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PERSONNEL

Rolande Blair Retires

by Nancy Brodie and Doug Hodges,
Information Resource Management

Rolande Blair retired from the National Library of Canada on March 7, 1997 after 16 years with the National Library and 23 years with the Government of Canada.

In 1981, Rolande Blair joined the National Library as a participant in the federal government's Career Assignment Program (CAP). In doing so, she marked a first in the institution's history: never before had a management position in the Library been filled through CAP. According to Flora Patterson, Director of the Public Services Branch at that time, "It was a real breakthrough to fill a position that was empty." Ms. Blair, who holds a bachelor's degree in arts (with a major in biology) from the Université du Québec à Montréal and a bachelor's degree in commerce from the École des Hautes Études Commerciales in Montreal, brought to the National Library valuable experience in departmental management: she had been the Head of Linguistic Services at the



Rolande Blair with National Librarian Marianne Scott.

Department of Customs and Excise and a program analyst at the Treasury Board. The Library and her colleagues have also benefitted from her deep interest

in and knowledge of Canada's cultural heritage.

From 1981 to 1991 Ms. Blair was Assistant Director (Interlending) in

Photo: Kevin Joynt.



Photo: Kevin Joynt.

Left to right: Kathryn Mikoski, Manager, Document Delivery, Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information, Rolande Blair and Maureen Wong, Information Services and Product Development, CISTI.

the Public Services Branch where she directed the Union Catalogue, the Location and Interlibrary Loan Division, the Lending Division and the

Her friends and colleagues applaud her contributions, and wish her well.

Multilingual Biblioservice. From 1991 until 1994, after Flora Patterson's retirement, Ms. Blair was Acting Director of the Public Services Branch.

Besides her work in the Public Services Branch, Ms. Blair made many significant contributions to cooperative projects that affected the whole of the National Library and its services to Canadians. She was a member of the team that developed the Canadian Resource Sharing Strategy, and had an important role on the Collections Management Policy Team. She was also

active in initiating many preservation activities, including the creation of the National Library's Preservation Collection. She represented the National Library on the Task Force on the Preservation and Enhanced Use of Canada's Audio-Visual Heritage established by the National Archives of Canada.

In 1994 Ms. Blair was appointed Director General of Information Resource Management, a new branch created to develop and implement resource development strategies, policies and plans to enable the National Library to meet the information and service needs of its clients and partners. She also was given responsibility for coordinating the Library's participation in government-wide initiatives to ensure the effective management and use of federal information resources.

National Librarian Marianne Scott pays tribute to Rolande Blair's achievements. "Rolande thinks strategically and is able to take on difficult issues. In her many dealings with outside organizations, she has been an effective advocate of the National

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MANAGING EDITOR

Gwynneth Evans

EDITORS

Willadean Leo

Jean-Marie Brière

DESIGN

Roseanne Ducharme

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Library's position, ensuring that the position was well understood and effectively argued. Rolande has always been interested in new approaches to doing things. The whole notion of an Information Resource Management branch was an entirely new concept for the Library, and in three years she has created a branch which is both highly effective and a model of how matrix management should work."

"Rolande Blair is very pleasant to deal with. She can be forceful and has the strength to carry her point in a discussion, and yet does not lose her calm and always pleasant demeanor," says colleague Marc Gagnon, Director General of Management Services. He adds that one of the many positive influences Ms. Blair has brought to her work at the National Library over the years has been her "ability to encourage the use of both official languages in meetings, where she typically makes participants completely at ease in using either language in discussions with her."

Ms. Blair has been an active member of the Association pour l'avancement des sciences et des techniques de la documentation (ASTED), giving numerous presentations at ASTED conferences on topics varying from preventative conservation measures for documents to the interconnection of open systems. Her most recent contribution to *Documentation et bibliothèques*, "La gestion des documents électroniques : le point de vue de la Bibliothèque nationale du Canada", demonstrates her continued involvement in new strategic directions of the National Library.* Most recently, Ms. Blair has chaired the National Library's Digitization Advisory Committee and developed a Digitization Policy for the Library, another new strategic direction.

Marianne Scott's comment that "Rolande Blair is very much a team player" is exemplified by Ms. Blair's response when asked about her greatest satisfaction in working at the National

Library: "What I enjoyed most was working with people who love their profession and are enthusiastic about their work."

Ms. Blair looks forward to spending more time with her husband, Robert Blair, a well-known architect in Western Quebec, and seeing more of her five grandchildren, including a set of triplets. Her friends and colleagues at the National Library and throughout the Canadian library community applaud her contributions, and wish her well. ♦

* Several of Rolande Blair's presentations have been published, including: "Introduction aux mesures preventives de conservation des documents", in *Prevenir ou guerir?: actes du colloque sur la conservation des collections*, Montréal, 16-17 novembre, 1989 (Montréal: Bibliothèque nationale du Québec, 1990), pp. 47-53; with Monique Renaud, "Interconnexion des systèmes ouverts", in *La technologie — à quel prix?* (Montréal: Association pour l'avancement des sciences et des techniques de la documentation, 1990), pp. 221-231; and "La gestion des documents électroniques : le point de vue de la Bibliothèque nationale du Canada", in *Documentation et bibliothèques*, vol. 42, no. 3, (juillet-septembre 1996), pp. 127-133.

SERVICES

Reference Sources for Canadian Genealogy at the National Library of Canada

by Mary Bond,
Reference and Information Services

The Canadian History and Society Research Service was established by the National Library of Canada to provide in-depth reference, research support and referral services to those studying the development of Canada and its society. It consolidates the Library's resources, both collections strengths and staff expertise, so as to use them more effectively.

The following article describes some of the specialized services and products offered by the Library in the subject area of genealogy. The article originally appeared in *Anglo-Celtic Roots*, published by the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa, vol. 3, no. 1, Winter 1996/97.

- Where can I find information about the origins of the family name Casavant?
- How can I find an obituary for Ann Phillips, a Methodist from Ramsay Township, Ontario who may have died in the 1860s?
- I would like to know whether a family history exists for the Maxner family of Windsor, Nova Scotia.

- Is there an historical atlas for York County, New Brunswick?
- How can I locate my ancestor's grave in a cemetery in Alberta?

The answers to these questions and many others may be found in the reference works listed in *Reference Sources for Canadian Genealogy*. This annotated bibliography, published by the National Library of Canada, cites and annotates over 200 reference sources of interest to genealogists and family historians searching for Canadian ancestors. It includes publications of national and provincial interest primarily in book



and microform formats and is arranged in sections covering general works such as bibliographies, dictionaries, handbooks and indexes together with sections on each province and the Yukon Territory. Each entry includes a complete bibliographic reference and an annotation which describes the purpose, content, arrangement and publishing history of the reference work. Name, title and subject indexes complete the bibliography.

Most of the publications described in *Reference Sources for Canadian Genealogy* are held in the Reference Collection of the National Library of Canada. This is a superb collection which is recommended for anyone who is interested or involved in Canadian studies research.

I have the good fortune as a reference librarian and bibliographer at the National Library to use the collection extensively and over the last seven years to have spent much of my time documenting it in a large bibliography entitled *Canadian Reference Sources: An Annotated Bibliography* (UBC Press, 1996). This publication includes over 4 000 entries for reference sources about Canada's peoples, organizations, institutions, publications, art, literature, history, religions and languages. It is arranged in three large sections: General Reference Works, History and Related Subjects, and Humanities, each of which is further subdivided by subject, type of document, genre, province/territory as appropriate.

