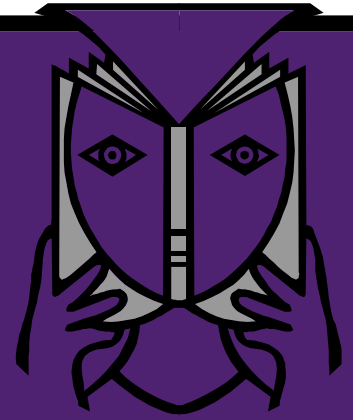




National Library News

January 1999
Vol. 31, no. 1
ISSN 0027-9633



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SERVICES

Canadian Book Exchange Centre Marks Its 25th Anniversary (1973-1998)

by *Céline Gendron,*
Canadian Book Exchange Centre

It feels quite strange for me to think back to those beginning days of the "Book Exchange". It's like looking through a long lost photo album that's been missing for 25 years.

Rick Blouin
Client Services Coordinator

It all started with the new National Library Act, which received royal assent on June 27 and came into force on September 1, 1969. Although much of the original act¹, which was passed in 1952, was retained, a new Section 12 stated: The Governor in Council may direct that the books in the care or custody of any department, branch or agency of the Government of Canada be transferred from that department, branch or agency and placed under the care and custody of the National Librarian.²



Joanne Lemieux at the work in the CBEC periodicals section.

SURPLUS LIBRARY MATERIALS PROGRAM

When the National Library was established in 1953, the Library's duplicate exchange program was designed to handle the disposal of the National Library's own duplicates only. During the year following the new act, the duplicate exchange program grew at an unprecedented rate: its extension and diversification were directly related to Section 12. As word spread through the library community that the National



Library was accepting library discards, non-federal government libraries also began shipping their surplus material to the National Library. An increasing number of Canadian university libraries also participated in the Surplus Library Materials Program both depositing materials and selecting from the duplicates pool. Some of these libraries stopped their own duplicate exchange programs, instead sending all their duplicates to the National Library for redistribution. The Library's duplicate exchange program had gradually become a *national* duplicate exchange centre of operation. The question now was how this rapidly growing service should be handled and regulated.

SURPLUS COLLECTION

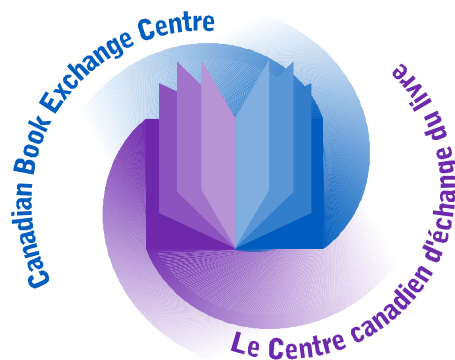
The National Library's 1971-72 annual report noted that the donation of surplus material by libraries across the country has resulted in an embarrassment of riches for the National Library.... So much material arrived during the first half of the year that the Library was forced to suspend partially acceptance of duplicates there was simply not enough space or staff to handle them. To address the problem, Jean Higginson, then Chief of the General Acquisition Branch, conducted a management study, which recommended centralizing the duplicate exchange activities under one administration. (At that time, the activities were directed by the Official Publications Division, the Serials Division and the Gifts and Exchange Unit.) The new organization was called the Surplus Exchange Division. In its first year of existence, more than 200 000 publications were redistributed to other libraries.

In centralizing the surplus exchange activities under one administration, the Library was faced with such problems as controlling and coordinating the incoming material,

then received and housed at three different locations. The total backlog had reached an estimated 30 to 40 thousand boxes. By the fall of 1973, the new division had to find a suitable warehouse and decide whether to maintain the current duplicate exchange system or establish a new method.

THE CANADIAN BOOK EXCHANGE CENTRE

In early winter of 1974, the Surplus Exchange Division changed its name to the Canadian Book Exchange Centre (CBEC) and moved to the warehouse located on Bentley Street, in Nepean, Ontario. CBEC was then faced with organizing the collections, making bibliographical entries with new locations and managing approximately



50 000 boxes of backlog material. The task at hand seemed insurmountable to the 14 staff members. A systematic approach to the problems of such a large operation with such limited staff eliminated unnecessary transactions, superfluous forms and duplicate processes. The Centre quickly grew into an efficient national service.

Between 1969 and 1974, the volume of incoming material increased by 600 percent, from 175 000 to 1 070 440 items. During the same period, distribution increased by more than 800 percent, from 48 400 items in 1969 to more than 400 000 items in 1974³.

National Library

News



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

National Library News is also available on the National Library of Canada Web service at www.nlc-bnc.ca/nl-news/en/news.htm

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

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Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada (1999), as represented by the National Library of Canada



Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Materials, ANSI Z39.48-1992

The National Library of Canada's logo is based on a detail from the mural *La Connaissance Knowledge* created by Alfred Pellan for the Reference Room of the National Library.



OUR CLIENTS

Besides serving federal government libraries, the Centre increased its clientele by gradually taking over the duplicate exchange activities of several non-government libraries and incorporating them into one central organization. This enabled participating libraries to direct their own employees to other tasks. (This aspect of the operation has been recognized by those institutions which stopped their exchange activities and transferred their exchange collections to the Canadian Book Exchange Centre.)

The Periodicals Unit is responsible for receiving and disseminating documents to all three units. The four-member team, supervised by Bill Rea, is also responsible for the largest part of our collections, some two million items. A new periodical database, developed during 1998 using Microsoft Access, allows us to manage this collection more efficiently.

The Official Publications unit consists of Canadian government publications and a smaller foreign Official Publications collection, both including serials and monographs. Our specialist, Dan Rutt, is able to provide copies of official publications to replace

disappearance and the merging of departments, space reduction and staff cutbacks, he says. Despite these changes, the unit has managed to maintain its level of service to participating institutions.

