National Library News

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UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
DÉCLARATION UNIVERSELLE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME
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Season's Greetings

from the editorial staff of the *National Library News*

A Word from the National Librarian

*by Marianne Scott,
National Librarian*

As we approach the millennium, we and our sister organizations are very conscious of the need to establish partnerships and cement networks to deliver programs and services. Partnerships are very important to us in providing effective, responsive information services to Canadians everywhere. Unquestionably, the National Library's most important partner in this work remains the library community. We depend on interaction with other libraries, as we face the challenges of increased workloads, more complex client needs, stringent economic circumstances and very expensive technological developments.

Cooperative organizations, such as the Canadian Initiative on Digital Libraries, are helping to coordinate and facilitate the development of digital collections and services. Programs, such as the Library's Read Up On It, which celebrates its tenth anniversary this year, rely heavily on the good will of government and private sponsors. The conclusion of the pilot project for the Virtual Canadian Union Catalogue provides a signpost to what the future holds — a combination of remoteness and centralization that links libraries and the information they have to share.

The National Library of Canada plays a pivotal role in delivering information, in developing standards to ease interaction between systems, and in establishing and maintaining cooperative connections with libraries and other institutions with similar objectives.

Technology is a crucial tool for all who are in this business of delivering information. At the National Library, we employ it primarily to enhance access to information. There is no question that the impact on our programs has been tremendous and will continue to affect our digital agenda and exploitation of information resources. The form of library work has changed tremendously in the last few years. Constant adaptation to the new information environment, ongoing information technology research, standards development and innovation take up much of the time and energy of staff at the National Library. The remainder is still devoted to the traditional library pursuits of developing, cataloguing and preserving collections — with some new tools, perhaps, but with the same devotion to knowledge and research.

Libraries are still largely about books — regardless of the formats in which they are presented — and about making the information in them available to present and future clients.

Therefore, while we are very proud of the present level and future development and enrichment of our AMICUS database, we are equally proud of the less glamorous work of eliminating cataloguing backlogs and, through the introduction of a three-tier system, ensuring that high-priority items receive full-level cataloguing treatment quickly. (Close to 65 000 Canadiana titles were catalogued in 1998, for example.)

At the same time, presenting *Canadiana: The National Bibliography* in a CD-ROM format or mainstreaming our electronic collection and expanding the collections in traditional formats deserve equal consideration.

I am very conscious that as we move into the 21st century, we have a huge responsibility — that of balancing the National Library's heritage mandate with maximizing technological developments to provide an effective gateway to information. We must protect the 16 million items in the Library's collections. We must make the information they contain widely accessible — whether through on-site research, interlibrary loan, or digitization and Web delivery.

Our responsibilities have broadened as information has globalized. The digital agenda — an important aspect of making our collections available to remote locations — is timely but costly.

We must, therefore, capitalize on our strengths.
- Our strength as the repository of the most comprehensive collection of Canadiana in the world.
- Our strength as a leader in library technology developments and standards.
- Our strength as a coordinator of national programs.
- Our strength in adapting to changed circumstances and demands.

These are the qualities that contribute to our long-term goals; and they remain unchanged — to support Canadian studies and facilitate access to the world of information for government and individuals.

Finally, I want to say a most sincere thank you to the greatest strength of all, the staff of the National Library of Canada. Their dedication, understanding, ability and professionalism turn theory into action and ensure that the Library is ready to meet the challenges of the next century.

Now I would like to close by wishing the best of the season and a Happy New Year to all our readers. ◆

Annual Review:
Highlights of the National Library's Activities in 1998

THE MISSION

The National Library of Canada is dedicated to building a world-class national resource that will enable Canadians to know their country and themselves through their published heritage, and to providing an effective gateway to national and international sources of information.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Working in conjunction with other organizations, corporations and individuals with like objectives is increasingly important as budgets shrink and the globalization of information, communications and economy is the order of the day. With more territory to cover and fewer funds to do it with, making connections becomes significant. As we look back over the past year, we see just how important the partnerships we have formed and the networks we have cemented have been in achieving our objectives in 1998.

