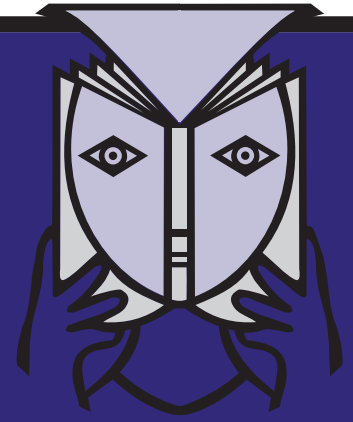




# National Library News

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## PUBLIC PROGRAMS

### From the Exhibition Room...

by Michel Brisebois,

Rare Book Librarian, Research and Information Services

**L**ottery for Building a Prison, for the Town and District of Montreal [Montreal: printed by Fleury Mesplet, 1783]. One lottery ticket.

Government lottery tickets of all shapes and colours can be found in most convenience stores across the country today. Various organizations also use lotteries to raise money for special

In 1783, the City of Montreal was in great need of a new prison, the existing one having been built during the French regime. By an Ordinance dated February 5, 1783, Frederick

Haldimand, Governor of the Province of Quebec, appointed five prominent citizens of Montreal to manage a lottery to finance the construction of a new building. The managers were La Corne de St-Luc (1711-1784), Edward William Gray (1742-1813), James McGill (1744-1813), Pierre Guy (1738-1812) and Jacob Jordan (1741-1796). These men were required not only to set up, run and report on the lottery but also to draw up plans for the prison and oversee its construction. All decisions needed the approval of at least three of the managers.

Although Governor Haldimand was not very enthusiastic about using a lottery as a means of financing the



charities, projects or events. Although the overwhelming presence of lotteries in Canada seems a recent phenomenon, a number of references to lotteries in Canada can be found going back more than 200 years.



project, he thought it “very unjust that the money of the British nation should be employed in providing local conveniences for the inhabitants of this province” (letter to Lord North, July 31, 1783). The schedule of the lottery appeared often in the *Quebec Gazette* during 1783. A total of 13 000 tickets were to be made available in order to raise more than £30 000. The prizes, including the grand prize of £850, were to be drawn on February 3, 1784. The ordinance stipulated that the net amount raised after prizes and expenses was to be limited to £4000. The tickets were printed by Fleury Mesplet (1734-1794), the first and only printer in Montreal at the time.

To avoid counterfeiting, each ticket sold was signed by three of the lottery managers. Imagine the tedious process of hand-signing so many tickets! The two tickets held in the Rare Book Collection of the National Library of Canada are both signed by Edward William Gray, James McGill and Pierre Guy.

It is at first surprising that Mesplet was chosen to print the lottery tickets since he was *persona non grata* with Haldimand. In 1779, Haldimand had jailed the printer and his journalist, Valentin Jautard, for three years following the publication of a series of articles in the *Gazette littéraire*. Sheriff Gray, one of the managers, had probably chosen his friend Mesplet for the job, as he did for many of the printing jobs assigned by the sheriff's office. When Mesplet was forced to sell his belongings to pay his debts in 1785, it was Gray who bought his printing press and lent it back to him until the printer's death.

What became of the lottery? Was the prison built? According to J. Douglas Borthwick, the prison was built but was destroyed by fire in 1803. Other historians are not so sure, and maintain that it was the old prison which went up in flames in 1803. The

*Quebec Gazette* carries no news of the building, and the *Montreal Gazette* did not begin publishing until 1785. More research is needed to clarify the mystery.

This early lottery ticket, one of only a few to survive, can be seen along with more than 200 books, pamphlets, leaflets and broadsides in the National Library's exhibition entitled *Impressions: 250 Years of Printing in the Lives of Canadians*.



The exhibition is located in the main exhibition room at 395 Wellington Street in Ottawa and is open until January 7, 2000. Admission is free.

**Sources:**

Borthwick, J. Douglas. — *From Darkness to Light. History of the eight prisons which have been, or are now, in Montreal, from A.D. 1760 to A.D. 1907.* — Montreal, 1907.