Our Monographs collection is managed by two specialists who are responsible for organizing and compiling lists for distribution. Each list is made up of varied subject matter selected from the material sent to the centre from institutions across Canada, explains area specialist Rhonda Wilson. The material is first screened for quality and condition. It is then sorted into general subject categories, using the Dewey Decimal

**CBEC'S CLIENTELE DISTRIBUTION,
OCTOBER 1998
(1178 INSTITUTIONS)**

	<i>Federal Government</i>	<i>Other Government</i>	<i>University Libraries</i>	<i>College Libraries</i>	<i>High Schools</i>	<i>Elementary Schools</i>	<i>Public Libraries</i>	<i>Special Libraries</i>	TOTAL
B.C.	10	8	12	16	5	0	9	13	73
Alberta	11	16	17	10	1	0	3	22	80
Sask.	6	7	4	7	0	0	1	7	32
Manitoba	7	10	5	2	1	0	1	12	38
Ontario	110	23	54	36	69	13	34	178	517
Quebec	42	26	41	32	24	0	18	111	294
N.B.	5	10	8	4	2	0	3	10	42
N.S.	6	6	7	4	14	2	1	26	66
Nfld.	1	3	2	7	2	0	1	4	20
P.E.I.	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	4
N.W.T.	1	4	0	3	0	0	3	0	11
Yukon	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	199	115	151	122	119	15	74	383	1178

OUR COLLECTIONS

Three sectors were identified from the beginning: Monographs, Periodicals and Official Publications. CBEC is still organized around this pattern to facilitate the selection and the redistribution of the incoming publications. CBEC regularly prepares and sends lists of available publications to participating libraries.

clients missing or damaged items. In some areas such as parliamentary publications, the documents date back as far as Upper and Lower Canada, circa 1849. Since I arrived at the Centre in 1982, the Official Publications collections have undergone numerous alterations such as ministerial name changes, government restructuring involving the

Classification system. Subjects are alternated to ensure that a varied range of material is made available to our participating institutions.

CBEC AND CANADIANA DOCUMENTS

CBEC plays an important role in the vitality of the National Library's Canadiana collection. It makes any



Canadian publications received available to the National Library. Our Canadiana specialist, Greg Stanton estimates that, since the creation of CBEC, we have helped the National Library to acquire or replace more than 925 000 Canadiana items. This represents a substantial monetary value, especially given the escalating cost of library materials over the years.

OUR STAFF

CBEC relies on its experienced staff to select, organize and disseminate material received from the library community. Their accumulated experience in dealing with second hand publications and their knowledge of the value of any type of material shipped to CBEC are vital to the efficient functioning of the unit.

THE FIRST SURVEY, 1998⁴

Last January, as CBEC approached its 25th anniversary, we conducted a nation-wide survey of our users. Our objectives were:

- to determine client needs and satisfaction in order to realign the Centre's services with current user requirements
- to explore alternative methods of providing services to clients
- to raise awareness of CBEC as an important National Library service.

Some 971 surveys were distributed to CBEC users in June 1998.⁵ Of these, 531 were completed and returned, a return rate of 54.68 percent. Respondents commented on their level of satisfaction with the number and the frequency of lists in each category of documents, the response time for receiving documents, desired lists and the policy as described in *CBEC User's Guide*. The survey results also confirmed who uses the Centre, how it is used, how clients

prefer to send and receive documents, and the level of awareness of the Web site, listserv and e-mail address.

Highlights of the results include :

- Special libraries made up the majority of the respondents (28.5 %) followed by university libraries (16.2 %), elementary secondary schools (13.4 %) and colleges (12.5 %). Non-federal government libraries (9 %), public libraries (8.5 %) and hospital libraries (3.8 %) made up a smaller portion. The remaining institutions (7 %) did not identify themselves.
- Clients use CBEC in many ways. The most common use is to receive documents only (45.9 %), then to send and receive documents (38 %), and finally to send documents only (5.1 %).
- On average, respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the number of lists they received (50 %) for each category of documents, while 20 % had no opinion and 3 % were unsatisfied. The exception was for monographs (French lists) where 14 % were unsatisfied.
- On average, respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the frequency of lists (48 %) for each category of documents, while 22 % had no opinion and 3 % were unsatisfied.
- On average, respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the response time for receiving documents (40 %) for each category of documents, while 23 % had no opinion and 2 % were unsatisfied. The exception was for monographs (English lists) where 21 % were unsatisfied.
- Although only 1.5 % of respondents indicated they were not satisfied with the means of sending material sent to the Centre, even respondents who were satisfied expressed concern with the associated cost. They suggested CBEC should consider absorbing

these costs. Other comments indicated that respondents were not satisfied with the method of reimbursement for postage and would prefer an easier method.

- Few respondents had visited the CBEC Web site (13 %) the majority of those who have access to the Internet but who had never accessed the CBEC Web site stated that they were unaware of its existence (55 %). Over half of the respondents were unaware of the listserv (57 %). Only 9 % subscribe to it.

To serve clients better, CBEC is implementing e-mail service to receive requests and respond to clients. Clients can also continue to use fax and mail to send their requests. In addition to the publications which will still be sent by mail, CBEC will put the lists on its Web site. We will also address concerns regarding closing dates on English monograph lists.

The Canadian Book Exchange Centre survey confirmed the Centre's importance in the Canadian library community as a national redistribution centre for surplus documents. CBEC will continue to explore alternative methods to provide better and faster service and ensure equality of access. The Centre wants to raise awareness within the community and encourages client suggestions on ways to improve the efficiency of its service. Visit our rejuvenated Web site at: www.nlc-bnc.ca/cbec-cceel ◆

Notes

¹ Canada. An Act representing the Establishment of a National Library. Ottawa, Queen's Printer, 1952, Chap. 330.

² Canada. An Act Respecting the National Library. Ottawa: Queen's Printer, 1969, Chap. N-12, p. 4.

³ Including an interruption of four months during the move and resettlement in the new warehouse.

⁴ The survey is also available on CBEC Web site.

⁵ Since federal departments are obligated to send their surplus material to the National Library, we chose to survey only our other clientele.