One of the subject subdivisions within history is of course genealogy. Because *Canadian Reference Sources: An Annotated Bibliography* is a hardcover

publication of nearly 1 100 pages which sells for \$225.00 Canadian, we felt it would be useful to extract the entries from the genealogy section and publish them separately in a format more affordable to individual researchers. The resulting paperback publication is *Reference Sources for Canadian Genealogy*, available for \$19.95 Canadian (plus handling and shipping)

Most of the publications described in *Reference Sources for Canadian Genealogy* are held in the Reference Collection of the National Library of Canada.

from Canada Communication Group — Publishing (Ottawa, ON K1A 0S9; tel. (819) 956-4802).

What would the genealogist or family historian find of interest in *Reference Sources for Canadian Genealogy*? A researcher who is just beginning to work on his or her family's history might want to determine whether a history has already been published. Bibliographies such as Allan E. Marble's *A Catalogue of Published Genealogies of Nova Scotia Families* or the *Annotated Bibliography of Genealogical Works in Canada*, compiled by Kathleen Mennie-de Varennes, list books and articles about specific families. *Periodical Source Index, 1847-1985* and its annual supplements index the contents of numerous genealogy and local history periodicals, including over 100 Canadian titles. Sections of the

index are arranged alphabetically by family name.

Is anyone else researching the same family or another branch of the family? In order to facilitate the exchange of information among genealogists, many genealogical societies publish directories of surnames being researched by their members. I have included provincial directories such as the Ontario Genealogical Society's *Directory of Surnames* and the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society's *Members' Interests* in the bibliography. These directories are housed in the National Library's general collection and are therefore available for interlibrary loan.

A beginning family historian should also consult a good handbook which describes research techniques, types of records and important libraries and archives. There are many such handbooks available to the genealogist or family historian researching Canadian ancestors. Of those included in *Reference Sources for Canadian Genealogy* and held by the National Library, I frequently use *Researching Your Family Tree: A Beginner's Guide from the Toronto Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society*. It provides a very concise overview on how to get started, organizing your information and using records such as census returns, vital statistics, maps, wills and newspapers. Other general handbooks of interest are Angus Baxter's well-known work, *In Search of Your Canadian Roots*, and *Access to Ancestry: A Genealogical Resource Manual for Canadians Tracing Their Heritage* by Elizabeth Briggs.

For the family historian researching ancestors who settled in a particular



province or of a particular ethnic background, there are many specialized handbooks. In *Tracing Your Ancestors in Alberta*, Victoria Lemieux and David Leonard cover archival collections of genealogical interest in Alberta. René Jetté has produced a massive work on the theory and practice of French-Canadian genealogy in his *Traité de généalogie. How to Research Your Ukrainian Ancestry in Saskatchewan: Rodovid* by Kathlyn Szalasznyj describes sources under the categories family, community and official.

Are you having problems with a particular type of record? You may be able to find a handbook which will help you to use the records more efficiently. For example, *A Guide to Ontario Land Records*, published by the Ontario Genealogical Society, discusses the information needed to undertake research in a land registry office, and the problems you may encounter.

Beginning genealogists may wish to join a genealogical society through which they can meet and get advice from more experienced researchers, attend conferences, participate in workshops, receive periodicals, etc. Many handbooks list the major societies of a region or province. *Meyer's Directory of Genealogical Societies in the U.S.A. and Canada* provides addresses and telephone numbers for provincial societies and their branches, special interest and single name family organizations.

Other directories have been designed to help the genealogist or family historian find the archives or library which can best help them with their research. P. William Filby's *Directory of American Libraries with Genealogy or Local History Collections* describes the policies, collections and services of 128 Canadian libraries as well as of American libraries, while Ryan Taylor concentrates on Ontario institutions in

his *Important Genealogical Collections in Ontario Libraries and Archives: A Directory*.

Ancestors' vital statistics are of course the key facts for which the genealogist is searching. Various sources can provide birth, marriage and death data including official records of civil registration, parish registers and newspapers. When accessible, these sources

Publications of genealogical interest also make up a large and increasing part of the National Library's general collection.

are often scattered among libraries, archives and other institutions. Many reference publications have been prepared with the aim of assisting the researcher to use these records more effectively.

A number of genealogical societies and individuals have undertaken massive projects indexing birth, marriage and death notices from newspapers. *Nova Scotia Vital Statistics from Newspapers* published by the Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia is a multi-volume work covering the period 1769 through 1854. Similar publications have been prepared by other societies including the British Columbia Genealogical Society, *British Columbia Vital Statistics from Newspapers, 1858-1872: Including, in an Appendix, Vital Statistics from Diaries, 1852-1857*, and the Manitoba Genealogical Society, *An Index of Birth, Marriage and Death Notices from Manitoba Newspapers*. Donald McKenzie has com-

plied seven volumes to date which index notices from Canadian Methodist newspapers of the nineteenth century.

The early records of civil registration for some Canadian provinces have been transferred from the custody of government vital statistics offices to provincial archives. A recent publication of the Edmonton Branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society indexes these early records in *Alberta Formerly the Northwest Territories: Index to Registrations of Births, Marriages and Deaths 1870 to 1905*.

Quebec is often described as a "paradise" for family historians because sources such as parish registers and notaries' records are fairly complete and because there have been a number of monumental publications prepared which compile a great deal of information on early French-Canadian families from these original sources. The National Library's Reference Collection includes Cyprien Tanguay's *Dictionnaire généalogique des familles canadiennes depuis la fondation de la colonie jusqu'à nos jours* and the titles which attempt to supplement or correct Tanguay's work, for example, *Nos ancêtres au XVIIe siècle : dictionnaire généalogique et bio-bibliographique des familles canadiennes* by Archange Godbout, and René Jetté's *Dictionnaire généalogique des familles du Québec* covering the period from the French settlement of Quebec to 1730. Also heavily used by genealogists working at the National Library is the *Répertoire alphabétique des mariages des Canadiens-français, 1760-1935*, commonly known as "Drouin", which lists marriages in two alphabetical sequences, under the family name of the groom and also under the maiden name of the bride.

The *Répertoire des actes de baptême, mariage, sépulture et des recensements du Québec* is another major publication of great interest to genealogists, although



the project was undertaken as a study in historical demography. It reproduces data from registers of baptisms, marriages and burials, census returns and other sources such as marriage contracts, lists of immigrants, confirmations, and hospitalized persons, from the period of French settlement to 1765.

The titles noted above are only a selection of the reference sources available and of interest to genealogists using the National Library of Canada. The National Library's excellent collection of Canadian directories is also housed in the Reference Collection and is available for on-site consultation by users. The collection consists of Canadian city, county, provincial and national directories, both historical and current. Using the directories, genealogists can trace a person or family through changes of address, occupation, etc. within a city. County or farmers' directories published mainly for Ontario in the latter half of the nineteenth century can provide concession and lot numbers for inhabitants of rural areas together with an indication of whether they were tenants or freeholders. Provincial directories, published in the later part of the nineteenth century and the early part of the twentieth century, provide lists of the major business persons in smaller towns and villages. The National Library has published a bibliography and index of its directory collection entitled: *Canadian Directories, 1790-1987: A Bibliography and Place-Name Index*.

The National Library's Reference Collection also includes sources which, although not specifically genealogical, can be of great assistance to the genealogist, such as biographical dictionaries, gazetteers and place-name dictionaries, atlases and bibliographies of local histories.