Tremaine, Marie. — *A Bibliography of Canadian Imprints, 1751-1800.* — Toronto : University of Toronto Press, 1952 ♦

**Did you know...**

that the National Library of Canada building is pictured in a stained glass window in St. Peter's Lutheran Church at the corner of Bay and Sparks Streets in Ottawa? The Library appears in the lower right-hand corner, when viewed from outside, of the Church's east window.

National Library  
**News**



**PUBLISHER**

Margo Wiper

**MANAGING EDITOR**

Gwynneth Evans

**EDITORS**

Iris Winston

Jean-Marie Brière

**PRODUCTION**

Roseanne Ducharme, Denis Schryburt

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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.



## Les couleurs de la vie



*Les couleurs de la vie* is filmmaker Sophie Arthaud's homage to Ontario's francophone writers. The documentary, which was screened in February in the context of the National Library's public programming, presents a

kaleidoscope of contemporary writers of drama, poetry and fiction.

Produced by Médiathèque in collaboration with TFO-TV Ontario, the film features 27 authors. They are listed below, in order of appearance.

Marc Lemyre, Marguerite Andersen, Paul Savoie, Anne Claire, Nathalie Stephens, Maurice Henrie, Andrée Christensen, Gabrielle Poulin, Jean Marc Dalpé, Vittorio Frigerio, Cécile Cloutier, Daniel Poliquin, Robbert Fortin, Paul-François Sylvestre, Anne Nenarokoff Van Burek, Hélène Brodeur, Christine Dumitriu Van Saanen, Pierre Raphaël Pelletier, Patrice Desbiens, Doric Germain, Andrée Lacelle, Roseann Runte, Alain Bernard Marchand, Jacqueline Beaugé-Rosier, Dominique Millette, Arash Mohtashami-Maali, and Stefan Psenak.

The works of these authors can be found in the collection of the National Library of Canada. For further information, contact the Canadian Literature Research Service.

### LIBRARY COMMUNITY

STARTING 1999 WITH A BANG:

## Consultation on the Canadian Information Resource Sharing Strategy

by Gwynneth Evans,  
Director General, National and International Programs

Over the years Canada has had a number of strategies devoted to library resource sharing. These frameworks and plans have been considered necessary in a country that is enormous in geography but sparse in population. Countless studies urged the drafting of plans and mechanisms to coordinate the development of bibliographical services to identify Canadian contributions to the published heritage and the sharing of the collective resources of Canada's major libraries, wherever they were located. In response to these reports, the Canadian Bibliographical Centre was established on May 1, 1950, and the National Library came into existence on January 1, 1953.

Few other countries can match the level of effort that has gone into centralized union catalogues on the part of so many libraries in Canada, many maintained by national, provincial and municipal funding. Automation has been essential to library development, because the Canadian library community chose a decentralized networking model to accommodate local, regional and national needs. At the same time, the National Library has also played an important role on the international scene, to ensure that Canadians could benefit from the standardized exchange of bibliographical information in English and French and could have access to the materials they needed, wherever they were held, through services like interlibrary loan (ILL).

Since the promulgation of the last revision of the Canadian Information



## Participants

### Provincial and Territorial Library Directors

Judy Anderson  
Provincial Information and Library Resources Board  
Newfoundland

Barbara Greeniaus  
Library Services Branch  
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
British Columbia

Harry Holman  
Provincial Library Service  
Prince Edward Island

Punch Jackson  
Arts, Recreation & Libraries Branch  
Alberta Community Development

Sylvia Nicholson  
Public Library Services  
Dept. of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship  
Manitoba

Julie Ourom  
Yukon Public Libraries

Marion Pape  
Nova Scotia Provincial Library

Stan Squires  
Heritage and Libraries Branch  
Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation  
Ontario

Jocelyne Thompson  
New Brunswick Library Service  
Department of Municipalities, Culture and Housing  
New Brunswick

Maureen Woods  
Saskatchewan Provincial Library  
Saskatchewan

### National Library of Canada

David Balatti  
Bibliographic Services  
Acquisitions and Bibliographic Services

Joy Bell  
Applications Management  
Information Technology Services

Nancy Brodie  
Information Resource Management

Gwynneth Evans  
National and International Programs

Susan Haigh  
Information Analysis and Standards  
Information Technology Services

Carrol Lunau  
National and International Programs

Liz McKeen  
Bibliographic Access  
Acquisitions and Bibliographic Services

Carol Smale  
Resource Sharing Services  
Reference and Information Services

Marianne Scott  
National Librarian

Sharon Ward  
Policy and Planning

Resource Sharing Strategy in 1994, many developments have taken place. Several of these are directly attributable to the Strategy and the priorities and plans that flowed from it and from annual consultations with the community. Other developments could not have been projected with such certainty.