What the users say

“Very useful for filling gaps in our periodical collection.” *Belleville Public Library (Belleville, Ontario)*

“...For a library with modest purchasing power, it is an excellent source, especially for periodicals.” *New Brunswick Community College Library (Moncton, New Brunswick)*

“J’apprécie le libellé qui accompagne chaque liste, i.e. Monographies spéciales, Fiction/Roman, etc.” *Bibliothèque de l’Université Saint-Paul (Ottawa, Ontario)*

“As a new university college, we have found the CBEC useful for

filling in gaps in periodicals holdings and for monographs collection development.” *University College of the Cariboo (Kamloops, B.C.)*

“Merci pour votre excellent service!” *Hôpital Louis-H-Lafontaine (Montréal, Québec)*

“Vous faites un excellent travail et vous nous aidez à compléter nos collections. Merci.” *Collège Laval (Laval, Québec)*

“Access to CBEC has been a godsend to school librarians over the years. The staff has always been helpful and accommodating. Nowhere else could

we fill our magazine runs so successfully.” *Confederation High School Library (Nepean, Ontario)*

“It’s a very valuable service.” *Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (Merritt, B.C.)*

“You provide a great service! Thanks very much.” *Canadian Cooperative Association (Ottawa, Ontario)*

“I visited the CBEC in May 1991 and in May 1997 and found the staff exceptional to work with!” *Peel District School Board (Mississauga, Ontario)*

National Library Swats Year 2000 Bug

by Rob Sekerak,
Information Technology Services

Does “00” denote the arrival of the year 2000 or a return to 1900? Hard to decide? It’s equally difficult for computers. And therein lies the seed of the Year 2000 Bug sown in the early days of computer history.

Storing data was expensive. Computer memory was limited. To economize on funds and space, almost all computer programs used two, rather than four, digits for calendar years. This practice was effective in ’72, ’82 and ’92 and will be effective until ’99. But, as the millennium ’00 approaches, hardware and software systems using a two-character date field will fail if they cannot distinguish between 1900 and 2000.

Aware of the threat of the Millennium Bug, the National Library of Canada set up a Year 2000 project team in April 1997 to ensure that business at the Library will continue as usual after January 1, 2000.

As the National Library’s systems were replaced recently, the amount of work required to overcome the Bug is lessened. Nevertheless, preparing for B-Day involves assessing all systems and supporting infrastructure for Year 2000 compliance. The Library will also take the added precaution of shutting down all computer systems on the evening of December 31, 1999 to avoid potential damage to computer systems in the event of a prolonged power outage.

The National Library’s systems include:

- AMICUS, the National Library of Canada’s bibliographic system

During the planning phase of AMICUS, we were aware of the Year 2000 Bug. Therefore, we created a Year 2000-compliant system. We will test it thoroughly and make minor changes to third-party software as required.

- Dynix, another bibliographic system used at the National Library of Canada

Dynix is produced and maintained by Ameritech Library Services Inc. In a letter to the Library, Ameritech says that the National Library of Canada’s customized version of Dynix is Year 2000 compliant. This system will also undergo Year 2000 testing.

- National Library of Canada’s Web site

All third-party products used in this application are being investigated for Year 2000 compliance. Any that the Library has created will also be tested. We do not anticipate any Year 2000 problems with our Web site.

- National Library of Canada’s supporting infrastructure

This includes office systems, and all underlying software and hardware in the National Library. Vendor statements say that most of the systems



are Year 2000 compliant. We will test the critical components of the supporting infrastructure to verify the vendors assurances.

The Library, like most other organizations, cannot absolutely guarantee Year 2000 compliance for its systems or, because of many factors outside our control, promise that service will be uninterrupted. But we can make every effort. The National Library of Canada intends to maintain quality service into the year 2000 and beyond.

For further information, contact:

Rob Sekerak
Year 2000 Project Leader
Telephone: (819) 953-4134
Internet:
robert.sekerak@nlc-bnc.ca ◆

Did You Know ...

that the ISSN application form is now available on the Web? The ISSN (International Standard Serial Number) is a numbering system for serial publications, such as periodicals, newspapers, annuals and journals. At present, 90 083 Canadian serial publications have been assigned ISSNs. To request an ISSN via the Internet, please complete the form at the National Library's Web site (<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/issn>).

For more information, please contact:

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E-mail: issn@nlc-bnc.ca

THE EVOLUTION OF THE CANADIAN MARC COMMUNICATION FORMATS:

From CAN MARC to MARC 21

by Margaret Stewart,
Acquisitions and Bibliographic Services

BACKGROUND

In 1972, the National Librarian of Canada established a MARC Task Group to study the requirements of a format for machine-readable bibliographic records for use in Canada. ¹ Since the Library of Congress had already developed a format, one of the critical issues for consideration by the MARC Task Group was whether Canada needed to develop its own format. The key question was: Can we accept LC MARC without modification? After lengthy national consultation, the MARC Task Group made two significant recommendations that became the underlying principles for the development of the CAN MARC format:

- that the National Library of Canada assume responsibility for developing a separate and distinct Canadian MARC format which would address specific Canadian requirements
- that variations in the CAN MARC format from the LC MARC format be kept to a minimum.

The MARC Task Group recognized that as Canada is a bilingual country, the National Library of Canada must respond to specific bibliographic needs. In addition, it was understood that it was important not to diverge significantly from the LC MARC format, since Canadian libraries needed to be able to make use of cataloguing information from non-Canadian sources, particularly from the Library of Congress. Following the MARC Task Group

recommendations, the first CAN MARC format was published in 1973.

THE MOVE TO HARMONIZATION

A turning point in format development came in November 1994 when representatives of the British Library, the Library of Congress and the National Library of Canada met to discuss ways to improve the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of producing bibliographic records. One area of the discussion focused on the possibility of aligning their national formats. Recognizing that the emergence of the Internet and current telecommunications technology make national boundaries less relevant to the exchange of bibliographic data, the libraries acknowledged the significant benefits of a harmonized MARC format. They agreed that a common format would facilitate the exchange of bibliographic information by making it faster and more cost-effective for themselves and their constituents. Conversion to and from national formats would no longer be a major obstacle to record exchange. The objective was to align the three formats. Each library resolved to identify the essential features of its national format. The National Library of Canada undertook this activity with the support of its MARC advisory committee, the Canadian Committee on MARC. The Committee agreed that changes should be made to CAN MARC to align it with USMARC. The Committee also identified a number of essential features of CAN MARC which represented a



difference from USMARC. Chief among these differences were elements that support the bibliographic requirements of a bilingual country. Decisions regarding the alignment of CAN MARC and USMARC were reached in February 1997 the harmonization of the USMARC and CAN MARC formats was accomplished, in principle. Complete harmonization with UKMARC remains a long-term goal. Meanwhile, all format changes are being monitored to ensure partial alignment with UKMARC in the short term.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HARMONIZED FORMAT

Following agreement on the changes required, work began on implementation issues and activities. In January 1998, the National Library announced its two-phase implementation schedule for the MARC harmonization. The changes affecting CAN MARC only are being implemented in January 1999. In late fall 1999, the National Library of Canada and the Library of Congress will coordinate the implementation of changes affecting both CAN MARC and USMARC. When the National Library announced its implementation schedule, it also issued a

pre-implementation update to the bibliographic format to enable the Canadian library community and system vendors to assess the impact of the harmonization changes on their own system implementations. An update to the CAN MARC authority format for harmonization was also made available on the National Library Web site.