Below are the highlights of the past year's activities:

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

CANADIANA: NEW FORM, EXPANDED SERVICE

Canadiana: The National Bibliography is now available on CD-ROM. This compilation currently provides access to more than 1.2 million bibliographic and authority records catalogued between 1973 and 1997. The first release on CD-ROM — launched at the June 1998 Canadian Library Association conference in Victoria — contains descriptions of 785 000 monographs, serials, theses, sound recordings, microforms, government documents and other formats produced

in Canada. Works published outside Canada that are of special interest to Canadians because of their authors or subject matter are also noted.

The CD-ROM also includes *Canadiana Authorities,* a list of more than 465 000 personal and corporate names of Canadian origin mentioned in publications catalogued for the national bibliography, and *Carto-Canadiana,* a list of governmental and non-governmental cartographic materials held by the National Archives of Canada.

AMICUS DATABASE

In order to support resource sharing in the broadest sense, the National Library maintains a national database that includes information on the holdings of the National Library and bibliographic and holdings information contributed by more than 500 Canadian libraries, the Library of Congress and CONSER. A total of 743 Canadian institutions and two U.S. institutions currently use Access AMICUS on a fee-for-service basis.

FILES PURCHASED FROM A-G CANADA

At the end of 1997, the National Library purchased copies of more than eight million bibliographic records representing the holdings of 46 Canadian libraries from A-G Canada Ltd. The purchase agreement made it possible for the Library to load these records into the AMICUS database as part of the national union catalogue

and to provide access to the records through Access AMICUS. The files purchased were selected to complement the existing library files in AMICUS. This purchase is consistent with the Library's key role in facilitating resource sharing among Canadian libraries. By the end of 1998, 3.5 million records had been loaded. The loading of all files purchased from A-G Canada is expected to be completed by October 1999.

MORE VIA MARA

To respond to the increased volume of reporting to the union catalogue in recent years, the National Library encouraged libraries to report to the Library's AMICUS database via MARA (MAchine-Readable Accessions) or via the holdings update function on AMICUS.

To date, 32 institutions representing 250 libraries report to the Library's AMICUS database via MARA. Approximately five million bibliographic records (excluding the A-G files) and holdings were added to the union catalogue in 1998. Holdings from all 250 libraries were loaded into the AMICUS database in 1998.

MARC 21

The National Library of Canada and the Library of Congress reached a major milestone in the harmonization of their machine-readable cataloguing (MARC) formats in 1997. CAN/MARC and USMARC are now fully harmonized and carry a new name, MARC 21. Discussion concerning alignment with the British Library's UKMARC is ongoing. A harmonized format makes record exchange between users and producers of MARC records easier and more efficient, eliminates the need for conversion programs from USMARC and CAN/MARC and vice versa, and reduces the costs of format maintenance and documentation. (Amendment number 6 to the 1994 edition of the *Canadian MARC*

Communication Format for Bibliographic Data, which was published during 1998, includes the changes resulting from the harmonization of CAN/MARC and USMARC.)

DEWEY IN FRENCH

The National Library (in partnership with the Association pour l'avancement des sciences et des techniques de la documentation [ASTED], the Bibliothèque nationale de France and the Bibliothèque nationale du Québec) was involved in the publication of the French translation of the 21st edition of the Dewey Decimal Classification in 1998. The expertise of National Library cataloguers, already familiar with English-language Dewey classification, was particularly valuable in reviewing the translation of this extensive working tool. The publication was launched at the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) conference in Amsterdam.

STRENGTHENING THE COLLECTIONS

Collecting Canada's published heritage, in traditional and other formats, and making it available to the nation, now and in the future, remain the National Library's primary focus. The Library's Preservation Collection, which marked its tenth anniversary in 1998, is vital in fulfilling these objectives.

The Preservation Collection of Canadiana consists of one original copy of all Canadiana materials acquired by the Library since 1988. (Some retrospective material was also separated from the general collection and moved to the Preservation Collection.) The current total is 1 322 531 items (385 503 titles), acquired through legal deposit, purchase, gifts and exchanges.

Closely associated with the development of the Preservation Collection is the National Library's mass deacidification program. The

deacidification process is intended to neutralize the acids contained in paper fibre. These acids decrease the paper's flexibility and increase its brittleness, which accelerates its deterioration. The National Archives' mass deacidifcation unit, which the National Library had used since 1981, was transferred to the National Library in October 1997. By the end of 1998, close to a million items from the Library's collections been deacidified.