Changes since 1994 are reflected, for example, in a new Canadian Copyright Act, accompanied by regulations that were announced in the *Canada Gazette* on January 30, 1999. There are now uni- and multi-sectoral consortia, serving a number of purposes, including the licensing of electronic resources and the sharing of systems and databases. The ILL and the Z39.50 protocols have received a good

deal of attention, as have the bibliographical standards of MARC and Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (AACRII). The Internet offers opportunities and challenges to libraries to act as points of public access to the information highway, to develop content through digitization and acquiring electronic resources, to train in information literacy, as well as to develop into a focus for community development and research in the increasingly globalized information economy.

The staff of the National Library realized that more current information and consultation were essential ingredients for a revision and updating exercise. So much is happening, and the number of stakeholders with a real

interest is growing — from governments, to research councils, to those involved in lifelong learning, training and community development, to the users and the private sector. All these stakeholders now have much to say about the role of libraries and the place of resource sharing. It is thus important for the community itself to know what changes are taking place.

To initiate the information gathering and the consultation, a set of questionnaires was sent to some 400 Canadian libraries and library groups. In addition, the members of the Provincial and Territorial Library Directors' Council met with National Library staff on January 25, 1999, before a LibraryNet meeting at Industry Canada.



The brainstorming was based on an informal set of questions asked of all the participants.

- What are the three most urgent issues that face the public libraries in your province/territory or your area of the National Library?
- Have you developed mechanisms/plans to address them?
- Do these issues lend themselves to collective or coordinated action?
- Who are the major stakeholders and who should take the lead?

Interestingly enough, a number of the identified issues demonstrated the ongoing concerns of libraries related to the traditional functions of resource sharing. Resource sharing involves cooperative action by at least two libraries or library systems. Regular functions include collections development, cooperative cataloguing, location, interlibrary loan and document delivery services based on union catalogues and approved guidelines, and reference and referral work based on directories and service agreements. More current concerns identified by the group focused on licensing electronic products, resource discovery and navigation, electronic collections developed through digitization and the creation of new

content, funding, advocacy and training.

In other words, the range of challenges encompasses technical,

private sector decision makers and funders in language which is comprehensible and related to the agendas of Canadian governments, but

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**Users are turning to public libraries for the expertise, collections and services libraries have developed over the years, and for access to the new services, collections and skills that the Internet promotes.**

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policy and service issues. The focus is on building a sustainable library service at a time when the maintenance and upgrade of the technical infrastructure, the ongoing costs of telecommunications, the costs of staff and user training and the continued need for both traditional and electronic content are issues of survival. Many of Canada's public libraries are heavily used and rely on individual and community support, as an EKOS study recently pointed out <[www.nlc-bnc.ca/pubs/press/e98-cla.htm](http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/pubs/press/e98-cla.htm)>. Users are turning to public libraries for the expertise, collections and services libraries have developed over the years, and for access to the new services, collections and skills that the Internet promotes.

Coming to terms with the challenges demands mastery of advocacy and marketing skills. The case must be made to public and

which also acknowledges the fundamentals of the public library's role in a democracy: to uphold the principles of universal, affordable and equitable access, while being funded by the community. It is these issues that now set the parameters for resource sharing, along with the impact of the increasingly borderless world that the Internet creates.

In only one day, the participants could just skim the surface of issues definition, but it was evident to all that the revision of a planning and policy framework for resource sharing at the national level is a task that cannot be ignored.

More articles will appear in *National Library News* as responses to the questionnaire are analyzed, as the working group identifies issues and solutions, and as focus groups and meetings take place over the next months. ♦



**Appointment**

On January 21, 1999, Anne Draper was appointed Chief, Government Publications and Serials Cataloguing Division, Acquisitions and Bibliographic Services Branch.

Ms. Draper, who received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art History from Carleton University in 1980 and a Master of Library Science degree in 1983 from the University of Western

Ontario, joined the National Library in 1985 as a cataloguer in the Government Documents Section. Since then, she has acted as Assistant Chief, Serial Records Section, and has held the positions of Head, Government Documents Section, and Leader, Federal Monographs Team. She has been acting in her current position since April 1996.

