small universities throughout Canada. As was the case for the collection of data from special libraries, direct appeals were made to members of the Association of Atlantic Universities Library Council and other universities which were not affiliated with the above-mentioned associations. The same procedure was followed with college libraries, except in British Columbia, where data were provided by the Council of Post Secondary Library Directors of British Columbia. ASTED was very helpful in ensuring a high participation rate by CEGEPs (community colleges), and the Canadian Association of Special Libraries and Information Services encouraged its members to participate in the survey. Obviously, partnership was a key element in the collection of data.

To ensure coordination of the Program, the National Library established an advisory committee made up of members representing agencies in the partnership. The Committee's primary mandate is to advise the National Library on the nature, scope, development and implementation of the National Core Library Statistics Program.

The collection of data for 1994 concluded in February 1996. The database encompasses a total of 1 719 libraries, with 4 914 service points (branches, departmental libraries, etc.), which probably represents all public libraries, most university libraries and a significant number of college libraries.

Special libraries are much less well represented, since only 457 of them completed the questionnaire. The final analysis will be available in the near future on the National Library of Canada's World Wide Web site. Presentations on the program and results for 1994 were made to the Canadian Library Association in June 1996 and ASTED in November 1996. Articles describing the results are in preparation.

Data collection for 1995 has just been completed. The collection took place in the same way as previously, except for two aspects. New partners have joined the group. The first of these that should be mentioned is the Canadian Health Libraries Association, which sent the National Library questionnaire to all of its members and to members of the Canadian Healthcare Association (formerly the Canadian Hospital Association). After the questionnaires were returned, the Association was able to carry out a statistical analysis of the health sciences libraries which replied. The Canadian Association of Law Libraries also supported the Program by sending its mem-

bers a letter inviting them to participate.

Canadian libraries are meeting the needs of the population they serve in the areas of education, information, finance, research, culture and recreation. It is essential to the nation's life that they always be able to meet these needs. Until now, however, because there was little statistical information, we were unable to measure Canadian libraries' contributions.

A regular supply of reliable statistical data will make it possible to assess these contributions on an ongoing basis, and will provide the foundation for planning, policy development and effective lobbying. Valid statistical data will also make it possible to establish a profile for each library, so that comparisons can be drawn with other libraries of the same size or in the same category. Moreover, national statistics will make it possible to find developments and trends in key areas.

The National Core Library Statistics Program is designed to collect these data, and to establish a national statistical profile of the Canadian library community. ♦

Resource-Sharing Meeting

by *Huguette Lussier-Tremblay*,
Research and Information Services

The annual meeting organized by the National Library of Canada, which attracts representatives of resource-sharing committees from francophone communities, took place in Montreal on October 30, 1996, prior to the conference held by the Association pour l'avancement des sciences et des techniques de la documentation (ASTED). It focussed primarily on the virtual Canadian Union Catalogue (vCuc)

and the Z39.50 standard. For this reason, representatives of other parties interested in the virtual Canadian Union Catalogue also attended.

The meeting opened with a progress report by a staff member of the National Library's Resource Sharing Services, who outlined the Library's recent achievements, including free access to the collection catalogue on the Web, the creation of a list of Canadian libraries that have a Web site and/or whose catalogues are accessible on the Internet, the CD-ROM product *Symbols and Interlibrary Loan Policies in Canada*, which is also available in print format, and, finally, the turnaround



time reduction from one month to two weeks for in-depth searches to answer interlibrary loan requests.

This was followed by a presentation on the vCuc, described as a set of databases accessible via the Z39.50 standard and the Internet. These databases may be union catalogues, individual library catalogues or other types of databases such as full-text bases or Government Information Locator Service (GILS) systems. Participants discussed their experiences in using the Z39.50 standard and its advantages and drawbacks. The representative of a firm that had developed a Z39.50 software package assured participants that suppliers are now clearly apprised of libraries' requirements with regard to this standard. The factors that still make it difficult to consult a virtual union catalogue are information on documentary holdings, MARC formats, library identification, distribution of information on target locations, and integration of results from several targets.

The National Library participated in a recently completed project for which university, government and public libraries representing several provinces used Z39.50 software to query AMICUS. The purpose was to help the Library in identifying problems in its target system. To assist libraries in the eventual creation of their own virtual catalogues with access to databases selected according to their individual requirements, the National Library is now preparing a pilot project on the vCuc. This project is designed to demonstrate the viability of the vCuc, using geographically dispersed catalogues accessible via the Z39.50 protocol and the Internet to library staff and users (see elsewhere in this issue). Some university libraries in Quebec already have a Z39.50 link, and it seems that the goal of the libraries subcommittee of the *Conférence des recteurs et des principaux des universités du Québec* (CREPUQ) is to implement Z39.50

access by the end of 1997. The Bibliothèque nationale du Québec has announced its participation in the virtual union catalogue beginning in 1997. The University of Ottawa, CREPUQ and ASTED have emphasized the importance of organizing sessions on the Z39.50 standard and its short- and medium-term implications for managers and librarians.

The Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI) has indicated that its catalogue is accessible on the Web. CISTI

is less involved in data collection, focussing instead on its contribution by client and server. Following the acceptance of the ILL protocol by major American libraries, CISTI, with the help of international partners, is preparing a link which should permit the exchange of messages using BER and EDIFACT transfer syntaxes.

The National Library is encouraged by interest in the Z39.50 standard and the vCuc, and, more than ever, it is looking forward to joining its efforts with those of its numerous partners. ♦



The Virtual Canadian Union Catalogue (vCuc) Pilot Project

by Carrol D. Lunau,
National and International Programs

During 1995 the National Library of Canada met with representatives of the library community to discuss the emerging outlines of a virtual Canadian union catalogue (see "The Virtual Canadian Union Catalogue Takes Shape", *National Library News*, vol. 28, no.2, February 1996, p.8). Several technical and policy issues, such as the identification of library holdings and the format of library symbols, were considered. A second meeting with representatives of library consortia and library system vendors was held in October 1995, and some issues were resolved. Following this meeting there was considerable discussion about the detailed requirements for coding holdings and location information on the listserv, at conferences and at the annual resource-sharing meeting, and it was proposed that a pilot project be established. All documents related to the requirements for the vCuc are available on the National

Library's Web site (<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/resource/vcuc/>).

The virtual Canadian union catalogue (vCuc) is defined as a series of databases that are accessible via the Z39.50 protocol and the Internet. "Databases" may be existing union catalogues, the databases of individual libraries, or other types of databases such as full text or government information locator systems. From a user perspective, the catalogue can, potentially, be tailored to meet specific needs. For example, a library in Western Canada may define its union catalogue as the holdings records of other Western libraries, the National Library, and the Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI), while a library in one of the Atlantic provinces might use information from NcompasS, Novanet, major public libraries, the National Library and ISM Library Information Services (CATSS). To prepare for such individualized needs and choices, vCuc participants must resolve the issues related to linking complex bibliographic databases.

To achieve this goal, the National Library is proposing a controlled project



to link databases by using the Z39.50 protocol to search and retrieve information. The objectives for this project are to:

- demonstrate the viability of the vCuc using geographically dispersed catalogues accessible via Z39.50 and the Internet;
- propose solutions to technical, service, and policy issues that must be resolved to ensure that Canadians

Participants in vCuc (as of December 1996)

British Columbia Electronic Library Network, Burnaby, British Columbia

Bibliothèque nationale du Québec, Montreal, Quebec

Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI), Ottawa, Ontario

École Polytechnique de Montréal, Montreal, Quebec

Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, Ontario

Manitoba Public Library Service, Brandon, Manitoba

Novanet, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia Provincial Library/NcompasS, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia

Université Laval, Quebec, Quebec

Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), Montreal, Quebec

University of Alberta/NEOS Consortium, Edmonton, Alberta

University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia

University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, New Brunswick

University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario

continue to receive high-quality library services based on resource sharing; and

- investigate the costs and advantages of using the standard.

A call for participation in a pilot project, to begin in 1997, was issued by the National Library in September 1996. To date, 15 libraries have shown interest in participating. These libraries manage databases containing more than 50 000 000 records and use systems from a variety of vendors, including DRA, Geac, Innovative Interfaces, SIRSI and Bestseller. They represent academic library systems, library consortia, provincial library services and federal agencies. The vCuc discussion list will be used for discussions; as well, various discussion documents will be posted on the National Library's World Wide Web site.

System vendors are important to this project because participants will be attempting to create a "profile" for the use of Z39.50 by Canadian participants in the vCuc. Vendors will be called upon to assist with technical problems that may arise in transferring or interpreting data. One such issue is the transfer and display of location and holdings information.

The Z39.50 standard contains many features with the potential to improve library service and resource

sharing, and the National Library is offering a series of information seminars and vendors' exhibits (see "Z39.50 in Action at the National Library", *National Library News*, vol. 28 no. 9, September 1996, pp 8-9, and "National Library Z39.50 Information Sessions: Update", *National Library News*, December 1996, p. 5). Through the pilot project, the Library and its partners hope to share their knowledge and turn this potential into reality.

If you would like to participate in this project, please contact:

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

For more information on the Z39.50 seminar, contact:

Fay Turner

Information Technology Services

National Library of Canada

395 Wellington Street

Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N4

Telephone: (819) 994-6830

Fax: (819) 994-6835

TTY: (613) 992-6969

Internet: fay.turner@nlc-bnc.ca ♦



IPIG Goes International

by Barbara Shuh,

Library Network Specialist, Information Technology Services

The third meeting of the North American Interlibrary Loan and Document Delivery Project (NAILDD) ILL Protocol Implementors Group (IPIG) was held in Washington, D.C. on October 11, 1996 (see "Report on ILL Protocol Implementors Group Meeting", *National Library News*, vol.