I have focussed on Canadian reference sources thus far because the National Library's primary mandate is to

collect Canadian publications and assist researchers with Canadian studies topics. However, we do have a number of important reference works which are of interest to the genealogist whose ancestors were located in other countries. We feel that we have a role to play in helping researchers to determine which foreign records and repositories are most relevant for their research. We have handbooks, such as *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors* by John Grenham and *Searching Overseas: A Guide to Family History Sources for Australians & New Zealanders*, historical gazetteers, for example, *A Topographical Dictionary of England* and the *Ordnance Gazetteer of Scotland*, as well as a guide to parish registers, *The Phillimore Atlas and Index of Parish Registers*. The multi-volume catalogue of the genealogies and family histories held by the Library of Congress, *Genealogies in the Library of Congress: A Bibliography*, is extremely valuable for persons from all backgrounds as that institution has an international collection.

Publications of genealogical interest also make up a large and increasing part of the National Library's general collection. Most of these publications are received as a result of the legal deposit regulation which requires publishers to deposit two copies with the National Library. Items in our general collection can either be consulted on-site or borrowed on interlibrary loan by arrangement with your local library. We have an extensive collection of Canadian newspapers in microfilm and microfiche formats. Other sources include published transcriptions and indexes of parish registers, cemetery transcriptions, community and family histories. As well, we receive the journals of numerous Canadian genealogical and historical societies.

Bibliographic records for works in both our reference and general collections are included in our online library catalogue. It can be consulted at the

National Library or through the National Library's Web site on the Internet (address: <http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/resanet/introe.htm>).

Researchers visiting the National Library in person are required to register at our Information and Registration desk on the ground floor. This desk is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. Upon showing personal identification including a permanent address, researchers are issued a Library card which is valid for one year.

The Reference Room is open from Monday to Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Bilingual reference staff are available during these hours to assist researchers wishing to use the reference collection or the Library catalogue.

The general collection is housed in stacks which are not open to the public. Library personnel retrieve items from the collection every half-hour from 10:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. The Reading Room is open from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., seven days a week.

From individuals who cannot visit the Library in person, we are pleased to receive reference questions relating to Canadian genealogy via the telephone, regular or electronic mail (reference@nlc-bnc.ca). While we do accept questions from persons within and outside of Canada, we encourage researchers to use their local resources first. To permit us to respond in an effective and timely fashion, we would ask that researchers make their questions as specific as possible, including a *limited* number of names, dates and places. We will attempt to locate relevant publications in our collection and/or refer researchers to other organizations which may prove helpful. We look forward to assisting you at the National Library of Canada and hope that you will find *Reference Sources for Canadian Genealogy* a useful tool. ♦



LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE:

A Unique Service of the National Library

by Doug Robinson,
Library and Information Science Specialist

An integral part of the National Library's Reference and Information Services Division, the Library Information Service (LIS) provides specialized reference and information services on all aspects of library and information science to the Canadian library community, and on Canadian library/information science topics to enquirers outside Canada.

The National Library of Canada has a strong library science collection, ranging from books to library science periodicals to grey literature, including extensive files of historical materials. Examples include the records of the Provincial and Territorial Library Directors' Council covering the years from 1978 to 1993, with files of minutes, provincial reports and surveys. A recent acquisition was files from Al Bowron, a well-known library consultant. The Bowron collection also includes some published material that will be accessible through AMICUS, the National Library's online database.

The National Library of Canada is the Canadian clearinghouse for the papers of the conferences of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). The published items are accessible through AMICUS. Other ephemeral materials can be found in the vertical file collections.

The Library Information Service uses its Web page to provide information to the Canadian and international library communities (<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/services/elis.htm>). For example, LIS maintains a listing of Canadian

library associations; a related list of forthcoming meetings and conferences; the names of Canadian electronic discussion lists related to libraries, networking and information technology and their subscription addresses; and a

The National Library of Canada is the Canadian clearinghouse for the papers of the conferences of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA).

range of bibliographies on topics of current interest to librarians, the most recent being *Relocating Libraries and Collections: A Selective Bibliography*.

The Service collects information on library research and makes the information available through various media. The term "research" is interpreted broadly to include all kinds of endeavours, initiatives, investigations, studies, surveys and evaluated innovations in the field. Lists of ongoing and completed library and information science projects are accessible on the Web page, in *National Library News* and in *Current Research in Library and*

Information Science, a quarterly journal published in England.

The Service answers reference enquiries in the field of library and information science. These questions can be brief, factual requests such as telephone numbers and addresses of libraries, dates of conferences and names of officers of associations. More complex questions may concern setting up a library, sources of evaluations of software packages, the role of library committees, or statistics on libraries. If the information cannot be found at the National Library, the reference librarian will endeavour to suggest another more appropriate source.

In addition, the National Library maintains and moderates the Canadian library information discussion list BIBCANLIB-L. It is an open electronic discussion list to facilitate information

exchange as well as professional communication and development within the Canadian library community.

For more information, please contact:
Reference and Information
Services Division
National Library of Canada
395 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N4
Telephone: (613) 995-9481
Fax: (613) 996-4424
TTY: (613) 992-6969
ENVOY100: OONL.REFERENCE
Internet: reference@nlc-bnc.ca ♦



Federal Government Publishing and the National Library of Canada

by Louise Tousignant,
Acquisitions and Bibliographic Services

Last November and December, the National Library of Canada organized two workshops on government publishing, one in English and one in French. Although the primary purpose was to inform participants about using a range of the Library's services such as Cataloguing in Publication (CIP) and international standard numbers

(ISBN, ISSN and ISMN), other subjects such as legal deposit, the acquisition of electronic and alternative-format publications (braille, large print and sound recordings), preservation and distribution were covered by National Library personnel. It was a matter of establishing what the Library can do for publishers, but also what publishers can do for the Library.

First, the Library contacted small and medium-size federal government departments and agencies. Seventy-seven people representing 28 different departments and agencies accepted the invitation. They included representatives of Fisheries and Oceans, Status of Women Canada and the Bank of Canada.

More specifically, the presentation on CIP and standard numbers made it possible to clarify certain procedures for obtaining CIP records and standard numbers. Although the National Library offers CIP and ISBN services in Canada, the Depository Services Program (DSP) is responsible for providing ISBNs and CIP records to federal departments and agencies. Not only did participants realize the advantages of obtaining a CIP record and an ISBN for their publications, but they were also able to see that the work of those searching for information on

these same publications is thus much facilitated. The presentation on legal deposit familiarized participants with the new regulations regarding legal deposit in the *National Library Act*, and with the range of documents and media the Library wishes to receive. These regulations stipulate that Canadian publishers, including federal government departments and agencies, are now required to deposit two copies of any publication of which more than 100 copies are produced and one copy of any publication with a print run of between four and 100 copies. Participants also learned more about the Library's role in preservation and distribution.

Finally, the presentation on electronic publications was particularly

appreciated, since this is the topic of the hour in almost every department and agency, and a number of the participants were interested in this new information medium.

The presence of a DSP representative provided the opportunity to clarify the differences between DSP and legal deposit, and accordingly, the way in which the Library acquires government documents under federal jurisdiction. The Library receives departmental and agency publications either via DSP or directly from the departments and agencies, the choice being left to the department or agency. This workshop also informed and reminded participants about the close cooperation between the National Library and DSP. Publications listed in the *Weekly Checklist of Canadian Government Publications* that are distributed by DSP are given cataloguing priority by the Library. When depository libraries receive the publications, they have access to cataloguing records (see "Speaking from... Acquisitions and Bibliographic Services", *National Library News*, vol. 28, no. 2, February 1996, pp. 2-3), which accelerates publication processing and accessibility by depository library users, most of which are academic and public libraries.

Discussions and exchanges led to questions, comments and new concerns with the advent of new media such as electronic publications. A document published in different media (print, diskette, braille, etc.) requires a different ISBN for each medium, and each medium is subject to legal deposit. Even those organizations that do not participate in DSP must send legal deposit copies to the Library. The *National Library Act* now covers departments and agencies, which are required to send their publications to the Library.