# Introduction to the School Library Manifesto

by Gwynneth Evans,  
Director General, National and International Programs

**O**n December 7, 1998, at UNESCO House in Paris, the Intergovernmental Council of the General Information Programme enthusiastically endorsed the IFLA-approved School Library Manifesto.

This endorsement allows the member states of UNESCO to take the Manifesto for ratification to the General Conference. The next General Conference, which is held every two years, takes place in the fall of 1999.

The National Librarian of Canada will work with the Canadian Commission on UNESCO and the commissions of other states to ensure that the School Library Manifesto, like the Public Library Manifesto, is ratified and promulgated so that the role of the school library in the information society is understood throughout the world. More particularly, the objective of the Manifesto is to define and advance the role that school libraries and information centres play in:

- enabling students to acquire information and ideas fundamental to functioning in today's society;
- equipping them with lifelong learning skills;
- developing the imagination that helps them to become responsible citizens.

To achieve the goal of situating and strengthening the school library within this context, it is important that governments, educators and librarians work together to develop strategies, policies and plans to implement the principles of the Manifesto.

Work to develop a draft Manifesto text began in earnest after an IFLA pre-conference seminar on school

librarianship in Spain in 1993. Anne Galler<sup>1</sup> did the groundwork through an international survey to ascertain which countries had school library policies. The results indicated that about half of the respondents (26 of 50 countries)

had such policies. The next step was research to obtain copies of these documents and those developed by school library associations on standards and best practices. All these documents underlined the distinctive role of the school library and information centre. The first draft statement was distributed widely through the Canadian associations and through the IFLA School Library and Information Centres Section and the International Association of School Librarianship, to allow as many people as possible to comment. In all, four drafts were revised and disseminated between 1995 and 1998. Then came the workshop at the IFLA conference in Amsterdam. Through the sponsorship of UNESCO, the organizers of the workshop, Glenys Willars of Great Britain and Gwynneth Evans, were able to provide financial support for five school library experts

from the developing world to participate. They and a number of representatives of the major international school library groups made official comments on the fourth draft. Also among those who commented were supporters of the Public Library Manifesto, which was revised in 1994.

As a result of the thorough consultations, a short text was finalized for the approval of the Professional and Executive Boards of IFLA in the fall of 1998. It is this text, found below, that the Intergovernmental Council endorsed in December.

If any groups wish to distribute the text of the Manifesto to their members, please add the following:

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**To achieve the goal of situating and strengthening the school library within this context, it is important that governments, educators and librarians work together to develop strategies, policies and plans to implement the principles of the Manifesto.**

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The text of this Manifesto was approved by the IFLA Executive board in 1998 and enthusiastically endorsed by the Intergovernmental Council of the General Information Programme of UNESCO in December 1998. This text will be sent for ratification to the General Conference of UNESCO in the fall of 1999. After that date, the final text will be published and distributed in the languages of UNESCO. Member states will be encouraged to develop strategies, policies and plans based on the principles stated in the Manifesto. ◆

<sup>1</sup> Anne Galler was a National Library Fellow while she was involved in this project.



THE SCHOOL LIBRARY IN TEACHING AND LEARNING FOR ALL:

# The UNESCO School Library Manifesto

The school library provides information and ideas that are fundamental to functioning successfully in today's society, which is increasingly information and knowledge-based. The school library equips students with lifelong learning skills and develops the imagination, enabling them to live as responsible citizens.

## THE MISSION OF THE SCHOOL LIBRARY

The school library provides learning services, books and resources that enable all members of the school community to become critical thinkers and effective users of information in all formats and media, with links to the wider library and information network, according to the principles in the UNESCO Public Library Manifesto.

The library staff support the use of books and other information sources, ranging from the fictional to the documentary, from print to electronic, both on-site and remote. The materials should complement and enrich textbooks, teaching materials and methodologies.

It has been demonstrated that, when librarians and teachers work together, students achieve higher levels of literacy, reading, learning, problem-solving and information and communication technology skills.

School library services must be provided equally to all members of the school community, regardless of age, race, gender, religion, nationality, language, professional or social status. Specific services and materials must be provided for those who are unable to use mainstream library services and materials.