Alongside collection preservation, collection development proceeded in both print and electronic forms. The electronic collection doubled during the year. While particular emphasis was placed on acquiring federal government publications (http://collection.nlc-bnc.ca/ e-coll-e/index-e.htm), the e-collection also includes such items as *La Folie des Atrides: tragédie grecque* by Jacques Delvigne. Currently, the e-collection comprises more than 1400 titles. The National Library also acquired the first interactive Canadian children's book, *My Blue Suitcase* by Sharon Katz (Concertina Press, 1996) in 1998.

Major acquisitions in traditional formats during 1998 include:
- *A Jesuit Relation* by Father Jerome Lallemant (Paris, 1661) in contemporary binding.
- *Tre Navigationi* by De Veer (Venice, 1599), the first Italian edition of Barents' voyages to the Arctic, illustrated with 31 engravings.
- *France. Luis XIV. Louis Par la Grâce de Dieu Roy de France...Donné à Paris le vingt-cinquième jour de février, l'an de grace mil six cents cinquante-un* (Paris?: 1651). Broadside, 46.5 x 37.5 cm. Letters patent confirming Charles de Saint-Etienne de La Tour in the government and possession of Acadia.
- *Sketches in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick: drawn from nature and on stone* by Robert Petley (London: J. Dickinson, 1837).

- Material related to the Somalia affair. Some 56 boxes of documents were transferred to the National Library from the National Defence headquarters library in May. These documents represent approximately 150 titles emanating from the Commission of Inquiry into the Deployment of Canadian Forces to Somalia.

- Annual reports of pre- and post-Confederation New England railway companies and material related to royal commissions on the Canadian National Railways. Some 247 boxes of material were transferred from the CNR documentation centre in Montreal at the end of the year.

- The collection of librarian, archivist and historian David Rome (1910-1996). Some 67 volumes from this collection of Judaica, particularly Canadian Judaica, were selected for the National Library's Jacob M. Lowy Collection.

- A group of 25 rare Hebrew calendars and almanacs. Dating from 1904 to 1926, these were transferred from the National Archives to the National Library.

- A selection of 119 volumes from Toronto poet Sam Simchovitch's Yiddish literature collection, added to the Jacob M. Lowy Collection.

- The Rosnick-Blum-Morris-Mackinnon collection. This acquisition, documenting 25 years of advertising agency music, was added to the music collection.

- A collection of books from the library of Frank Prewett (1893-1962), a poet, writer and broadcaster from Mount Forest, Ontario. The collection was purchased from a bookseller in the United States. It complements the National Library's holdings of the poet's papers, acquired in 1990.

CANADIAN THESES SERVICE

The Canadian Theses Service program moved a step further in the evolution to the electronic age. The new contract negotiated with UMI for the provision of preservation, access and distribution services for the program contains provisions for accommodating electronic versions of theses in addition to the traditional paper and microfiche formats. These provisions will be put in place once the Library, as the coordinator of the service, has consulted all 51 program participants for their approval. A blanket approval of all participants is not needed to implement electronic publication services. Universities that opt out of participating in this feature of the service will still be covered for microfilming publication services.

INCREASING ACCESS

DIGITIZATION

The National Library of Canada is taking a lead role in applying digital technologies to document, preserve and promote the Canadian experience, in collaboration with libraries, other institutions and the private sector. The completion of a number of digitization projects during 1998 added to the growing range of digital library resources and services that complement and extend the National Library's more traditional collections and services.

Digitization projects completed during 1998, with support from a number of partners, particularly Industry Canada and Bell Canada, include:

- **Virtual Gramophone: Canadian Historical Sound Recordings**, a multimedia Web site devoted to the first half-century of recorded sound in Canada. Launched in November 1998, this was the first National Library digitization project to use the new digital library infrastructure (the software, hardware and telecommunications to support digital library applications providing networked content and services to users).

- **Bring a Legend to Life**, a version of the National Library's 1993 Read Up On It kit, originally created to mark the International Year of the World's Indigenous People. (http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/ruoi/1993/eindex.htm)

- **Claude Champagne Virtual Exhibit**, based on the National Library's 1990-1991 exhibition, mounted to mark the centenary of Champagne's birth and celebrate the achievements of this Canadian musician as a composer, performer, teacher and administrator. (http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/champagne/)

- **Celebrating Women's Achievements, "Women in the Canadian Book Trade".** In honour of Women's History Month (October), this year's addition to the "Celebrating Women's Achievements" site on the National Library's Web service provides biographies and bibliographies of 12 women who made significant contributions to the book trade in Canada. (http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/digiproj/women/women98/ewomen98.htm).