Did You Know...

that the National Library has upgraded its automated operations to a UNIX system running on a DEC Alpha 8400 platform? The Library is using current 64-bit technology to improve its services and products for the future. Watch for more information in an upcoming issue of *National Library News*.



Although legal deposit and DSP are two separate activities, they have a common objective: to make government publications available to the public.

The comments from participants mention receiving excellent service related to obtaining CIP records and use of these records as a distribution tool. People want more information on electronic publications and the new legal deposit regulations.

Workshop participants did not leave empty-handed. The information kit they received contained, among other things, lists of Library and DSP resource persons. These lists will be used as a memory aid and reference by participants, thus facilitating their work.

It must be remembered that government publications are a part of the Canadian heritage, and the Library already has an impressive collection of official federal publications. All media are represented, from traditional print to CD-ROMs and diskettes, including videos, microforms and electronic publications available on the Library's Web site (see sidebar). Increased participation by departments and agencies is of valuable assistance to the Library in its ongoing efforts to maintain and develop this collection. This same participation will also help the Library to carry out its mandate, which is to preserve this heritage for posterity and make it accessible not only to Canadian residents but to anyone seeking information.

Those Library staff members who took part in the sessions believe that their impact will be felt in the coming months, since the participants were very enthusiastic when they left, ready to take part in a range of programs and services. The participation of 28 departments and agencies will be advantageous not only to the Library, but also to the public and Canadian

It must be remembered that government publications are a part of the Canadian heritage...

libraries. Finally, it is hoped that the Library will be able to offer other workshops of this nature in the near future.

For further information on the workshops, contact
David Balatti, Director
Bibliographic Services

National Library of Canada
395 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0N4
Telephone: (819) 994-6882
Fax: (819) 997-7517
TTY: (613) 992-6969
Internet: david.balatti@nlc-bnc.ca

Brochures about CIP, legal deposit and ISBN, ISSN and ISMN can be obtained 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 ♦

Examples of government publications in media other than print kept in the Library's collection

Hot 100 [braille]. [Ottawa] : Government of Canada, 1996- .

Connection, community, content the challenge of the information highway : final report of the Information Highway Advisory Council [braille]. [Ottawa] : Information Highway Advisory Council, 1995.

Waves CD-Rom [computer file] = *CD-Rom vagues*. [Ottawa] : Department of Fisheries and Oceans, [1990]- .

Job futures [computer file] = *Emploi-avenir*. [Ottawa] : Human Resources Development Canada = Développement des ressources humaines Canada, c1996- .

NAFTA : [sound recording] : *what's it all about?* [Ottawa] : External Affairs and International Trade Canada, 1993.

Harassment [sound recording] : *what it is and what to do about it / the Canadian Human Rights Commission*. [Ottawa] : The Commission, [1994?].

History of the vote in Canada [videorecording]. [Ottawa] : Elections Canada, 1995.

Without fear [videorecording]. Produced by Rachel Low and Claire Welland ; directed by Aerlyn Weissman ; writer: Rachel Low. [Ottawa] : Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women, [1993].



Publications available on the National Library Web site

The science and technology action plan of the federal health portfolio: S & T at work for the health of Canadians. [Ottawa] : Government of Canada, c1996. Address: <http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/eppp-archive/healthst-e/health-e.pdf>

The Daily. Ottawa : Statistics Canada, 1995- . Address: <http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/eppp-archive/daily/daily-h/1997/>

CANUC:S (March 1997)

Please note that the March 1997 edition is the last issue of CANUC:S on microfiche. The bibliographic records are available from the National Library of Canada's database through the Access AMICUS Service.

Information:

Client Information Centre
Information Technology Services
National Library of Canada
395 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0N4
Telephone: (819) 997-7227
Fax: (819) 994-6835
TTY: (613) 992-6969
Internet: cic@nlc-bnc.ca

CANUC:S is also available on Romulus, a CD-ROM system produced jointly by the Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI) and the National Library of Canada.

Information:

Canada Institute for Scientific
and Technical Information
National Research Council
Canada
Montreal Road, Building M-55
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0S2
Telephone (toll-free):
1-800-668-1222
Fax: (613) 952-9112
Internet: cisti.info@nrc.ca

Electronic Serials: Cataloguing Progress

by Ivan Basar,

Acting Team Leader, Serials Team, Acquisitions and Bibliographic Services

The National Library of Canada continues to acquire, archive and catalogue online serials as part of its mandate to make Canadian publications as accessible as possible (see "Cataloguing of Online Serials: An Update", National Library News, vol. 28, nos. 7/8, July/August 1996, pp. 9-10). Cataloguing records are created for those

serials archived at the Library's Web site, and also for those currently available only at the sites of the originators, such as some Parliamentary publications.

The National Library has catalogued over 200 online serials to date. Particularly worth mentioning is a recently catalogued collection of about 25 serial publications emanating from Statistics Canada. This set of titles constitutes the basis of a special pilot project concerning Statistics Canada serials released online. The National

Library, being one of the libraries participating in this project, catalogued these publications in AMICUS, thus making the bibliographic records available nationwide. This group of publications was created by electronically scanning printed publications and making them available in PDF format on the World Wide Web. It is interesting to note that bilingual print publications with English and French text on

(Continued on page 11)

CAN/MARC Update

As a result of retirements and reorganization, the functions of the National Library's Canadian MARC Office are now being carried out within the Standards and Support Division of Acquisitions and Bibliographic Services. Questions or comments on CAN/MARC formats should be sent to the Standards and Support Division at:

Standards and Support Division
Acquisitions and Bibliographic Services
National Library of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N4
Telephone: (819) 994-6936
Fax: (819) 953-0291
Internet: canmarc@nlc-bnc.ca

For further information on MARC formats or other bibliographic standards used by the National Library of Canada, contact:

Margaret Stewart
Acting Chief, Standards and
Support Division
Acquisitions and Bibliographic Services
National Library of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N4
Telephone: (819) 994-6900
Fax: (819) 953-0291
TTY: (613) 992-6969
Internet: marg.stewart@nlc-bnc.ca ◆



(*Electronic Serials...* continued from page 10)

inverted pages, when scanned, automatically become two separate electronic editions. They each require their own bibliographic record.

At the National Library the same in-house cataloguing priorities and levels of cataloguing are applied to electronic serials as to serials in other formats. The bibliographic records include notes and information peculiar to online serials such as format (ASCII, HTML, PDF), the application of MARC tag 516, and the use of the universal resource locator (URL) in the MARC tag 856. Each title also receives its own ISSN, assigned by ISSN Canada. An online serial created by electronic scanning receives a new ISSN, independent of the one associated with the printed version of the publication. The records for online serials, like all other serials records, are bibliographically maintained and kept up-to-date. Some of these updates include changing and/or adding URLs, available electronic formats, etc.

The records for online publications are now included in the national bibliography, *Canadiana*, and other related products and systems such as CONSER. Provided they fall within the scope of Canadiana acquisition guidelines, all the records for electronic serials held at the National Library's site and created prior to December 1996 will be upgraded and included in *Canadiana* as well.

For more information, please contact:
Ivan Basar
Acting Team Leader, Serials Team
Acquisitions and Bibliographic Services
National Library of Canada
395 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N4
Telephone: (819) 953-2718
Fax: (819) 953-0291
TTY: (613) 992-6969
Internet: ivan.basar@nlc-bnc.ca ♦

COLLECTIONS

Checking In at Serials Records

by Iris Winston,
Staff Writer

Browse is the Metro Toronto Zoo's newsletter.

Le Palmarès (Canadian) and 19th Century Music (American) are music magazines.