28, nos. 3-4, March-April 1996, p. 12). Canada was represented by the National Library of Canada (Barbara Shuh, Fay Turner, and Joe Zeeman of CGI, providing technical support) and the Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI). American participation was again



divided among library software vendors (Ameritech, CPS Systems, DRA, the Library Corporation, SIRSI, VTLS), the large bibliographic utilities (OCLC, RLG, and WLN) and other members of the library community (Association of Research Libraries, National Library of Medicine, and Triangle Research Library Network).

MEMBERSHIP EXTENDED

This meeting, chaired by Mary Jackson, Association of Research Libraries (ARL), was the first in which the membership was expanded beyond North Americans. Participants from the United Kingdom came from the British Library and Fretwell Downing, the consulting firm that worked on DALI and other U.K. projects that implemented the ISO ILL Protocol. Australian representatives were from the National Library of Australia, the Coordinated InterLibrary Loan Administration (CILLA) Project and the Joint Electronic Document Delivery Software (JEDDS) Project. Their presence gave IPIG a new balance and opened up new possibilities for communication and cooperation. Mary Jackson will follow up with European contacts to seek more representation from Europe.

Following the last meeting in February 1996, there was a lively discussion about implementation issues on the group's listserv. The October meeting confirmed decisions made on the listserv and resolved issues first raised on the listserv but still outstanding. Implementation decisions finalized at this meeting will be recorded in the IPIG profile, which specifies options

from the protocol that can be included in IPIG implementations of the protocol. The National Library is responsible for maintaining this profile.

EDIFACT/BER TRANSLATOR

The Library Corporation (TLC), a small library software vendor based in West Virginia, is working with CISTI on a project to develop a translator between BER and EDIFACT transfer syntax. BER (Basic Encoding Rules) is the transfer syntax that will be used in the American implementations to encode the ILL messages exchanged between systems. EDIFACT (Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Trade) coding is the transfer syntax used in ILL messages sent by the 46 Canadian libraries using protocol-compliant ILL messaging systems. However, the translator will not provide the complete solution, as the TLC work on the translator will not be available in the public domain for use by other implementors. Although participants felt that a gateway would provide a better solution, they agreed that the TLC/CISTI translator would be a positive first step towards interoperability between Canadian EDIFACT sites and American BER sites.

PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION

TLC has completed the background work for all 20 protocol messages in their ILL protocol machine while DRA has successfully sent their first test ILL-REQUEST. Both vendors exchanged messages with OCLC, which developed and tested the two messages identified as part of Phase 1 of the IPIG project (the ILL-REQUEST

and the STATUS-AND-ERROR-REPORT.)

At the meeting, OCLC announced its plans for a "Direct ILL" service, which will accept protocol-compliant ILL requests from various external systems and either send the request directly to OCLC ILL or load it into the target library's review file.

Systems developers such as RLG, which plan to integrate "hooks" for protocol-compliant messages into ARIEL workstation technology as part of the Australians' JEDDS project, have participated in the ongoing listserv discussions, but are waiting for Phase 1b of the IPIG project. Phase 1b will use store-and-forward (i.e., e-mail) as the communication mode, rather than the connection-oriented mode (i.e., a direct connection such as dial-up or TCP/IP) which was used in Phase 1a. Phase 1b is scheduled to start in early 1997.

The next meeting agenda concerns the mandatory data elements and establishment of standard data field lengths.

For more information, contact:

Barbara Shuh

Library Network Specialist
Information Technology Services

National Library of Canada

395 Wellington Street

Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N4

Telephone: (819) 994-6969

Fax: (819) 994-6835

TTY: (613) 992-6969

Internet: barbara.shuh@nlc-bnc.ca ◆



RESEARCH

SAVOIR FAIRE: Presentation and Discussion

Dr. Robert McMillan presented the first of the "Savoir Faire" seminars on September 15, 1996. This series focusses on scholarly research at the National Library and is intended to encourage interaction and information exchange among researchers and staff (see "Window on Canadiana: Serving Researchers at the National Library of Canada", *National Library News*, vol. 29, no. 1, January 1997, pp. 11-12). Dr. McMillan's paper, "Paul Radon and the Prehistory of the Kwakiutl Nation", examined the history of anthropology in Canada, particularly the Franz Boaz school, and the study of Northwest Coast Native art. Using examples from Kwakiutl and Haida art, Dr. McMillan discussed and questioned the anthropologists' theories about abstract art and the individuality of Native artists. Monographs and periodical literature from the National Library's collections are among Dr. McMillan's principal sources for his research. Dr. MacMillan's Ph.D. thesis (York University, 1986) was entitled "The Study of Anthropology, 1931 to 1937, at Columbia University and the University of Chicago", and his article "New Perspectives on Sapir" was published in *Philosophy of the Social Sciences* (vol. 19, no. 2, June 1989, pp. 201-209).

A stimulating question period promoted discussion among researchers, archivists, librarians and curators. Certainly, the purposes of the seminar series were well served by this first presentation.



Approximately 50 researchers and National Library employees attended the second Savoir Faire lecture on October 15. A paper was presented by National Library

staff member Mary Bond, Reference and Information Services, on the compilation of *Canadian Reference Sources: An Annotated Bibliography* (see "Compiling Canadian Reference Sources: An Annotated Bibliography", *National Library News*, vol. 28, no. 1, January 1996, pp. 9-10, and "Canadian Reference Sources: An Annotated Bibliography", *National Library News*, June 1996, p. 16).