Access to services and collections should be based on the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights

and Freedoms, and should not be subject to any form of ideological, political or religious censorship, or to commercial pressures.

## FUNDING LEGISLATION AND NETWORKS

The school library is essential to every long-term strategy for literacy, education, information provision and economic, social and cultural development. As the responsibility of local, regional and national authorities, it must be supported by specific legislation and policies. It must have adequate and sustained funding for trained staff, materials, technologies and facilities, and it shall be free of charge.

The school library should participate in the local, regional and national library and information network.

Where the school library shares facilities and/or resources with another type of library, such as a public library, the unique aims of the school library must be acknowledged and maintained.

## GOALS OF THE SCHOOL LIBRARY

The school library is integral to the educational process.

The following are essential to the development of literacy, information literacy, teaching, learning and culture and are core school library services:

- offering opportunities for experiences in creating and using information for knowledge, understanding, imagination and enjoyment;
- supporting all students in learning and practising skills for evaluating and using information, regardless of form, format or medium, including sensitivity to the modes of communication within the community;
- providing access to local, regional, national and global resources and opportunities that expose learners to diverse ideas, experiences and opinions;
- organizing activities that encourage cultural and social awareness and sensitivity;
- working with students, teachers, administrators and parents to achieve the mission of the school;
- proclaiming the concept that intellectual freedom and access to information are essential to effective and responsible citizenship and participation in a democracy;
- promoting reading and the resources and services of the school library to the whole school community and beyond.

The school library fulfils these functions by developing policies and services, selecting and acquiring resources, providing physical and intellectual access to appropriate sources of information, providing instructional facilities, and employing trained staff.



**STAFF**

The school librarian is the professionally qualified staff member responsible for planning and managing the school library, supported by as adequate staffing as possible, working together with all members of the school community, and liaising with the public library and others.

The role of school librarians will vary according to the financial objectives, curriculum and teaching methodology of the schools, within the financial situation and national legal framework. Within specific contexts, there are general areas of knowledge that are vital if school librarians are to develop and operate effective school library services: resource, library, and information management and teaching.

In an increasingly networked environment, school librarians must be competent in planning and teaching different information-handling skills to both teachers and students. Therefore they must continue their professional training and development.

**OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT**

To ensure effective and accountable operations:

- the policy on school library services must be formulated to define goals, priorities and services in relation to the school's curriculum;
- the school library must be organized and maintained according to professional standards;

- services must be accessible to all members of the school community and operate within the context of the local community;
- co-operation with teachers, senior school management, administrators, parents, other librarians and information professionals, and community groups must be encouraged.

**IMPLEMENTING THE MANIFESTO**

Governments, through their ministries responsible for education, are urged to develop strategies, policies and plans which implement the principles of this Manifesto. Plans should include the dissemination of the Manifesto to initial and continuing training programs for librarians and teachers. ♦

**SERVICES**

# Networked Electronic Publications Policy

by Libby Martin,  
Collections Development Policy and Planning Officer,  
Information Resource Management

**T**he National Library of Canada has been building its collection of Canadiana networked electronic publications since the summer of 1994 and has acquired over 2000 titles to date. The Library defines a networked electronic publication as "a digitally encoded information resource made available to the public through a communication network". Electronic publishing in a networked environment raises issues that expand and change the way the Library fulfils its heritage mandate.

The Library's *Collection Management Policy* (1990) has already addressed the acquisition and preservation of electronic publications on physical media, such as diskettes and CD-ROMs. Now a separate policy and guidelines are required to deal with networked electronic publications: how they are identified, acquired, made accessible, reported, stored and

the published Canadian heritage and research tools of the nation.

For long-term accessibility and preservation, a publication must survive long after copyright has expired and any archiving activity of the copyright holder or publisher has ceased. To guarantee this accessibility and survivability, the National Library must obtain an electronic copy of an electronic publication selected for its permanent collections. In addition, by acquiring an electronic publication from the originator as it is published, the Library is able to preserve the integrity and authenticity of a publication as originally released. The

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**...by acquiring an electronic publication from the originator as it is published, the Library is able to preserve the integrity and authenticity of a publication as originally released.**

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preserved. Unless these publications are captured and preserved, there will be major gaps in the Library's collection of

Library can also verify and ensure that the electronic publication is in a form that is readable by both current and





future generations of readers and researchers.