- **Heroes of Lore and Yore**, based on the National Library's exhibition of the same name, highlighting the achievements of 21 Canadian heroes — of particular interest to the younger set. (http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/heroes)

- ***The Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters, and Sciences*** (Massey Commission), the full text of the Commission's 1951 report in English and French, and a selection from the more than 450 formal submissions (http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/massey/). (The Massey Commission was instrumental in the establishment of the National Library.)

- **Disc-o-logue,** based on an index of primarily Canadian French-language sound recordings, compiled by Louise
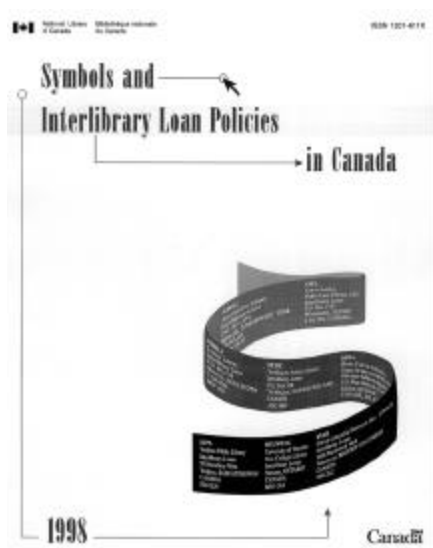
Lamothe. The Disc-o-logue database was built from data on 90 000 index cards, and documents music in Quebec during the mid-20th century. (http://www. nlc-bnc.ca/discologue)

- Additions to the **Glenn Gould Archive on the Web,** based on the National Library's 1988 Glenn Gould exhibition. One of the National Library's first digitization projects, phase 1 was completed in 1996, with two further phases completed in January 1998. (http://www.gould.nlc-bnc.ca) Recent additions include two handwritten letters from Glenn Gould and two audio cassettes of Gould interviews.

INTERLIBRARY LOAN

During 1998, the National Library of Canada introduced an interactive Web form for requesting interlibrary loans. This form allows libraries registered with the ILL Division to send

interlibrary loan requests to the National Library via the Internet. (http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/ill/ einstruc.htm)

SYMBOLS AND INTERLIBRARY LOAN POLICIES IN CANADA ON THE WEB

Symbols and Interlibrary Loan Policies in Canada is now available on the National Library of Canada's Web site (http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/ill/

eabtdrty.htm). Data are updated regularly so that the ILL directory on the Web provides an up-to-date alternative to the print edition.

IPIG DEVELOPMENTS

The ILL Protocol Implementors Group (IPIG), first convened in 1996, is working on the ISO ILL communications protocol to ensure international interworking among a new generation of ILL systems now under development. IPIG participants made significant progress in the development of their protocol-compliant ILL applications during 1998. On the commercial side, major library system vendors are actively marketing their protocol-based products. In Canada, the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University completed the first phase of a project to integrate the use of the Ameritech product, Resource Sharing System (RSS), into their interlending operations and ran tests at the National Library of Canada.

VIRTUAL CANADIAN UNION CATALOGUE (VCUC) PILOT PROJECT COMPLETED

The vCuc pilot project, coordinated by the National Library, was completed in March. The vCuc is a decentralized, electronically accessible catalogue created by linking the databases of several institutions. The pilot project involved 41 libraries of all types in eight provinces and employed the Z39.50 standard to search 18 servers on 10 different hardware platforms. The project demonstrated the viability of geographically-dispersed catalogues for copy cataloguing, and, as a secondary search strategy, for interlibrary loan for selected targets. It identified issues to be resolved to make completely distributed systems for access to library catalogues effective and efficient. The vCuc project report is available on the National Library Web site. (http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/resource/vcuc/ z3950pr.htm)

The National Library is also coordinating an international effort to develop a profile for using Z39.50 in virtual catalogues. The first phase of the profile development focuses on basic searching requirements. Subsequent phases will address item requesting and catalogue updating.