Additional issues and activities are being addressed. The Library of Congress and the National Library of Canada are discussing mechanisms for the coordination and approval of future format development. In addition to the existing national consultative mechanisms, which will continue, this new relationship with the US MARC community offers a further opportunity to review how the Canadian contribution to the development of the common MARC format can be most effective. Although all the changes have been made available through advance updates, the National Library of Canada and the Library of Congress will publish a single edition of the MARC formats under a new name, MARC 21. The bibliographic format will be available early in 1999, to be followed by the authority, holdings and classification formats. The National Library of Canada is responsible for

publishing French editions of the format documentation.

CONCLUSION

Over 20 years ago, the MARC Task Group identified the principles for the development of a Canadian MARC format. Adherence to these principles has eased the transition of CAN MARC from a national format to a format for use worldwide. Not only will the move to the MARC 21 format facilitate record sharing and reduce the cost of record conversions, but it will also provide further opportunities for greater cooperation in bibliographic activities across national boundaries.

Information on MARC is available at:

<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/marc/emarc.htm>
or contact:

Standards and Support Division
National Library of Canada
Telephone: (819) 994-6936
Fax: (819) 953-0291
e-mail: canmarc@nlc-bnc.ca ◆

Note

¹ Canadian MARC: a report on the activities of the MARC Task Group. Ottawa: National Library of Canada, 1972, p. iv.

Did You Know ...

- that a selection of *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules* (AACR) rule interpretations, clarifications and decisions from the National Library of Canada's internal *Descriptive Cataloguing Manual* is now available at <http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/catalog/aacr/index.htm> on the National Library of Canada Web service?
- that the National Library of Canada is issuing these rule interpretations used in cataloguing for *Canadiana*,

the national bibliography, for the information of libraries using catalogue records produced by the National Library or following National Library cataloguing practice in their own institutions?

- that an additional National Library rule interpretations as well as revisions to existing ones will be added to this site and will be indicated as such in the contents list of each chapter of rule interpretations?

Comments or questions concerning these rule interpretations should be directed to:

Standards and Support,
Acquisitions and Bibliographic Services,
National Library of Canada,
395 Wellington Street,
Ottawa K1A 0N4,
or
e-mail: cataloguing.standards@nlc-bnc.ca



MARC 21 — MARC Formats for the 21st century

What is MARC 21?

- MARC 21 is the new name of the harmonized CAN MARC and USMARC formats.
- MARC 21 is the result of the activity undertaken to align CAN MARC and USMARC. It represents the continuation of the CAN MARC and USMARC formats in a single edition with a new name.

How is MARC 21 different from CAN/MARC?

- In January 1998, the National Library of Canada issued an update to the CAN MARC bibliographic format which included all of the changes resulting from harmonization with USMARC. In June 1998, a document listing changes to the CAN MARC

authority format resulting from alignment with USMARC was posted on the National Library of Canada Web site (<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/marc/emarc.htm>). The format specifications in the MARC 21 publication have, therefore, already been made available to users of existing CAN MARC documentation.

When will MARC 21 be published?

- The first format to be published will be the format for bibliographic data. It is anticipated that the new publication will be released in early 1999 in English and French to be followed by the authority, holdings and classification formats. The National Library of Canada and the Library of Congress will act as co-publishers of the English versions

of the formats the National Library of Canada will publish the French versions of the formats.

When will the National Library of Canada implement the MARC 21 format?

- The National Library of Canada will implement the specifications in the MARC 21 format in two phases. The first phase of implementation will be in January 1999. The second phase of implementation will take place in late 1999.

For more information, consult:

<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/marc/emarc.htm>

LIBRARY COMMUNITY

FROM AUTHOR TO READER:

Trends in Literacy and Reading in Canada and Internationally

by Gwynneth Evans,
Director General,
National and International Programs

(Adapted from a presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Association of Professional Librarians of New Brunswick in Fredericton on October 3, 1998.)

INTRODUCTION

Having been asked to speak on some trends and perspectives on literacy and reading, I would like to add that the human elements that bring together the author, publisher, bookseller and distributor, librarian, reader and

community are of particular interest to me.

Let me start with a very recent experience. In late September, author Sharon Butala read at the National Library. About 80 of us were crowded into one of our meeting rooms, with a bookseller, and a small display by the United Services of Canada, the sponsor of her trip to Ethiopia to study ecological diversification. Her most recent novel, *The Garden of Eden*, follows the seasons and moves between southwest Saskatchewan and Ethiopia.

In the days since then, I have read Sharon Butala's *The Perfection of the Morning*.

Ms. Butala has built up a strong reference collection at her farm, where she lives nine months of the year. (She and her husband move to their ranch when the cattle are ranging.) She has many dictionaries and atlases and books on religion, myth, philosophy, psychology, and Amerindian history and culture. And in one of these sources, she found a Sufi saying: when the pupil is ready, the teacher will come. And she added, my teacher was to be books. And yet a clear message of her work is my teacher is also nature. Indeed, the subtitle of *The Perfection of the Morning* is *An Apprenticeship in Nature*.