Forthcoming Books is the National Library of Canada's monthly list of Canadian publications in progress.

What do they have in common with each other and with *The Canadian Geotechnical Journal*, *The Manitoba Gazette*, *Air Quality Monitoring Report in Alberta*, a journal of nineteenth-century

literary criticism, a series of audiocassettes of the Council of Federal Libraries 1996 fall seminar, microfiche of recent House of Commons debates, and *InterFace Magazine!*, an electronic serial "originating from beautiful Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, Earth"?

This diverse group of publications is just a small selection from a single

The primary focus is on depth and detail, rather than breadth...

day's mail delivery to the Serials Records Section of the National Library of Canada. Here, more than 1 000 pieces arrive for processing each day. That translates into 20 000 items a month. And the numbers keep growing. Serials Records staff check in more than 220 000 issues per year, most for approximately 35 000 active titles, and some for approximately 90 000 inactive titles.

"Serials Records, which has been doing automated serials control since the fall of 1993, maintains records for over 125 000 titles," says Serials Records Head Sharon Ward. "And we are still adding issues to the list of inactive titles when we can find them. We are responsible for gathering the Library's past, present and future serial holdings."

The 18 staff members who process the huge volume of material have developed "unique skills," says Canadiana Acquisitions Division Chief

Did You Know...

that copies of the National Library's 1996 Read Up On It kit, "Yesterday's Stories", are still available from the National Library? Help children and young people to find out more about Canadian history by requesting your free copy.

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



John Stegenga. "They have done and are doing a great job. One of the more unusual challenges is that they input serials data in two systems [AMICUS and Dynix, the National Library's system for acquiring, recording and lending works in its collections]. We generate an incredible amount of information here."

"It's very intricate work. The primary focus is on depth and detail, rather than breadth," says Ward, describing the steps from the receipt of a publication to its inclusion in the National Library's collection. To begin with, material is grouped and processed according to date of arrival and format (e.g., audiocassette, diskette, CD-ROM, microfiche, print). Eventually, the material is regrouped according to how the collections are organized, and is then shipped over to the stacks.

If items are current issues of titles that are already part of the Library collection, as long as the title has not changed and the bibliographic record is up-to-date, they can be dealt with relatively quickly: it takes less than three minutes to check one such issue into the Dynix system. New titles must pass through the Acquisitions and Cataloguing areas before being processed in Serials Records. Old serials

with new titles (*HUM* is now called *Government Computer*, for instance) require extra attention.

"We have to know basic serials cataloguing rules here. If the publisher changes the title or something else that is significant bibliographically, we must identify that information," says Ward. "That's the sort of thing that keeps us on our toes."

A serials control record is set up for each title, and a publication pattern (e.g., monthly, quarterly) is established. Once an issue is checked in and bar-coded, the Dynix system predicts the date of the next issue and the expected date of arrival at the Library and generates claim notices to publishers automatically.

"It's a way for us to build a comprehensive serial collection," says Ward. "Even more important is that automating serials records has made holdings information universally acces-

sible within the Library, which means that it is easier for Circulation staff who lend material, and for Collections Management staff who do inventory."

But, she adds, the manual Kardex system is "still indispensable. There's a lifetime of work in it. And it continues to be the only place where many of the National Library's holdings are recorded. Retrospective conversion, given the size of the National Library's serials collection, presents challenges."

Meanwhile, Serials Records concentrates on being part of a closely linked process and cooperative staff effort to collect and transmit information about serial publications in all formats to other parts of the National Library, and to clients outside the Library who want to know more about Canada's published heritage. ♦

CANADIANA

Fourth Savoir Faire Presentation

John Edwards delivered the fourth "Savoir Faire" lecture on December 17, 1996 on the topic of "Canadian Agricultural Controversies". Mr. Edwards, a retired British Columbia orchard-owner, presented the audience with information on two issues: the use of pesticides versus integrated pest management in agricultural practice, and the use and misuse

of agricultural land. Mr. Edwards has first-hand experience in the practicalities of both subjects. British Columbia apple-growers participated in an Agriculture Canada program whereby they controlled the damage done by codling moth worms by releasing irradiated worms into the orchards, thus avoiding the use of chemical pesticides. For his research, Mr. Edwards used documents from the Library's official publications collection. After giving the

lecture, he led a lively discussion on the need to control the takeover of valuable farmland in Canada for urban development. His talk, which was based on reports and newspapers in the Library's collection, was well illustrated with interesting slides. ♦

Did You Know...

that revised editions of two important publications are now available? *Bibliography of Standards and Selected References Related to Preservation in Libraries*, compiled by Suzanne Dodson and Johanna Wellheiser, has been revised and updated, as has *Canadian Inventory of Resource Sharing*. Both publications can be found at the National Library's World Wide Web site (<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca>).

PRESERVATION

Worldwide Promotion of Permanent Paper

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

Paper-based materials have been slowly deteriorating on library shelves for 150 years because of their acidic content. A well-known video¹ produced in 1987 coined the term “slow fires” for the insidious decay taking place. Another documentary, produced in Canada as part of David Suzuki’s series “The Nature of Things”, was called “Turning to Dust”²

because that is precisely what happens to paper that contains acid.

Deacidification techniques, such as the mass-deacidification process used by the National Library for many years,

IFLA has spearheaded an initiative to promote the use of permanent paper worldwide.

have proven effective in arresting the deterioration. However, these methods are expensive and time-consuming, and it is impossible for libraries to treat all

past and future documents produced on acidic paper.

The ideal solution exists: permanent paper, which has a lifespan of several centuries, and is now generally available at prices comparable to those for acidic paper. A further bonus of permanent paper is that its production is more environmentally friendly.

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) has spearheaded an initiative to promote the use of permanent paper worldwide by preparing a draft resolution to UNESCO asking that body to encourage its member states to promote the use of permanent paper in their respective territories. IFLA is also urging UNESCO to use permanent paper in its own publications. The National Library of Canada, under the authority of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, has been instrumental in pursuing this effort. An international meeting was convened at the National Library in October 1996 to finalize the draft resolution, and at the 11th Session of the Intergovernmental Council of the Programme for General Information of UNESCO in November 1996, the draft was approved. It is now planned to submit formally the resolution to the UNESCO General Conference late in 1997. Information

will be published in future issues of *National Library News* as it becomes available.

For more information, contact:
Ralph W. Manning
Heritage Officer
National and International Programs
National Library of Canada
395 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N4
Telephone: (613) 943-8570
Fax: (613) 947-2716
TTY: (613) 992-6969
Internet: ralph.manning@nlc-bnc.ca



Draft Resolution for Consideration at the 29th Session of the UNESCO General Conference in 1997:

Encouraging the Use of Permanent Paper

The General Conference,

Recalling that the preservation of and access to cultural heritage is one of UNESCO’s major concerns,

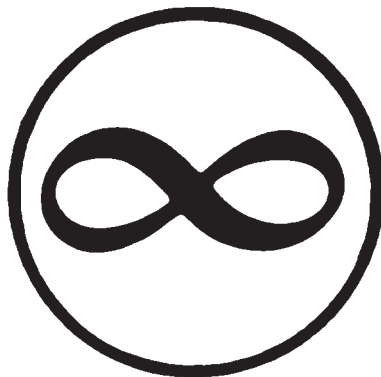
Considering that, with respect to the preservation of tangible cultural heritage, UNESCO has initiated several international Conventions and Recommendations, including the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, and initiated or participated in several programmes such as “Memory of the World” and the “Blue Shield” initiative,

Considering that many of the world’s cultural, educational and scientific resources in written form on paper are endangered because the acidic papers which have been in common use for the last 150 years disintegrate in a matter of decades,

Considering that permanent paper with a life of hundreds of years is increasingly available at comparable prices,

¹ *Slow Fires on the Preservation of the Human Record*. A Terry Sanders Film; narrated by Robert MacNeil; a presentation of American Film Foundation; sponsored by Council on Library Resources, Library of Congress, National Endowment for the Humanities, 1987.