ISSN FORM ON THE WEB

The International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) application form is now available on the Web (http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/issn). More than 90 000 Canadian serial publications have been assigned ISSNs.

DEPOSITORY SERVICES PROGRAM (DSP)

The Depository Services Program ensures that Canadians have universal and equitable access to essential government resources. Through the program, libraries receive copies of federal government publications and make them available to the public. Increasing use of the information highway necessitated a restructuring of the program. Under the new model, designated resource libraries will have special responsibilities for dealing with electronic information, though all depository libraries can enhance their services through Internet access to government information. The National Library's Electronic Collection is the permanent repository for government Internet publications.

MEETING THE COMMUNITY

PUBLIC PROGRAMS EXHIBITIONS

"Cultivating Canadian Gardens: The History of Gardening in Canada", the National Library of Canada's major exhibition for 1998, ran from February 17 to December 13. Using items that ranged from records of native agricultural practices and pioneer gardening to the publications available today, the exhibition traced the history of Canadian gardening through

journals, seed catalogues, books, magazines, photographs and artifacts. (http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/garden)

"Sir John Franklin: Works from the Library's Collection", an exhibit drawn from the Library's Rare Book Collection, ran from February 2 to March 29. It focused on Arctic shipboard printing and included a broadside published by Lady Franklin offering a reward of £3000 for the rescue of her husband.

"Shakopei: The Legend of the Saint Lawrence Valley", an exhibition celebrating the 50th anniversary of the collaboration between Canada and Venezuela, ran from May 13 to June 18.

"50th Anniversary of *Refus global: A Consideration*", an exhibition highlighting the 1948 manifesto signed by 16 Quebec artists, ran from June 20 to July 30. *Refus global*, which attacked the Roman Catholic Church and then Quebec premier Maurice Duplessis, and other publications in the exhibit demonstrated the nature of this revolutionary development in Canadian art.

"Ashkenaz: a Celebration of German Jewry", an exhibition highlighting selected periods of the long association between Jews and Germany,

opened a two-month run on November 24.

During the year, the National Library joined with other organizations to celebrate Winterlude, the Tulip Festival, Canada Day and *The Word on the Street*. In addition, numerous special events held at the National Library during 1998, in partnership with book publishers and sellers, embassies, associations, the Canada Council for the Arts and the Friends of the National Library, highlighted aspects of the collections. Events during 1998 included:

• Talking About Gardening

Several of the year's talks and readings focused on aspects of gardening to dovetail with the National Library's exhibition on the subject. For example, the featured speaker at the opening was gardening writer and broadcaster Mark Cullen. Other gardening experts who spoke at the Library during the year

included horticulturalist and author Trevor Cole, Landscape Ontario's Janet Ife, landscape historian Edwina Von Baeyer, plantsman Eileen Woodhead and nursery proprietor Peter Knippel.

• National Library Lecture

In the 1998 National Library Lecture, award-winning author Carol Shields spoke about authors' reasons for depositing their manuscripts at the

National Library and her motivation as a novelist. The lecture, entitled "The Subjunctive Self", will soon be available on the National Library's Web site.

• Governor General's Literary Awards Gala Reading

This marked the seventh year that winners of the prestigious Governor General's Literary Awards read excerpts from their prize-winning books at the National Library.

• Enlightened Screen Series

This six-part series, organized by the Friends of the National Library in conjunction with the Canadian Film Institute, featured screenings of Canadian films followed by discussions with their creators. Among the high-profile authors/directors in the series were Atom Egoyan, Brad Fraser and Jacques Godbout.

• Readings, Readings, Readings

Many Canadian authors came to the National Library to read from their latest works. Writers who appeared in 1998 included Gail Anderson-Dargatz, Yves Antoine, Roch Carrier, Jay Ingram, Linda McQuaig and Paul Yee.