That night, we all remarked how quietly and intimately present the author was among us, taking us into her story, describing the Canadian and



community. In recent years, we have worked on a school library manifesto to be presented to the UNESCO member states because we believe that the school library has a fundamental role to play in the teaching of reading, analytical and literacy skills. Many libraries play a variety of roles for different age groups. It is known, for example, that young children learn quickly. They can be taught several languages before they go to school. We also now know that children who are not read and spoken to begin to lose that dexterity and capacity to learn their brain cells begin to atrophy if they are not stimulated. So libraries have programs for pre-schoolers and their caregivers, collections of appropriate reading and listening materials, facilities for tutoring and reading clubs, and some act as the focal point for bringing together all the players authors, publishers, teachers, readers. When one accepts the necessity of practice in reading, analyzing and applying information, the importance of the library as a centre for lifelong learning (for both individual and group learning) follows. I am not saying that the centre is only physical with the technologies it can also be virtual. However, the planning, organization and services of the library must be developed in consultation with the citizens of the community. The human element is vital to the planning and evaluation of the services. Most libraries have not seen themselves as publishers except for the kinds of materials that promote and explain their services or promote specialized collections. However, with the Internet, libraries are providing access to information in an enhanced way information not only held by the Library but also available in different forms and from many sources, including full text and multimedia. They may also be training sites and public points of access for their whole community.

In considering the various models that libraries can emulate in providing support for individual and group reading, I would like to tell you about an experience I had in northern Peru almost two years ago. Knowing of a dynamic rural library service in the area around Cajamarca, where Pizarro took the last Inca emperor in 1534, a colleague and I spent a month with several of its leaders. The network is a voluntary service in peasant farmers homes. A corner of the public room in the house is devoted to the library, and members of the community may come before their day in the fields starts or after it ends. In the evening, children and adults read together around the light of a coal lamp and discuss the content and application of the materials they read together aloud either in Spanish or, occasionally, in Quechua. What is remarkable about their materials is a 20-volume encyclopedia, written and illustrated by the peasants themselves, under the guidance of a leader formally trained in the anthropology and culture of the high Andes.

Espousing a philosophy of *Les traditions pour demain*, based on the importance of understanding the community's history, origins, customs and beliefs, this leader has promoted confidence among the people in writing and reading their stories. Living close to nature and to the sources of their story, they have worked to piece together all the connections between their material, social and spiritual lives so that they can take hold of the present and build the future.

This network of rural libraries is built on volunteer and democratic principles, supported by a small headquarters staff who offer training and communication and provide books for the libraries in family homes. The network has been built up over 25 years and the publishing program started about 10 years ago.

My colleague and I spent a week with the leaders at a planning session and a couple of days in the home and hamlet of one of the librarians. I was impressed by the joy, the pride and the fellowship of these people. They are talented musicians and orators. They tell their stories with conviction and they see their library work as vital to community survival and development.

We spent some time in Cajamarca to assess the essential elements of literacy in practical terms, set against all the reading we had done in international studies. We also wanted to know whether the Cajamarca experience is transportable to other situations, especially to Africa.

Literacy is a concept, a process, a set of skills, and a mode of behaviour. In our part of the world, we think of it in personal or individual terms in the Andes, it is a community activity, based on stated principles and needs. My sense is that we all can learn lessons from our Peruvian colleagues, by recognizing that the oral and the written are different but complementary expressions of communication and by trying to understand that reading is not only a solitary exercise but a communal activity, both in developing societies and in our own. Societies learn and develop as we acknowledge the importance of literacy to our social, economic and spiritual lives.

When we discussed the Peruvian experience with African experts, they pointed out the predominance of local languages and different customs, religions and belief systems on that continent. There is greater diversity in Africa and a greater range of circumstance much of it even poorer economically than in the Andes. However, we have also learned that we must provide culturally sensitive materials that correspond to the needs of women and children, as well as to those of men. The collaboration of



authors, illustrators, publishers, librarians and funding organizations in finding the balance between the choice of useful foreign collections and the stimulation of new local materials is an issue which deserves our attention.

Returning to my Canadian story about the work of Sharon Butala, I

would suggest that she too calls us to know and understand our pasts and our contexts so we can build our futures. She comments that when the students are ready, the teachers come. And I believe that she realizes that we are all both students and teachers. We can learn from one another, especially if we

are susceptible to being creative and open to possibility. We can work together at the local, provincial, regional, national and international levels to increase the promotion and enjoyment of reading for many purposes and to stimulate the practice of literacy among individuals and groups. ♦



National Library of Canada Awarded Gold Medal at Technology in Government Conference

by Iris Winston,
Marketing and Publishing

The National Library of Canada was one of 31 winners at Technology in Government's "Distinction '98" awards gala at the Canadian Museum of Civilization.

For his work on behalf of the Library, Dr. Timothy Maloney, Director of the Music Division, received the Committee's Choice gold medal at the



October 26, 1998 conclusion of industry's week-long salute to excellence in the management of information and technology in the public sector. He and his team were

honoured for conceiving and delivering a program of digitization projects illustrating and explaining the achievements of Canadian musicians, making the music collections more accessible to Canadian and international audiences.

Among the many projects are:

- The Canadian Music Periodical Index, an online database of bibliographic information pointing researchers to some 30 000 articles on Canadian music and musicians found in 475 Canadian journals, newsletters and magazines dating back to the 1800s. Three years ago, this was a little-known card file accessible only on-site at the National Library. Today, it receives over 50

000 visits and close to 40 000 pages are downloaded each month.

(<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/mpi>)

- The Glenn Gould Archive, a multimedia Web site containing a virtual exhibition, and including three hours of archival audio unobtainable elsewhere, three separate databases giving access to Gould's archival papers and recordings, writings by and about Gould, literary and artistic works inspired by Gould, and links to related sites. This site now averages 100 000 visits and around 60 000 pages are downloaded each month. (<http://www.gould.nlc-bnc.ca>)
- The Claude Champagne Virtual Exhibition, based on the National Library of Canada's 1990-1991 exhibition, mounted to celebrate the centenary of the Quebec musician's birth. It contains a digital selection of documents, photographs and artifacts from the National Library of Canada's Claude Champagne Archive. (http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/dl/1998_champagne/)
- Disc-o-logue, a Web-accessible database containing information on close to 90 000 French-language pop-music sound recordings, sold in Canada between 1955 and 1985. Until 1997, the index was a card file available only on-site at the National Library. (<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/discologue/>)
- The Virtual Gramophone, a multimedia Web site and database devoted to the 78-rpm era in Canada. The site features the earliest





Canadian sound recordings and information about the artists, labels, record companies and technology of the 1900-1955 period. (<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/gramophone>)

- Finding aids to the archival papers of such Canadian musicians as Robert Fleming, Andr Pr vost, and the Mathieu family. Similar finding aids for Alfred Lalibert , Otto Joachim and other Canadian musicians are now in preparation.
- A revised guide to all archives held by the National Library of Canada Music Division will soon be mounted on the Web. (It will also be printed in hard copy on demand.)