² *Turning to Dust*. Produced and directed by David Murray; written by Amanda McConnell. Toronto, CBC, 1990, for “The Nature of Things” with David Suzuki.



The infinity symbol inside a circle identifies a publication printed on paper that will last for several hundred years. The paper meets the criteria set forth in American National Standard for Information Sciences — Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Materials, ANSI Z39.48-1992.

the International Publishers Association and the International Organization for Standardization for their efforts to promote the use of permanent paper;

Recommends that the member states of UNESCO, by legislation, regulation, encouragement and example, promote the use and identification of permanent paper in their respective territories for publications and documents to be retained for historical or information purposes; and

Invites the Director General of UNESCO to

ensure that UNESCO documents and publications are printed on permanent paper and carry a statement or logo to that effect; and

arrange for the collection of data through the UNESCO statistical surveys on the extent to which permanent paper is being used worldwide. ♦



RATs Stem Flood with Equanimity

by Iris Winston,
Staff Writer

“Good teamwork and camaraderie.”

“Very efficiently handled.”

“Everyone worked well together.”

“Great working atmosphere.”

“It looks as though damage to materials is slight because of the fast reaction.”

Altogether, January 17 turned out well for the RATs (Response Action Team) despite its unexpectedly busy beginning.

Marie Lanouette, Collections Operations Manager, Collections Management Division, the RAT on call for the day, received the news announcing “There’s a flood on 2B,” shortly after 10:00 a.m.

“As soon as I got there, and saw water pouring down from every second joint in the ceiling and saw the amount

of water on the floor, it was clear that this was a major incident and that many areas had to be stabilized quickly,” she says.

The deluge eventually affected all three basement floors and over 2 300 books. A heating coil under the front entrance of the National Library of Canada’s main building at 395 Wellington Street had frozen and burst in the 40-below weather. Water poured in through the first basement level (1B), at one point reaching a depth of close to 10 cm, and seeped down to the floors below.

The RATs waded in to stem the tide. The fast response of well-trained disaster action teams and close cooperation between National Library and National Archives staff meant that the inundation of water was dealt with quickly, and affected books were

Considering that major and costly efforts are required to salvage the most important existing publications and documents, and that these efforts could be avoided by the use of permanent paper,

Considering that the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), in resolutions adopted by its Council in 1989 and 1991, recommends that UNESCO and other UN agencies use permanent paper in their publications and documents and that UNESCO survey the use of such papers in its member states,

Considering that the International Council of Archives at its 12th International Congress held in Montreal in 1992 recommended that its members encourage their governments to adopt policies promoting the use of permanent paper,

Considering that this was discussed by the PGI Intergovernmental Council and its Bureau in 1993 and 1994,

Considering that the International Publishers Association (IPA) in 1989 recommended the use of permanent paper by publishers in its affiliated national publishing associations,

Considering that the International Organization for Standardization through its Technical Committee 46 (Information and Documentation) has adopted International Standard ISO 9706:1994 (*Information and documentation—Paper for documents—Requirements for permanence*),

Considering that, in a number of countries, laws or regulations have been adopted requiring the use of permanent paper in some or all official publications and documents,

Commends the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, the International Council of Archives,



dispatched to freezers or space suitable for air-drying in record time.

"Part of the reason that only a relatively small number of books had to be sent to the freezer is that the response was so quick and efficient," says Preservation Policy and Planning Officer Jan Michaels, who was in charge of the January 17 rescue operation. Since 1988, when the original disaster reaction plan was developed, hundreds of National Library and National Archives staff have received general disaster training, while a small, more highly trained group is always at the ready as the on-call team.

"The good part of the experience is how everybody comes and knows what to do," says Lanouette. "People care about 'their' collections. That's what's most impressive." Adds team member Alison Bullock: "This was probably the most efficient response of the eight or so that I've been involved in. Material was registered very quickly with a bar-code scanner and separated into 'wet' and 'damp' groups."

Wet books were immediately sent to the freezer. Because they were frozen within five hours of being soaked, mould — which would certainly destroy them — is unlikely to develop. The damp items were sent for air-drying, and Bullock is confident that they, too, will survive.

In addition to taking endangered material out of the flood area, the RATs' work included protecting the books left behind by covering them with plastic and ensuring that no water remained on the shelves and removing water from the floors by wet-vacuuming and mopping. "Much of the work is common sense, but I was quite impressed with the efficiency of the operation," says Rare Book Librarian Michel Brisebois, a first-time respondent to a disaster call. "Nobody pan-

icked. People worked at a normal rate and worked very well with each other."

"One of the particularly memorable aspects of this situation was the teamwork and the camaraderie," agrees Bullock. "For instance, although very few National Archives conservation staff work in this building now, many came back to help."

"Everyone pitched in," says Sharon Shipley, the team member whose duties as runner included distributing equipment and relaying information. "When you see water flooding on top of books, you can't help but panic for a moment. Then the training takes hold and you do what has to be done.

Everyone worked well together. The people in charge gave good directions. People were well deployed and authority was delegated effectively. Because of that, damage was slight for the amount of water."

"It is depressing to see water streaming down from the ceiling," says Brisebois, who recently had to cope with a similar situation in his own apartment. "But, overall, the experience was a good one. The working atmosphere was good and I now feel better equipped for the future, although I certainly hope it doesn't happen again." ♦

Does your library leak? Does "DDC" mean "drips, drops and condensation"? If so, then you need help! And you can get it during the CLA conference!

Basic Disaster Preparedness and Response

Wednesday, June 18, 1997 at the National Library of Canada,
395 Wellington Street, Ottawa

Come spend an afternoon with members of the National Library of Canada's Response Action Team (the RATs) for a half-day hands-on session that will show you how to get ready for a disaster that we all hope will never happen...but sometimes does. When it does, you need to know what to do and how to do it, and this is your chance to find out.

Topics discussed will include: appropriate supplies, characteristics of good response teams, and practical information on salvaging and recovering wet material. Methods of air-drying and freeze-drying material will be presented, and lessons learned during the National Library's recent "Operation Recovery" will be shared. Participants should come prepared to get their hands (and feet!) wet.

Audience: Anyone who is interested in disaster response and has little or no previous experience. Number of participants: maximum of 40, in groups of 10. (A session will be offered in French if there is sufficient demand.)

To register, contact:

Denise Pellerin

Information Resource Management
National Library of Canada
395 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N4

Telephone: (613) 996-2892

Fax: (613) 996-3573

TTY: (613) 992-6969

Internet: denise.pellerin@nlc-bnc.ca



What's Happening at CLA

Since the Canadian Library Association is holding its annual conference in Ottawa this year (June 18-22, 1997), the National Library of Canada will have extra opportunities to become involved in conference events. Besides the pre-conference session on disaster awareness and response (see elsewhere in this issue), the National Library will:

- Give a breakfast session on the Library's services
- Describe the work of the recently established Canadian History and Society Research Service
- Provide the venue for the Canadian Association of Children's Librarians (CACL) Book Award presentation
- Chair the annual meeting on resource sharing (invitation only)
- And more!

Library staff members will be speaking on topics such as the Virtual Canadian Union Catalogue (vCuc), the changing role of academic libraries, services for clients with disabilities, literacy and libraries in the developing world...and more!

Check out the Library's booth for demonstrations of Access AMICUS and the Library's Web site...and more!