This bibliography, published by UBC Press in cooperation with the National Library in May 1996, cites and describes reference sources on Canada's peoples, institutions, publica-

tions, literature, art, history, languages and religions. Ms. Bond discussed the reasons for its preparation, the content, selection criteria, organization and use of computer technology. She described the research process, using architecture as an example. The paper was illustrated with many reference sources, which were the highlights of the afternoon.

Canadian Reference Sources is available from:

UBC Press

University of British Columbia
6344 Memorial Road
Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1Z2

Telephone (Marketing Department):
(614) 822-4547

Fax: (604) 822-6083

ISBN 0-7748-0565-X

Price: \$225.00 in Canada,
\$225.00US elsewhere ♦

TECHNOLOGY

Working on the World Wide Web

by Lucy Bottomley,
Corporate Policy and Communications

INTRODUCTION

The National Library of Canada's World Wide Web service, established in June 1995, is approaching its second anniversary. Because the Library is one of the primary resources for the support of Canadian studies, the Web is proving invaluable in making information on Canada's published heritage more widely available than ever before. The Web service also makes it possible for the Library to make its services available electronically, and to provide Internet access to other information resources, both in Canada and around the world.

MANAGEMENT

Although the National Library's Web service is managed centrally, the devel-

opment and coordination of content is decentralized. The Web Editorial Coordinating Committee (WeCC), with representatives from all parts of the Library, steers the Web publishing process and serves as a forum for discussing structural changes and enhancements to the Web service. Other responsibilities are defined in detail in "Roles and Responsibilities for the National Library of Canada's World Wide Web Service".

CONTENT

Initially, the arrangement of the content at the Web site reflected the National Library's internal organization. Included was basic information about the Library, its extensive collections and services and public programs. Also provided were links to other Canadian Internet resources. The growing popularity of the service and the vast



potential of the Web have led to constant additions that have expanded the scope as well as the size of the service. The more significant additions include Canadian Information By Subject (<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/caninfo/ecaninfo.htm>), Canadian Government Information (<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/cangov/egovinfo.htm>), Canadiana Quick Reference (<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/services/quickref/ecqrmenu.htm>), and the National Library's online catalogue (<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/catalog/ecat.htm>). All of the Library's free publications (e.g., *National Library News*, information brochures), and many exhibits are now available in electronic versions. The results of the Library's digitization activities and projects, such as the Canadian Music Periodical Index (<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/cmipi/>) and the Index to Royal Commissions (<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/ifrc/>) have also been added to the Web, along with a listing of Canadian digitization projects (<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/services/enewdigi.htm>).

NEW STRUCTURE

One of the earliest lessons we learned in developing and maintaining the Web site was that users' expectations and interests grow and change as rapidly and extensively as the information available on the Web. The content of the Library's site has grown far beyond original expectations, and we soon realized that the information had to be streamlined and reorganized to make it more accessible and therefore useful. A site that mirrors the internal structure of an organization does not necessarily answer the needs of those outside the organization.

The Library's new homepage offers the user a different approach.

Information is grouped into three broad categories: "General", "Services" and "Sources of Canadian Information". This last category offers value-added services to Canadian libraries, publishers, and interested individuals. Quick-access possibilities, such as "What's New?" and "Contact Us!", are also available. We have also taken account of the needs of those with visual disabilities (<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/ehome2.htm>).

STATISTICS

The increased content on the Library's Web service has been matched, most gratifyingly, by increased use. For example, for the six-month period between October 1995 and March 1996, the average number of hits per day was 1 579, while during the next six months (April 1996 to September 1996), the average number of hits per day was 2 767, an increase of 75 percent. Similarly, for the same two time-periods, the average number of unique hosts that accessed the site monthly was 9 655 and 18 933, an increase of 96 percent. Currently, there are more than 4 000 daily hits, and more than 30 000 unique hosts access the site each month.

FUTURE

Another lesson soon learned by individuals and organizations establishing Web sites is that they require constant maintenance, and must be updated to reflect developments in content, structure and technology. At the National Library, we are looking at improving our service with features that provide quicker, easier access. An overview map and improved search capability are the first features being added. Some of the databases accessible from the site can now be searched, and we also provide tools for searching other Web sites. The

use of graphics, both as navigation tools and as aesthetic features, is under review. We already offer an audio feature on our site, and will be adding other multimedia features such as video, thus permitting someone far away from the Library to enjoy some of our public programs. For example, readings given at the 1995 Governor General's Literary Award Winners Reading Gala are already available, and audible (<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/events/readings/govgen/index.htm>). We are also investigating possibilities for creating virtual reality scenes. Lastly, but not least in importance, we are testing different Web management tools to assist us in site maintenance.