As Jerry Shattner, president of Hitachi Data Systems Inc., pointed out, the projects at the Library are examples of the creativity, dedication and leadership that has resulted in improved operations, innovative

solutions and strategic directions that will help set the stage for the new millennium.

The 31 awards were presented in 11 categories: Improving Service Delivery to Citizens and Business



Every digitization project needs a good team.

Implementing Medium to Large IT Projects Enhancing Government Operations Innovative Service Delivery in the Provinces Innovative Service Delivery in the Municipalities

Strategic Information Management Building Partnerships Cross-Jurisdictional Cooperation Development and Training of IT Professionals Doing Business Electronically and Leadership. A

Committee s Choice Award was awarded to Dr. Timothy Maloney, Director, Music Division, National Library of Canada. Mr. Maloney conceived and delivered a program of digitization projects illustrating and explaining the achievements of Canadian musicians, making the music collections more accessible to Canadian and international audiences. ◆

COLLECTIONS

FROM THE RARE BOOK COLLECTION...

Gift of Tongues, Gift of Print: A Canadian Missionary in the South Seas

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

Off the northeast coast of Australia, at the very tip of the New Hebrides chain, lies the tiny island of Aneiteum. For decades, European sandalwood traders had plundered the island, terrorizing the natives and scattering diseases in their wake. Then in 1848, a Canadian Presbyterian missionary named John Geddie (1815-1872) and his family arrived in Aneiteum — not to exploit, but to enlighten.



Map of Aneiteum.

At first, Geddie s attitudes differed little from those of the sandalwood merchants. In his travel diary he confessed how greatly he feared the inveterate prejudice, the repulsive arrogance, and deep-rooted superstition of a barbarous people, and how he



dreaded the drudgery [of] acquiring a barbarous language and moulding into characters ... a tongue never committed to writing before.

But Geddie soon grew to respect the people he had come to convert, discovering the Aneiteumese vocabulary to be so rich that he seldom needed to invent new words for his religious concepts. And if Geddie was forced to eat his words, the Aneiteumese, in a very different way, ate theirs too. As Geddie struggled to learn the language, the natives refused to give him the words he asked for, unless he supplied food in exchange one biscuit per word

Geddie firmly believed that printing is to modern missionaries almost what the gift of tongues was to the apostles of old. To prepare for his missionary work, Geddie had spent a year as an apprentice printer in Nova Scotia, at the offices of Pictou's *Eastern Chronicle*. Before he left for the South Seas, he obtained a press from a Scottish benefactor, purchased type in the United States, and picked up some paper in Samoa. Just four months after he arrived in Aneiteum, he proudly struck off three hymns in Aneiteumese along with an alphabet and a syllable sheet. The following year, Geddie printed 2 000 copies of a 12-page elementary text book an optimistically large print run, considering that his scholars numbered half a dozen at the time. The Aneiteumese catechism and scripture translation proved a far greater challenge, but one that Geddie welcomed:

The study ... is one of intense interest and delight. Those are privileged indeed, whom God permits to prepare the key, which

shall unlock the hidden treasures of divine truth, which makes the soul rich to all eternity.

By 1853, Geddie's school boasted 120 pupils. A number of satellite missions had been established on the island, and Mrs. Geddie's letters that year speak of a constant demand for books. To satisfy this growing need, Geddie printed 3 000 copies of his elementary textbook, catechism, and scripture selections in a single volume. However, the mission press could not handle the length and complexity of the Aneiteumese Gospels, so Geddie was forced to send *The Gospel According to St. Mark* to Sydney to be published by

natives are too often printed is perhaps one of Satan's devices to retard their progress in saving knowledge ... The time has now come when translating the scriptures and printing them, must become an important part of our work.

The *Gospel According to St. John*, the *Acts of the Apostles* and three Epistles followed all printed on the mission press. Once the entire New Testament had been translated, Geddie sent the text to the offices of the British and Foreign Bible Society in London to be printed. Perhaps he desired a more professional product, sanctioned by this illustrious body.

In 1864, Geddie and his family were granted a sabbatical. They chose to return to Nova Scotia so, for the first time in 16 years, Geddie experienced a Canadian winter and the Canadians experienced Geddie. A crowd gathered at the frozen harbour in Pictou, eager to watch the exotic South Seas missionary skate. They were not disappointed he had not forgotten.

While traveling through the Maritimes and Quebec to promote his mission, Geddie found time to translate *The Book of Psalms*. And he decided that this book would not be printed in London, or Sydney, or Aneiteum but in Halifax by James Barnes, who was serving as printer for the Presbyterian Church in Nova Scotia at the time. Two thousand copies of the 96-page Psalter were printed at a cost of 118 of that sum, 95 had been raised by the Aneiteumese through the cultivation and sale of arrowroot, so great was their desire for the printed word, and the word of God.

The National Library of Canada is fortunate to hold two copies of this rare item. One copy is humbly but



Anelgauhat.

the British and Foreign Bible Society, while *Luke* was sent to London. By 1856, Geddie had trained a number of native youngsters as apprentice printers, and he had obtained a larger press and brand new type from Scotland, along with a large supply of paper from the British and Foreign Bible Society, enabling him to print his translation of *Matthew* on his own press in January 1857. Geddie commented in his journal:

The large and clear type will make it a favourite book with the natives. I feel more than ever convinced of the wisdom of using superior type for our first books. The small and worn out type with which books for



neatly and strongly bound in blue-grey cloth, grained to resemble crushed morocco. Copies in this binding were probably intended for the pupils and teachers on Aneiteum. The second copy is bound far more elaborately in deep purple leather. Both boards are stamped in blind, their edges modestly tooled in gold. The spine has five raised bands, although these are purely for show (the book is not sewn on raised supports), while decorative endbands of gold and orange silk have been affixed at head and tail. The endpapers are marbled, pale blue and black in a nonpareil pattern. The entire text block has been gilded, and the title stamped in gold on the upper board. This quietly elegant copy, which may have been intended for presentation to a clergyman or a benefactor of the mission, provides a

nice contrast to the sturdier copy, meant for use in the mission field.