Find out what's happening at Canada's National Library at the CLA conference!

RESOURCE SHARING

Resource Sharing: Summary

by Carol Smale,
Director, Resource-Sharing Services

The following article is adapted from a report describing activities of the National Library of Canada, the Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI) and the Canadian Library Association prepared for the midwinter meeting of the American Library Association held in Washington, D.C., on February 17.

VIRTUAL CANADIAN UNION CATALOGUE (vCUC)

The National Library continues to work towards the development of a Virtual Canadian Union Catalogue (vCuc). The vCuc is being defined as a decentralized, electronically accessible catalogue created by linking the databases of several institutions. The Internet will be used as the underlying network, and the Z39.50 protocol will be used for searching and retrieving information. It is hoped that the vCuc will be the gateway to all types of information, including electronic documents and information in Government Information Locator Service (GILS) servers, not only the traditional book and periodical holdings of libraries. (For more background information on the vCuc, see the National Library's Web site at <http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/resource/vcuc>).

A call for participation in the vCuc pilot project resulted in the identification of 17 partners representing over 50 000 000 bibliographic records with holdings (see "The Virtual Canadian Union Catalogue (vCuc) Pilot Project", *National Library News*, vol. 29, no. 2, February 1997, pp. 13-14). It is hoped that the first major

milestone of the project (linking library and union catalogues) will be completed by the end of 1997.

ILL POLICY DIRECTORY

The National Library of Canada is planning to undertake a project to mount a Canadian interlibrary loan policy directory on the World Wide Web. The Web-based interlibrary loan policy directory would allow rapid, efficient, international access to a common directory containing not only symbols, addresses, contact names and telephone numbers, but specific information about library policies as well. The tentative completion date is early 1998.

CANADIAN LIBRARIES AND LIBRARY CATALOGUES ON THE WEB

The National Library has mounted on the Web a list of Canadian libraries and library catalogues that are accessible on the Internet. The list can be searched alphabetically, by region, and by library type, and links are provided to the appropriate libraries and/or their catalogues. Address: <http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/canlib/eindex.htm>



SYMBOLS AND INTERLIBRARY LOAN POLICIES IN CANADA

The 1997 edition of *Symbols and Interlibrary Loan Policies in Canada* is scheduled for release in the spring. *Symbols and Interlibrary Loan Policies in Canada* includes information on interlibrary loan policies and services for all Canadian libraries currently listed in the National Library's automated interlibrary loan system. For the 1997 edition, a questionnaire was sent to all libraries requesting that they update their record, so this edition is a major revision.

JOINT NLC/CISTI PROJECTS

ILL PROTOCOL ACTIVITIES

Both the National Library and CISTI are participants in the NAILDD IPIG (ILL Protocol Implementors Group) initiative to facilitate the use of the ILL protocol by vendors and service providers (see "IPIG Goes International", *National Library News*, vol. 29, no. 2, February 1997, pp. 14-15). At both institutions, major ILL projects will be developed during the coming year. The National Library must migrate PEB/ILL, the ILL protocol-based internal ILL management system, to a new platform by September 1997. At the same time, CISTI will be working on its own implementation of the ILL protocol. The National Library will provide technical expertise to support CISTI's protocol implementation, assisting in the adaptation of current ILL services to the protocol.

CISTI is working with the Library Corporation on a facility to convert ILL messages exchanged between systems with incompatible message encoding systems (e.g., EDIFACT and ASN.1 BER) and different modes of communication (e.g., e-mail and direct connections). Canadian libraries have traditionally used EDIFACT encoding

and e-mail for ILL messages, while U.S. libraries are more likely to use ASN.1 BER and direct connections. Called a "transponder", this facility will provide Canadian libraries with international ILL-messaging compatibility. The National Library will have full access to the CISTI transponder facility and will supply records to permit CISTI to fully test the new facility. The National Library and CISTI will jointly work out implementation details, coordinate testing by Canadian libraries, and provide technical support to other Canadian libraries to facilitate migration to BER encoding.

ROMULUS

Publication of the fifth version of Romulus, the award-winning joint product of CISTI and the National Library of Canada, has begun. Romulus is a complete CD-ROM system for locating serials and ordering documents from Canadian libraries. Version 5, which will contain approximately 330 000 records (an increase of nearly 50 percent over the first edition), is scheduled for release in April or May of 1997.

UNION LIST ACTIVITIES

As a result of budgetary pressures and refocused business priorities, CISTI has decided that it will withdraw from Canadian union list activity. CISTI plans to continue contributing records for its own holdings to the National Library's AMICUS database and, in collaboration with the National Library, is reviewing its involvement in inputting Canadian library holdings in AMICUS.

Both CISTI and the National Library recognize that the planned changes will have significant implications for libraries currently reporting to the Union List of Scientific Serials and using it to support interlibrary loan. Affected libraries will be contacted to discuss details of available options and questions or concerns they may have. ◆

Depository Services Program: Update

The Depository Services Program (DSP), formerly part of Canada Communication Group — Publishing, has been transferred to Public Works and Government Services Canada. Electronic Publishing and Licensing, Publications Management, and the *Canada Gazette* are also part of the transfer.

The Depository Services Program was established in 1927 to link the Canadian federal government and its clients: the Canadian public, other governments, universities and businesses. The DSP's primary objective is to ensure that Canadians have ready and equal access to federal government information. To this end, the DSP supplies government publications to more than 790 libraries in Canada and almost 150 institutions around the world. These depositories must make the documents in their DSP collections available to all outside users and through interlibrary loan.

As of February 1997, the following information is in effect:
 Depository Services Program
 4th floor, 350 Albert Street
 Ottawa, Ontario
 K1A 0S5
 Telephone (general enquiries):
 (613) 990-5221
 Fax: (613) 941-2410
 Internet: dsp@ccg-gcc.ca



PUBLIC PROGRAMS

John Cabot Sails Again

Heritage Day officially falls on the third Monday in February, but every day is “heritage day” at the National Library of Canada, which collects, preserves and promotes Canada’s published heritage. Giovanni Caboto, better known to most of us as John Cabot (1449?-1498?), was the main attraction for Heritage Day tours at the National

Library on February 17. An exhibition on Cabot and the early Newfoundland fisheries prepared by Michel Brisebois, Rare Book Librarian, celebrated the 500th anniversary of Cabot’s voyage of discovery to North America.

Very little is known of Cabot’s early life. He became a citizen of Venice in 1476, was married and had at least two sons. By the end of 1495, Cabot was in England with a plan to reach Cathay by a different route from that used by Columbus. On March 5,