• Music and Performance

During the year, several Canadian performers appeared at the National Library. They included: The Barry Elmes Quintet, singer Connie Kaldor, guitarist David Joachim, comedian Rick
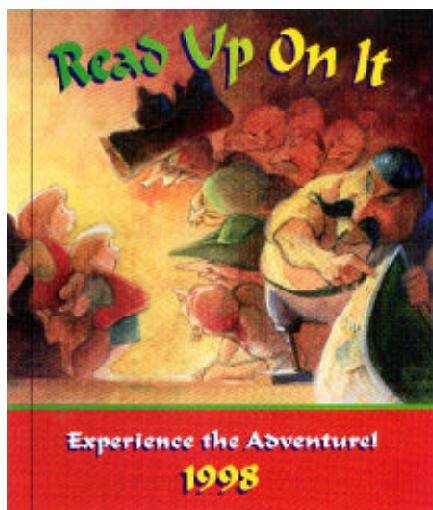
Mercer and Billy Robinson and his Reference Four Jazz Ensemble.

The Public Programs brochure describing the cultural activities and exhibitions held at the National Library can be found on the Library's Web site (http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/pubs/pp-broch/epubpro.htm).

- **Read Up On It Marks Tenth Anniversary**

Read Up On It, the National Library's program aimed at encouraging reading among the young, celebrated its tenth

anniversary in 1998. This year's edition, "Experience the Adventure!", was launched at *The Word on the Street* in Ottawa, Halifax, Vancouver, Toronto and Calgary. It was also highlighted by

the Association pour l'avancement des sciences et des techniques de la documentation (ASTED) in Montreal. Following the launch, some 20 000 kits were distributed to 9000 schools and libraries across the country. Additional kits are distributed throughout the year at confer-ences, book fairs and National Library displays, as well as through Marketing and Publishing. Sponsorship from the National Literacy Secretariat, Canada Post, the Canadian Federation of University Women, the Canadian Library Association and ASTED, and support from various media outlets make the continuation of this program to promote reading and the appreciation of Canadian books possible.
(http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/ruoi/eruoi.htm)

MAJOR COOPERATIVE PROJECTS

Cooperation with other libraries and institutions has always been an integral part of the philosophy of libraries. Through a variety of cooperative projects undertaken or completed in 1998, the National Library has enhanced its collections, helped other libraries to develop their collections and added to the communal information base. One example is the preparation of the major report *Canadians, Public Libraries and the Information Highway* by Ekos Research Associates Inc., for the National Library, Industry Canada and the provincial and territorial libraries. CLA has taken over as coordinator. Other projects of note include:

NATIONAL CORE LIBRARY STATISTICS PROGRAM

Created to provide a mechanism for the collection and dissemination of statistical data on Canadian libraries of all types, this program makes it possible for libraries to draw comparisons with like institutions and provides a rationale for planning and policy development. Data for the second year of the program were collected and analysed in 1998. The report is now available on the National Library's Web site (http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/coopprog/enclsp.htm).

COLLABORATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CANADIAN STUDIES (ICCS)

During 1998, the National Library of Canada and the International Council for Canadian Studies marked 10 years of cooperation. The ICCS complements the National Library's work of ensuring worldwide coverage of Canadiana by identifying difficult-to-obtain grey literature and other published material.

EARLY CANADIANA ONLINE

The National Library began its participation in *Early Canadiana Online* with the Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions (CIHM), Université Laval, the University of Toronto, and the Bibliothèque nationale du Québec. The project will make over 3000 titles from the CIHM microfiche collection of pre-1900 monographs available on the Web, and will compare the use and economics of online access with that of microforms and print copies.
(http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/cihm/ecol/)

UNIVERSITÉ LAVAL RÉPERTOIRE DE VEDETTES-MATIÈRE

During 1998, the list of French subject headings produced by the library of Université Laval was added to the National Library of Canada's Web site. The Répertoire de vedettes-matière (RVM) is an essential tool for French or bilingual subject access, cataloguing and indexing. The service, launched in June, is a fee-based service administered

by Université Laval. It is updated each month.
(http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/wapp/rvm/intro e.htm)

CANADIAN INITIATIVE ON DIGITAL LIBRARIES

More than 55 libraries across the country are now part of the Canadian Initiative on Digital Libraries (CIDL), a group formed to promote, coordinate and facilitate the development of digital collections and services. During 1998, CIDL developed a Web site (http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/cidl/), established three working groups to examine creation, organization, presentation and production issues, including current digitization standards to define practices, and developed links with complementary organizations (e.g., Industry Canada's SchoolNet Digital Collections Program and CANARIE, Inc.).