Geddie returned to Aneiteum in 1866, and though he continued to supervise the mission and translate portions of Scripture, long years of labour on the island had seriously weakened his health. He was in the midst of seeing the Old Testament through the press when he died at the age of 58.

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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.

Charges for the use of Access AMICUS following training are moderate. A minimum of \$40.00 is charged every three months if the system has been used during that period.

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)

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

From the Electronic Collection...

by Louise Tousignant,
Head, Electronic Publications Acquisitions Unit,
Acquisitions and Bibliographic Services

Last July, the Electronic Publications Acquisitions Unit passed the 1,000 mark in archiving Canadian document titles. We reached this stage while finishing the archiving of *Evidence, Minutes and Committee Reports of the House of Commons*.

What do 1 000 electronic publications represent? Very little compared to the 16 million items available on the shelves of the National Library of Canada (NLC). It is also very little compared to the 14 million Web pages of Canadian content compiled on the AltaVista Canada site (<http://www.altavista.ca>) last July. However, 1 000 titles means a lot in terms of a new type of information support that was unknown not so long ago. It also means a lot in terms of contacts, advertising and awareness.

Surprise is usually the initial reaction when we contact publishers or government departments with the aim of archiving their online documents. However, conscious of the volatility and the sometimes short-lived nature of a publication or even a server, most publishers and departments contacted are pleased to have their publications archived. We offer them several ways to send their files: file transfer protocol (ftp), e-mail, diskette or tape. In some cases, the NLC downloads publications from the publisher's Web site.

For the past 12 months, our priority has been to acquire federal government publications. Among the



Geneviève Laramée, Karen Krzyzewski, Johanne Énard, Louise Tousignant.

20 federal government departments or agencies archiving electronic publications at the NLC are the Translation Bureau, the Supreme Court of Canada, the Receiver General of Canada and Statistics Canada.

CLOSE-UP ON A SELECTION OF TITLES

The electronic collection has some titles that merit particular attention in terms of both their content and their archiving method. The titles below illustrate this.

The unique characteristic of *Weekly Financial Statistics*, available in pdf format (portable document format), is that only the NLC offers access to both current and back issues. In fact, its publisher, the Bank of Canada, makes only the current issue available to the public.¹ As new financial data are published weekly, the bank replaces the previously available data in the same pdf file, which always bears the same name, i.e., wsf.pdf. Therefore, in

archiving the issues, we make sure to change the pdf file name so that all the *Bulletin* issues are retained. The January 1998 ice storm was a particular challenge for us, however, since the Library's acquisitions service offices were closed for seven days, during which time two issues of the *Bulletin* were published. Fortunately, an employee was able to download the published issues from home during this unforgettable period. When the offices were reopened, these issues were archived.

Specializing in children's literature, Concertina Books publishes works in both print and electronic formats. The

NLC currently has four titles from this publishing house, including *Waking in Jerusalem* and *My Blue Suitcase*. According to Concertina's 1995-1996 publications list, *Waking in Jerusalem* was the first illustrated book to appear on the Internet. *My Blue Suitcase* is a book for two-to-four-year-olds. The electronic version can be read page by page or in animated format with the help of Quicktime software. In comparison, the printed version is an 8.75 cm x 8.75 cm miniature book.

These two versions offer their own unique qualities. Both are precious to us since the print version is no longer available and the electronic version is available only on the NLC server.

Although the publication entitled *The André Prévost fonds: numerical list* is also available in print, the electronic version has the added value of including sound. We can listen to such items as an extract of *Fantasmes* performed by the Orchestre



symphonique de Montréal under the direction of Pierre H tu, in 1964. This publication is a felicitous combination of pdf and ra (Real Audio) files. However, access to Adobe Acrobat and RealAudio RealPlayer plug-in software is required to read the text and hear the sounds.

It is appropriate to highlight the following publication in this January's issue of *National Library News*, since it was at exactly this time last year that a major ice storm struck several regions in eastern Canada. *The St. Lawrence River Valley 1998 Ice Storm: maps and facts* provides further information on this event. We learn, among other things, that 2.6 million people were prevented from working or had difficulty in getting to work.

It is probably unnecessary to point out that all electronic publications acquired receive a cataloguing record. The 856 area of the MARC format provides the place of the publication by indicating the URL address of the publisher and that of the publication on the NLC server on which it is archived. Consequently, resAnet² users may access the contents of the electronic publication directly by clicking on one of the hypertext links on the cataloguing record. However, since publishers move their publications around on their servers or change servers, it is possible that certain



Example of a resAnet record

AMICUS No. 14134225
 Serial
 COPIES: NLC Electronic -
 TITLE(S): *CTHEORY
 [computer file]
 PUBLISHER: Montréal :
 Published with the assistance of
 the Dean of arts and science and
 the Dept. of Political Science,
 Concordia University, [1992]-
 DESCRIPTION: Aug. 22, 1993-
 E-LOCATIONS:
 http: www.ctheory.com
 http: collection.nlc-bnc.ca 100
 201 300 ctheory index.html
 NOTES: Monthly.
 NUMBERS: ISSN: 1190-9153
 SUBJECTS: Technology Social
 aspects Periodicals
 Culture Periodicals
 technologie Aspect
 social P riologiques
 Culture P riologiques

publishers' links are no longer functional. Access to the contents of an electronic publication is always guaranteed by using the Library's hypertext link.

A FEW FIGURES

Currently, there are over 1 200 Canadian document titles in the electronic collection, two thirds of which are monographs. The electronic collection also takes up over 6.9 gigabytes of memory.