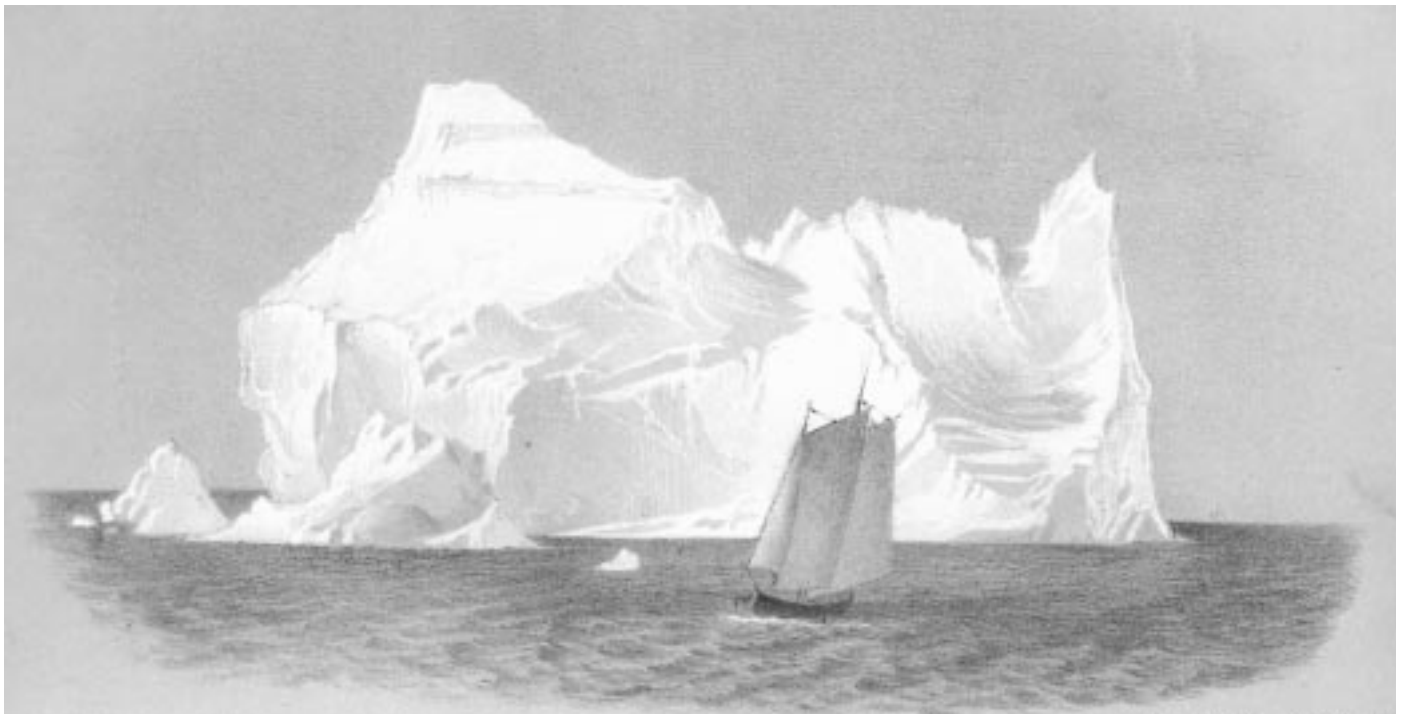
1496, he received letters patent from King Henry VII to sail with five ships

No contemporary account, map or artifact of the voyage has survived....

to all parts of the world in the east, west and north. In May 1497, Cabot sailed from Bristol with 20 men and reached land on June 24, 1497. The landfall was never identified with certainty, but tradition has it that it was Cape Bonavista in Newfoundland. Cabot set sail again with five ships in May 1498, and is presumed to have been lost at sea.

No contemporary account, map or artifact of the voyage has survived, nor do we have a portrait of Cabot. Much more is known of his son Sebastian, also an explorer and navigator who, although he was named in the letters patent of 1496, probably did not take part in his father’s expedition.

The exhibition featured some early accounts of John Cabot’s voyage by Hakluyt and Purchas; the Ramusio map of 1556 showing Newfoundland; *The Golden Fleece*, which makes reference to Newfoundland; various eighteenth-century works on trade and fisheries; early histories of the



From *After Icebergs with a Painter: A Summer Voyage to Labrador and around Newfoundland* by Rev. Louis L. Noble (New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1861), from the display on John Cabot.



island; and accounts of nineteenth-century travels.

The National Library is always ready to assist Canadians in learning more about their history and culture, and those involved in organizing the 1997 Heritage Day celebrations were delighted to welcome fellow staff members and members of the public to the exhibition. Michel Brisebois' knowledgeable and entertaining guidance brought the display to life, both in what the books had to say about the past, and in what the curator had to say about the challenges of creating such a display. A fascinating heritage to celebrate, and an enlightening celebration of heritage.

For those interested in learning more, the following works can be consulted.

P.L. Firstbrook. *The Voyage of the Matthew: John Cabot and the Discovery of North America*. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1997.

Henry Harrisse. *Jean et Sébastien Cabot, leur origine et leurs voyages*. Paris: Ernest Leroux, 1882.

Henry Harrisse. *Découverte et évolution cartographique de Terre-Neuve et des pays circonvoisins, 1497-1501-1769: essais de géographie historique et documentaire*. Paris: H. Welter; London: H. Stevens, Son & Stiles, 1900.

Bernard G. Hoffman. *Cabot to Cartier: Sources for a Historical Ethnography of Northeastern North America 1497-1550*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1961.

Samuel Eliot Morison. *European Discovery of America: The Northern Voyages, A.D. 500-1600*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1971.

Ian Wilson. *John Cabot and the Matthew*. St. John's, Newfoundland: Breakwater Books, 1996. ♦

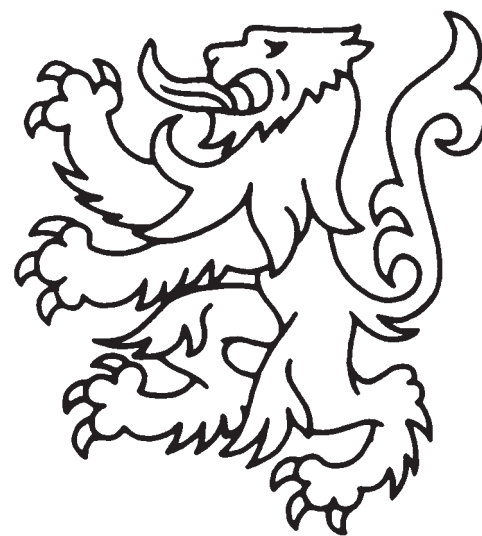
Clairely an Award-Winning Evening

by Signe Muise,
Ottawa reader

On February 3, award-winning writer Diana Gabaldon visited Ottawa as part of the Canadian leg of her North American tour to publicize her eagerly awaited new novel, *Drums of Autumn*. The latest in the series of her enormously popular books, set (mostly) in eighteenth-century Scotland, became the impetus for an evening that was

introduced by piper Paul Forsyth, who was followed by the Inglenook Scottish Country Dancers.

These rousing performances set the stage for Ms. Gabaldon, who entertained the near-capacity crowd with anecdotes about her family, her life as a university professor, and the unconventional start to her writing career. She explained in colourful detail how certain characters in her book managed to "write themselves", while others were based on personal friends. She followed with two excerpts from *Drums of Autumn*, which is the fourth book in what Ms. Gabaldon described as two trilogies, the first (*Outlander*, *Dragonfly in Amber*, and *Voyager*) set in the Old World, and the second in the New World. *Drums of Autumn* follows the further adventures of Highland chief-tain Jamie Fraser and Claire Randall, a twentieth-century nurse who steps into an ancient stone circle and finds that her life has irretrievably changed when she emerges. (Ms. Gabaldon explained that she started out to write a historical novel, but was unable to stem her heroine's twentieth-century remarks, so decided to proceed and discover how the character ended up in the eighteenth century later.) In *Drums of Autumn*, Jamie and Claire, having escaped prosecution (and a fair amount of persecution), find themselves in the wilds of America. During the question



period that followed the reading, Ms. Gabaldon announced to the delighted audience that she had been invited to write a trilogy of prequels that would explain the family history described in the books already published.

Following the reading was a brisk 90-minute autographing session, accompanied by equally brisk sales. With the cooperation of publisher Bantam Books and local bookseller Shirley Leishman Books, who co-sponsored the evening presentation, a door prize of a complete hardcover set was won by an eager fan. To the great satisfaction of all concerned, Ms. Gabaldon's appearance benefitted not only fans but the Snosuit Fund, which received approximately \$1 000.00 from admission fees. ♦