POSTSCRIPT

It is possible that, by the year 2000, there will be 200 million people on the Internet. The astonishing growth of the Internet in both content and technological development has had a tremendous impact on libraries. They are also being asked to provide electronic to information that is housed elsewhere. With the Internet, the "elsewhere" can mean "anywhere". An increasing number of Canadian libraries are able to offer such services. At the Vancouver Public Library, for example, there are 30 terminals dedicated to Internet access, nine terminals for local free-net access, and many catalogue terminals and CD-ROM stations. More and more libraries are entering the World Wide Web world.

Information technology has presented libraries with new and often complex challenges. At the National Library we continue our efforts to make a significant contribution to the development of electronic access to

(Continued on page 18)



PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Spotlight on... The Gala

by *Randall Ware,*
Research and Information Services

For the fifth consecutive year, the National Library hosted the winners of the Governor General's Literary Awards at what has become known as "The Gala" on November 13, the evening following the presentation of this country's most important literary prizes. As usual, the event was a great success. The capacity crowd offered convincing evidence of both the strong interest in Canadian writers, and the pleasure and excitement felt by those who came to watch, listen and enjoy.

Invariably, the writers are delighted to meet their readers after receiving their awards, and the readers are, if possible, even more delighted:



(World Wide Web... continued from page 17)

information in Canada to meet the challenges of the 21st century. As long as the Library is one of the nation's primary resources for the support of Canadian studies, the Library's Web service remains essential.

For more information on the Library's Web service, contact:
Lucy Bottomley
Marketing and Publishing
Corporate Policy and Communications
National Library of Canada
395 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N4
Telephone: (613) 996-3200
Fax: (613) 991-9871
TTY: (613) 992-6969
Internet: lucy.bottomley@nlc-bnc.ca ♦

their response is as important to the writers as the critical judgment of their peers. (And it is great fun to watch eager fans with books asking for autographs, and the enthusiastic response of the authors!)

This year's hosts were Natalie Lavigne and Ken Rockburn. With us were all the winning authors and illustrators except those who won the two drama awards. They were represented by two local actors, who gave excellent performances.

Guyline Normandin read for Normand Chaurette and John Gordon stood in for Colleen Wagner, and their efforts were warmly received. National Librarian Marianne Scott welcomed

everyone, writers, illustrators and readers, to the Library and Roch Carrier, Director of the Canada Council, spoke on the need for sustained funding for authors.

As always, thanks go to our sponsors: the Canada Council; the Friends of the National Library; the



The winners: left to right, front row: Linda Gaboriau, Christiane Teasdale, Marie-Claire Blais; middle row: Paul Yee, John Ralston Saul, Guy Vanderhaeghe, Serge Patrice Thibodeau; back row: Gilles Tibo, Eric Beddows, E.D. Blodgett, Michel Freitag. Absent: Normand Chaurette, Colleen Wagner.

Independents, Ottawa's independent booksellers; and the Travelodge Hotel by Parliament Hill. ♦



And the winners of the 1996 Governor General's Literary Awards are:

Eric Beddows
English Children's
Literature
(illustration)

Marie-Claire Blais
French Fiction

E.D. Blodgett
English Poetry

Normand Chaurette
French Drama

Michel Freitag
French Nonfiction

Linda Gaboriau
French Translation

John Ralston Saul
English Nonfiction

Christiane Teasdale
English Translation

**Serge Patrice
Thibodeau**
French Poetry

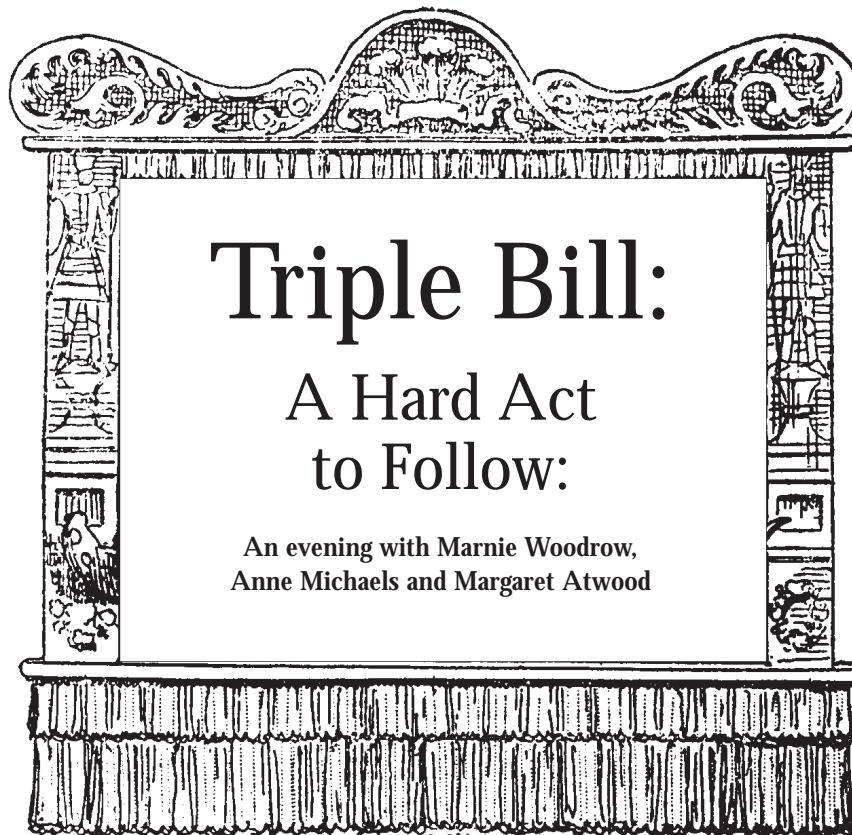
Gilles Tibo
French Children's
Literature (text)