CONCLUSION

Although the NLC does not have all the answers to questions raised by the arrival of new technologies in the electronic publications area, it is anxious to acquire and archive Canadian documents online. In this way, tomorrow's citizens will have access to Canada's electronically published heritage. ♦

Notes

¹ The same applies for the printed version. Former issues of the *Bulletin* are not available.
² resAnet
 (http: www.amicus.nlc-bnc.ca wapp resanet introe.htm) is a Web-based interface that provides access to the National Library catalogue. A subset of the AMICUS database, resAnet allows free access to abridged records on the National Library's rich collections.

Clarification

Decentralized program for Canadian Newspapers (DPCN): East Coast Updates

An incomplete email address for Charles Cameron of the St. John's

Public Library, appeared in the June 1998 issue of *National Library News* (Vol. 30, No. 6, p. 14).

The correct email address for Charles Cameron is ccameron@publib.nf.ca

Suzanne Ellison's *Historical Directory of Newfoundland and Labrador*

Newspapers 1807-1996 (St. John's: Queen Elizabeth II Library, 1997, ISBN 088901230) is also available on the Web at:

http: www.mun.ca library cat newspapers papers.htm

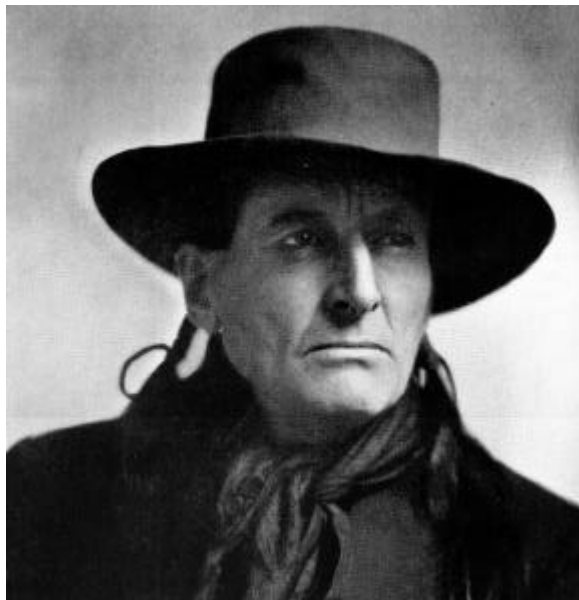
SAVOIR FAIRE:

Talking about Grey Owl

by Norma Gauld,
Research and Information Services

Grey Owl was a topic of major interest in the Ottawa area in spring 1998. Sir Richard Attenborough was shooting a movie on location. Close by, researcher Mark Kristmanson, a Ph.D. candidate in the Concordia University humanities doctoral program, spoke about "White Mischief: Grey Owl and the Department of the Interior, 1928-38" at a *Savoir Faire* seminar. His presentation was based on a section of his thesis topic, which is: "Nationalities, culture and security in Canada, 1927-1969."

Mr. Kristmanson talked about his research into the period that Grey Owl spent in two of Canada's national parks (Riding Mountain and Prince Albert), as a seasonal employee of the federal government. He examined and



Grey Owl (Archibald Stansfeld Belaney).

compared the writings of Grey Owl and his superiors at the Department of the Interior, notably Robert J.C. Stead. At the National Archives of Canada, he examined Grey Owl's notebooks, which cover a 10-year period, and the official writings of Stead. Mr. Kristmanson explained that Grey Owl's notebooks

were undated, containing lists, jokes, caustic remarks, etc., whereas Stead's diaries noted all his appointments and reflected, as did his writings, his patriotic, pro-Empire views. Using government records, Mr. Kristmanson

traced official reaction to Grey Owl's public performances and pronouncements on the role of national parks, wilderness areas and the place of the aboriginals. For example, he read excerpts from official memos about an incident in Quebec City when Grey Owl had walked off the stage during the rendition of *God Save the King*.

He set this story about Grey Owl in the context of his thesis of cultural nationalism, discussing how a territory is occupied culturally and examining the notions of dweller and occupier, two forms of cultural habitation.

Mark Kristmanson's research into Grey Owl utilized the National Library's extensive collection of wilderness literature and periodicals from the 1920s and 1930s, including

some rare editions. He also consulted the books of Robert J.C. Stead, city directories, newspapers and various reference sources, as well as making use of reference and interlibrary loan services.

The next *Savoir Faire* seminar will be given by Henny Nixon, who will speak about his research on William Carson (1770-1843) on January 26, 1999. ♦

If You Want to Read...

more about a topic, please let us know and we will write about it in a future issue of *National Library News*.

Write to us at:

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395 Wellington Street
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PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Read Up On It Launched at Word on the Street

The National Library of Canada launched its tenth-anniversary edition of *Read Up On It* in five cities on September 27, 1998, in conjunction with *The Word on the Street* literacy and reading festivals.

As this year's *Read Up On It* kit, entitled Experience the Adventure, hit the streets of Calgary, Halifax, Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver, visitors to *The Word on the Street* were immersed in their own literary adventure.

In Toronto, *The Word on the Street* festival is a well-established tradition. In Ottawa, 1998 marked its debut. Some 25 000 people visited the youngest (and only bilingual) *Word* festival. A substantial number of them were on hand to hear National Librarian Marianne Scott's assurance that young readers will find plenty of reading adventures awaiting them in this year's *Read Up On It*. Illustrator Werner Zimmermann, whose artwork is featured on the kit, was also present to sign copies of this year's poster.



"Pirate" Werner Zimmermann illustrated the 1998 *Read Up On It* kit.



National Librarian Marianne Scott with Canadian Library Association Executive Director Vicki Whitmell.



MP Mauril Bélanger.



Research and Information Services Director General Mary Jane Starr with Director of Bibliothèque Patro Le Prévost Louise Robichaud presenting *Read Up On It* in Montreal.

A Montreal Premiere

On October 16, 1998, l'Association pour l'avancement des sciences et des techniques de la documentation (ASTED) launched the 1998 edition of *Read Up On It* at the Bibliothèque Patro Le Prévost.

Present were representatives of the Ministry of Human Resources Development of Canada, the National Library of Canada and Canada Post. This was the first time that *Read Up On It* has had a Montreal launch.