CANADIAN BOOK EXCHANGE CENTRE MARKS SILVER ANNIVERSARY

The National Library's Canadian Book Exchange Centre (CBEC) celebrated its silver anniversary in 1998. In the 25

years since it was formed, CBEC has received more than 41 million items and redistributed 11 million. The Centre can be reached via the National Library's Web site, which contains a CBEC user's guide. An interactive response form is to be added shortly.
(http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/services/ e-cbec.htm)

CONSER MARKS SILVER ANNIVERSARY

The CONSER Program celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1998 by moving into a new phase of serials cooperation within the broader context of the U.S. Program for Cooperative Cataloguing. The National Library of Canada, a founding member of the CONSER (**CON**version of **SER**ials) Program, has contributed some 60 000 records for Canadian serials to the CONSER database, which includes some 715 000 bibliographic records in total. The National Library makes CONSER records available to Canadian libraries online via AMICUS and through its MARC Records Distribution Service. The CONSER Web site is at: http://lcweb.loc.gov/acq/conser/ homepage.html.

NATIONAL LIBRARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

The National Library of Canada plays a major role in national and international initiatives, conferences and projects throughout the year. Highlights include:

CANADIAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The 53rd annual conference of the Canadian Library Association (CLA), held this year in Victoria, British Columbia, took as its theme "Reality Check: Seductive Futures, Sobering Present". National Library staff members delivered demonstrations of National Library products and gave presentations on a variety of topics,

such as the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules revision process, the results of the National Symposium on Information, Literacy and the School

Library in Canada, developments in Dewey Decimal Classification, interlibrary loan and document delivery in Canadian academic libraries, and disaster planning for libraries.

ASSOCIATION POUR L'AVANCEMENT DES SCIENCES ET DES TECHNIQUES DE LA DOCUMENTATION

The Association pour l'avancement des sciences et des techniques de la documentation (ASTED), which celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1998, took "An Active Presence for 25 Years" as the theme for this year's conference, held in Montreal. Presentations by

National Library staff members included a preview of the *Directory of Special Collections of Research Value in Canadian Libraries*, a demonstration of the *Canadiana* CD-ROM and updates on Read Up on It and the Canadian Book Exchange Centre.

ANGLO-AMERICAN CATALOGUING RULES REVISION (AACR2R)

The International Conference on the Principles and Future Development of AACR was held in Toronto in October 1997. The most significant recommendation was that a formalized schema to reflect the internal logic of the AACR2R be developed. This will serve as a tool in the re-examination of the underlying principles and in setting future directions. A second recommendation included the suggestion that greater flexibility in defining serials be permitted. (Current definitions of serials and monographs in *AACR2R* do not easily adapt to the changing nature of electronic publications.)

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

The 64th IFLA General Conference took place in Amsterdam from August 16 to 21, 1998. Its theme was "On Crossroads of Information and Culture". The FAIFE (Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression) Committee sponsored a number of events and meetings. FAIFE is the mechanism by which IFLA supports policies which sustain access to information and freedom of expression as defined by the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Committee on Copyright and other Legal Matters, chaired by National Librarian Marianne Scott, met three times during the conference; among the many concerns of this committee are copyright in an electronic environment and licensing. The National Library also organized and chaired a meeting on the promotion and use of permanent paper, presented a paper on core competencies at a session on strategic management, promoted the importance of bibliographic standards and developed the draft School Library Manifesto to be presented to UNESCO, including organizing a workshop and consultation on the draft.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION

During 1998, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) published a new international standard for bibliographic references to electronic documents (http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/iso/tc46sc9/standard/690-2e.htm) and a new edition of the international rules for abbreviating titles of publications (http://www.issn.org/). The National Library of Canada provides the International Secretariat for ISO/TC46/SC9, and Library representatives regularly serve on ISO committees and projects.

AMICUS INTERNATIONAL

The National Library of Canada is assisting the National Library of Australia in implementing AMICUS bibliographic applications. The British Library has contracted with ELIAS, the European vendor of the AMICUS software.

GOVERNMENT ON THE NET

The Government on the Net conference is an interdisciplinary forum on the Internet involving representatives from the public, private and educational sectors. The National Library chaired the organizing committee of the fourth annual conference, held in Hull in April.