Guy Vanderhaeghe
English Fiction

Colleen Wagner
English Drama

Paul Yee
English Children's
Literature (text)

French Children's
Literature
(illustration)
Prize not awarded in
1996



PROLOGUE

There is a long line-up at the ticket desk. Over forty people are waiting patiently, just in case over forty ticket-holders decide not to come. Inside the auditorium of the National Library of Canada the audience is made up predominantly, though not exclusively, of women. There is an animated buzz of expectation. The host is local CBC presenter Ken Rockburn, and the evening's entertainment is a triple bill of literary readings: joining Margaret Atwood will be Anne Michaels and Marnie Woodrow.

Before the opening act, Grete Hale, President of the Friends of the National Library of Canada, sponsors of the event, brings a sober note to the proceedings. She reminds the audience that in a time of increasing cutbacks, public institutions need friends more than ever. She encourages everyone present to take out a "Friends" membership before the end of the evening.

A similar concern for the future finds its way into Ken Rockburn's patter when he describes his work for CBC radio and television as "soon-to-be-cancelled". An experienced showman, he soon has the audience laughing at his irreverent anecdotes. He gives the evening the feel of a literary vaudeville, complete with playful M.C. and a gradual build-up to the arrival of the "top of the bill".

Triple Bill: A Hard Act to Follow:

An evening with Marnie Woodrow,
Anne Michaels and Margaret Atwood

by Kevin Burns
*Friend of the National Library
and Head, Seven Stories - Writing and
Communications*

ACT ONE

Marnie Woodrow has the challenge of being the opening act. She presents two contrasted pieces from her collection of short stories, *In the Spice House*, and it soon becomes clear that she is a gifted reader and stand-up comic. Woodrow carries the members of her audience into the suicidal darkness of the title story, then sets them rolling with laughter at the curious sexual gymnastics of the characters in her second story, "The Motel Joneses". She performs with a quirky mix of self-confidence and self-consciousness that makes her listeners eager for every word. Marnie Woodrow knows how to play to the balcony, even if this particular auditorium is lacking one.

ACT TWO

Anne Michaels' task is to deal with the enthusiastic audience that Woodrow has just enlivened. She succeeds by offering the deeply layered, image-filled world of her first novel, *Fugitive Pieces*. Michaels has a striking stage presence. She seems to wrap herself around the podium as she assembles an impressionistic collage of fragments from her book. In this reading, Michaels does not outline character or

story; rather, she evokes a mood of atmospheric introspection. The audience is hers by the time she reads the line: "We long for place, but place itself longs." Towards the end, she talks of "the catastrophe of grace".

ACT THREE

The third act opens with a different kind of grace when this year's Booker Prize nominee, Governor General's Literary Award nominee, and Giller Prize winner, Margaret Atwood, strides onto the stage amid the loud applause of a welcoming audience. Picking up Grete Hale's theme of libraries needing friends, Atwood thanks libraries in general for all the work they do. Then she opens up the pages of *Alias Grace*.

Atwood does not present the blood and guts of her double murder story. Instead, she reads from a section where the central character, Grace



Marks, encounters Mary Whitney, the woman whose identity Grace will “borrow” at a key moment in the story. The performance is classic Atwood. Precise, photographic detail. Sentence structure in sonata form: controlled, metred, crystalline, with a surprising, elegant twist at the end. For example, a complex sentence describing a character draws to a close with the mention of a deep “religious temperament”, only to be qualified by the phrase: “although kind hearted and gentle”. Every word is delivered with a gleeful twinkle in the Atwood eye. Star quality at the top of its form and at the top of the bill.

This event is about generosity and collegiality. Here is one of Canada’s foremost literary figures at yet another peak in her distinguished career, shar-

ing a stage, a crowded auditorium and an appreciative audience, with two other writers at very different stages in their careers.

EPILOGUE

The morning after her reading at the National Library of Canada, Margaret Atwood appears at the House of Commons before the federal Heritage Committee, representing the Writers Union of Canada and the League of Canadian Poets. Her subject is copyright, and Atwood is blunt. “Writers should not be asked to subsidize libraries and schools,” she warns. “Reproducing intellectual property without permission from its owner amounts to theft.”

As *Ottawa Citizen* columnist Susan Riley reports the next day, “One of the ironies of this debate is that it pits two groups which are usually allies against one another: writers and public libraries.” *

In *Alias Grace*, Atwood presents Grace Marks who, for a while, “becomes” another person, Mary Whitney. At two consecutive public events, Atwood presents two strikingly different messages about public libraries: that libraries want “a free lunch” when it comes to recognizing the rights of creators, and that libraries perform an important community service role by lending and promoting the works of those creators.

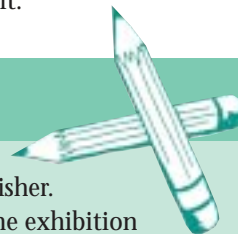
Perhaps we might turn to Atwood’s poetry for some guidance about balancing different rights and interests, about dealing with “both/and”, instead of “either/or”. In her collection *The Journals of Susanna Moodie*, Atwood includes the poem “The Two Fires”, in which Susanna Moodie, who also makes an appearance in the pages of *Alias Grace*, finds a path between two dangerous extremes, and discovers a place where growth is possible.

Two fires in-
formed me,
(each refuge fails
us; each danger
becomes a haven)
left charred marks
now around which I
try to grow

We can hope that writers, readers, librarians and legislators will find solace in that same place. Meanwhile, the discussion about copyright continues among members of the Standing Committee on Heritage, and the National Library of Canada continues its regular program of writers reading for readers, and other important cultural events. ♦

*“Authors Can’t Afford ‘Theft’, Atwood Says”, *The Ottawa Citizen*, Friday, November 22, 1996.

Artful Illustration



“The Art of Illustration” is the working title of an exhibition in preparation at the National Library of Canada. Running from April 24, 1997 until December 1997, the exhibition will celebrate the illustrators of contemporary Canadian children’s books.

Selected from the Canadian Children’s Literature Service and the Literary Manuscript collections of the National Library, the original art and published work of many popular and award-winning artists will be shown, including illustrations by Marie-Louise Gay, Elizabeth Cleaver, Ann Blades, Dayal Kaur Khalsa, Gilles Tibo, Laszlo Gal and Stéphane Poulin. Other artists such as Ted Harrison, Maryann Kovalski, Sheila McGraw and Ben Wicks have agreed to lend original works.

Draft sketches, storyboards and correspondence will illuminate the combined work of author, illus-

trator and publisher.

A version of the exhibition will also be available on the World Wide Web (<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca>) and will feature selected bibliographies and biographies.

Interesting, intriguing, inspiring, informative and imaginative — but find out for yourself. The exhibition will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. daily, free of charge, and you are invited to come in and feast your eyes.

For further information, contact:
Andrea Paradis
Public Programs
Research and Information Services
National Library of Canada
395 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N4
Telephone: (613) 992-3052
Fax: (613) 947-2706
TTY: (613) 992-6969
Internet: andrea.paradis@nlc-bnc.ca





A Word in Passing

by Jim Wiper,
Friend of the National Library

Storytellers at the National Library of Canada? It was hard to believe. I had no sooner finished reading the Public Programs brochure description of the three presentations proposed by the Alliance française than I felt myself borne on an epic voyage through

ancient Greece, hanging on the words of a bard telling of Ulysses' adventures after the Trojan War, or the story of that fabled Cretan monster, the Minotaur. Almost immediately, it occurred to me that my only knowledge of storytellers was what I had learned while studying the classics or what I had read in the intervening years. To my knowledge, no comparable tradition exists in Canada. The other facet that intrigued me was the suggested themes. First, Lucien Gourong telling tales of Brittany, the sea and its legends, then the Compagnie Histrions' reading and performance of Jean-Baptiste Racine's play *Andromache*, and finally, Bruno de la Salle presenting Homer's *Odyssey*, and Michel Hindenoch, the legend of the Minotaur.

Breton storyteller Lucien Gourong's presentation was nothing short of extraordinary. His only "prop" was a solitary chair under a single spotlight, nothing else to distract one's attention. The storyteller arrived on stage, looked at his audience, sat down, crossed his arms and began to tell short tales about his country and the sea. His expression, his gestures, his vivid delivery and the incredible wealth of his vocabulary swept us into unforgettable scenes. It was, and remains, a memorable evening.

The Compagnie Histrions gave us a combined reading and performance of the play *Andromache*, or "a microscopic view" of the Trojan War. Initially sceptical, I found the idea of adapting a French theatre classic to a presentation

in which the audience participates in the action, difficult to grasp. I also found it hard to imagine such a performance stripped of its customary stage costumes and decor. What else can I say? The Compagnie put on a fascinating show, both with regard to the individual performances of the Compagnie's cast, and the magnitude of the challenge to produce a high-quality show to please its audience.

The final chapter in this series, "Voix du livre", comprised presentations by Bruno de la Salle and Michel Hindenoch. Words fail me when I try to describe the intense, profound pleasure I experienced throughout the entire evening. Homer's *Odyssey* and,

in particular, Ulysses' adventure-filled return through the lands of the Cicones, the Lotus-Eaters and the Cyclops, the bewitching of his companions by Circe, and his strategies to escape the Sirens, Charybdis and Scylla literally enthralled me. Bruno de la Salle's animated storytelling brought the *Odyssey's* heroic characters to life.