TOWARDS 1999

Canadian libraries are involved in international activities designed to increase access to the world's information resources. Libraries across Canada are collectively expanding their use of appropriate technologies to increase access to information in various formats. The National Library of Canada stands and will continue to stand at the forefront of these activities, while simultaneously maintaining its designated role as the steward of Canada's published heritage, in traditional and electronic formats, and as a gateway to resource sharing.

In March 1998, Minister of Canadian Heritage Sheila Copps appointed Dr. John English, a history professor from the University of Waterloo, to head a consultation on the structure and future role of the National Library and the National Archives the emerging digital environment. The consultation, which has involved organizations from across Canada and other countries, is now drawing to its conclusion. The National Library is poised for any new challenges resulting from its conclusions. ◆

Did You Know...

- that 1998 marks the 20th anniversary of the National Library of Canada's publication *Canadian Subject Headings?* This publication is built on the pioneering work of the Canadian Library Association, which published an initial list of Canadian subject headings in 1968. The publication of *Canadian Subject Headings* followed the 1972 recommendation of the Canadian Task Group on Cataloguing Standards that the National Library assume responsibility for the development and maintenance of a separate Canadian list of English-language subject headings, to provide access to works on Canadian topics.

- that in 1998, the National Library was one of several federal institutions involved in the preparation of an interactive CD, *Arctic Journeys: An Interactive Adventure?*

- that Mary Bond, one of the National Library's Senior Reference Librarians, won government-wide recognition for her achievement in compiling *Canadian Reference Sources: An Annotated Bibliography?* In 1998, she received an Award of Excellence, one of the highest honours given to federal government employees.

- that an anthology of historical Canadian band music, edited by Dr. S. Timothy Maloney, Director of the National Library's Music Division, for the Canadian Musical Heritage Society, was published in February? A second volume is to be published shortly.

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USMARC and CAN/MARC Become MARC 21

The Library of Congress and the National Library of Canada are pleased to announce that the harmonized USMARC and CAN/MARC formats will be published in a single edition in early 1999 under a new name: MARC 21. The name both points to the future as we move into the 21st century and suggests the international character of the format, which is appropriate and important given its expanding worldwide use.

MARC 21 is not a new format. From 1994 to 1997 the USMARC and CAN/MARC user communities worked to eliminate all remaining differences in their two already-similar formats. Compatibility had been a feature of the development processes for both formats for many years. In 1997 and early 1998 updates to the formats were issued that made the format specifications identical. MARC 21, a continuation of both USMARC and CAN/MARC, publishes the formats in one edition under a new name.

Further announcements on the publication of the new editions of the five formats that make up the MARC 21 family of formats — Bibliographic, Authority, Holdings, Classification, and Community Information — will be made when printing of each is completed over the next year. The National Library of Canada will also be producing simultaneously a French edition of MARC 21. For further information on the shared format, see the official format Web sites at:
www.loc.gov/marc/
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Access AMICUS Training Schedule

Access AMICUS is available to Canadian libraries, other institutions and individual researchers. It provides access to the AMICUS database via Datapac, the Internet or iNet. Training is offered across Canada. Training is recommended for efficient and effective use of the Access AMICUS service. Each user must sign an agreement concerning the use of Access AMICUS.

To register for a session, please call Information Technology Services at (819) 997-7227, Fax (819) 994-6835, TTY (613) 992-6969, X.400: [cic-its]gc+ nlc.bnc\govmt.canada\ca, or Internet: cic@nlc-bnc.ca. Registrations must be received by the deadline date for the session, as indicated in the training schedule. Sessions will be held only if the number of registrants is sufficient.

For new clients, the cost for training is $315.00* per participant (including documentation and technical setup). For current clients, cost of training is $225.00* per participant. Training fees are payable upon receipt of an invoice following the training. Registered participants who cancel one week or less prior to a session will be billed the training charges.

The National Library also offers on-site Access AMICUS training for groups, subject to the availability of trainers. Contact the Access AMICUS Coordinator regarding costs of specialized sessions.

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Registration deadline	Location	Session Date
January 22	Information Technology Services, Training Room No. 1 National Library of Canada Hull, Quebec	February 2-3 (**in French**)
February 5	Information Technology Services, Training Room No. 1 National Library of Canada Hull, Quebec	February 16-17 (**in English**)

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* Taxes not included.
Note: Prices may be subject to changes.