The second part of this evening featured the legend of the Minotaur, the mythical Cretan monster with a man's body and a bull's head, imprisoned by Minos in the Labyrinth. Michel Hindenoch gave us an excellent show embellished by a captivating soundtrack created by using a psaltery (zither), a period instrument.

I enjoyed these three shows immensely and am particularly grateful for having been able to participate in the unique experience created by the storytellers. I can only thank the National Library for this initiative, one of so many others that are just as extraordinary, and say that I await the return of the storytellers with interest, even impatience! ♦

Yesterday's Stories Delight Readers Today

by Mary Collis,
Children's Literature Service

On October 19, 1996 the National Library of Canada launched the 1996 edition of Read Up On It at the 16th annual conference of the Ontario Reading Association. Outside it was cool and overcast, and people scurried indoors to escape a cruel, wintry wind. But inside the Citadel Inn, where the conference took place, it was bright and cheery. The National Library

booth, adorned with balloons and bedecked in blue and maroon to match this year's Read Up On It kit cover, attracted many conference delegates in search of news about the National Library of Canada and the kit, one of the Library's most popular products.

Read Up On It is a guide to good Canadian books for children and young people. Used by librarians, teachers, parents and children's literature enthusiasts across Canada and around the world when selecting books, Read Up On It is eagerly awaited each fall and frequently requested throughout the year. Entitled "Yesterday's Stories", the current edition has the theme of Canadian history. The kit includes a list of highly rated works of fiction and non-fiction books on Canada's past,



plus suggestions for activities that encourage reading and an interest in days gone by, a list of award-winning books, a message from the National Literacy Secretariat, a publishers' index, a poster and 32 bookmarks. The illustration for the 1996 cover, bookmarks and poster was created by folk artist and children's book illustrator Gilles Pelletier. Library staff members selected his work from among exceptional picture book illustrations because of its appealing representation of the historical theme.

At the launch, National Librarian Marianne Scott stressed the importance of books and reading in the lives of Canada's young people. She noted that Canada's future depends, in significant ways, on young people. "Canadians of all ages need to be informed and knowledgeable citizens, and reading is a critical component for the education and continuing self-education of us all," she stated.

A highlight of the launch ceremony was a draw for a framed poster signed by the artist. The winner, Lynda



Artist Gilles Pelletier with poster winner Cécile Olivier.

Healy, Adult Literacy Convenor with the Lanark County Board of Education, was delighted that her entry was picked. On November 1, during the annual conference of the Association pour l'avancement des sciences et des techniques de la documentation (ASTED) in Montreal, the two poster winners, Cécile Olivier and Socheata Seth, had the opportunity to meet Gilles Pelletier.

The kit is published under the patronage of the Right Honourable Roméo LeBlanc, Governor General of Canada. The National Literacy Secretariat, headed by the Honourable Joyce Fairbairn, is a joint partner, and Canada Post is an associate partner. Sponsors include Access the Education Station, the Canadian Children's Book Centre, the Canadian Federation of University Women, Communication-Jeunesse, and the YTV network.

The 1994, 1995 and 1996 editions of Read Up On It are available electronically at the National Library's Web site (<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/pubs/ruoi/eruoi.htm>) as well as on SchoolNet.

Free copies of the kit are available from: Marketing and Publishing National Library of Canada 395 Wellington Street Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N4 Telephone: (613) 995-7969 Fax: (613) 991-9871 TTY: (613) 992-6969 Internet: publications@nlc-bnc.ca ♦



Cartoonist's Literacy Book Launched

On November 1, the National Library of Canada and the National Archives of Canada jointly participated in launching *Born to Read and Write*, by notable cartoonist Ben Wicks.

The book is a call to action for parents, a lighthearted guide full of cartoons and ideas about how parents can help their children read and write. On the same day, almost two million children received a free copy of *Born to Read and Write* to take home from school to their parents.

Besides Wicks himself, His Excellency the Right Honourable Roméo LeBlanc, Governor General of Canada, was at the Library/Archives

headquarters building for the occasion. He was accompanied by the Honourable Joyce Fairbairn, Minister with Special Responsibility for Literacy, President of Sears Canada Don Shaffer, and Canada Post Chairman Georges Clermont. Also present were 85 very special guests: students from Charlotte Lemieux school, eager to join in the festivities. National Librarian Marianne Scott and National Archivist Jean-Pierre Wallot welcomed the visitors.

Mr. Clermont brought Santa's sleigh and handed out pre-addressed letters to Santa to all the children, assuring them that if they would write to Santa, he would write back — with a

little help from Canada Post. The Governor General had an attentive audience while he read a story acted out by a mimic, while Senator Fairbairn used props and the help of an obliging volunteer to bring the story to life.

Ben Wicks is known throughout Canada for his amusing and insightful cartoons, and his talent for making pithy statements through drawing and words is evident in *Born to Read and Write*. But his humour highlights an important message: the family's vital role in developing and encouraging literacy skills. The generous participation and cooperation of public- and private-sector organizations, including Sears Canada, Canada Post, schools, school boards, literacy groups and government departments, underline the value of the message. ♦