From June 1994 to July 1995, the Library conducted a pilot project to acquire, store, preserve, catalogue and provide access and service for a number of existing Canadian on-line electronic journals and other representative publications available on the Internet. This Electronic Publications Pilot Project (EPPP) issued a final report that made recommendations on a number of issues, including copyright, selection, and long-term preservation. The report was made available for distribution and mounted on the Library's Web site <[www.nlc-bnc.ca/pubs/abs/ePPP/ereport.htm](http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/pubs/abs/ePPP/ereport.htm)> in June 1996.<sup>1</sup>

The ensuing discussions and work conducted by various National Library committees after the final report's release culminated in a policy document prepared by the Electronic Collections Coordinating Group. This document, *Networked Electronic Publications Policy and Guidelines*, <[www.nlc-bnc.ca/pubs/irm/enepg.htm](http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/pubs/irm/enepg.htm)> was approved by the National Library's Executive Committee in October 1998. It is summarized below.

#### SELECTION POLICY

The National Library operates on the basis that anything that is publicly available on a communications network, such as the Internet, can be considered as published. Therefore, the potential volume of material to be collected is overwhelming in relation to the technical and human resources available. Any individual with access to the Internet can be a publisher, and the network publishing process does not always provide the screening and selection on which libraries have traditionally relied in the print environment. Furthermore, in the electronic environment, collecting is made more difficult because the

distinctions between traditional categories of publications — such as monograph, serial, manuscript, working draft, and record — tend to be blurred, the units of publication are often smaller, and the structure and content of publications are frequently dynamic in nature. A level of selectivity is therefore necessary to ensure the collection of publications of lasting cultural and research value. The National Library will achieve this in two ways:

- by assigning an “electronic collecting status” to a publication to indicate the access and preservation commitment intended;
- through the application of selection criteria that will generally be more restrictive than for publications in other formats.

#### COLLECTING STATUS

Networked electronic publications allow for an expansion of the concept of collecting. Collected items are not necessarily physically maintained in a particular collection, whether that maintenance is via an electronic file on a server or a shelf in a library building. Collecting can mean the conscious and judicious provision of organized access to publications, some for which the host organization or institution has taken responsibility to preserve and others whose long or short-term preservation is the responsibility of others. The adoption of this approach to collecting by the National Library of Canada means that during the selection process, publications will be reviewed and an appropriate collecting status determined, based on the access and archiving commitment desired for that publication. Factors considered will be the cultural significance of the publication and its importance in supporting services and the fulfillment of the National Library mandate. The

Berkeley Digital Library SunSITE has articulated a Collection and Preservation Policy<sup>2</sup> that outlines four digital collecting levels which include a designation of preservation commitment. The original Berkeley concept of “collecting”, which is tied to access mechanisms and preservation commitment, has been adopted and revised by the National Library to reflect its collecting practices as a national library. The Library will use three levels of electronic collecting status: **Archived**, **Served** and **Linked**. It will concentrate its activities on publications at the **Archived** level to ensure permanent access to Canada's electronic heritage, but it will also provide extensive access to other publications and support for different types of services via the other two levels of electronic collecting.

A publication with **Archived** collecting status is hosted/mounted on the National Library's Web site. The Library has made a commitment to keep the intellectual content of the publication available on a permanent basis. This status will be applied to original Canadiana publications, “original” meaning publications released initially, or solely, in electronic format. This status may also be applied to multiple-release Canadiana publications, “multiple release” meaning publications released in both networked and other media formats (e.g., print).

A publication with **Served** status is hosted/mounted on the National Library's Web site but the Library has not (yet) made a commitment to keeping it available permanently. This may be because the status of the publication is undecided, there is definitely no commitment to archive, or another organization is recognized as having primary responsibility for the publication. Served status would generally be assigned to multiple-release Canadiana electronic



publications. It could also be applied to non-Canadiana publications required to support the National Library's mandate and services (e.g., the national bibliographies of other countries, reference collection materials, the

endeavour to be comprehensive in collecting and archiving "original" Canadiana networked publications and will collect selectively Canadiana publications released in both networked and other media formats where

archiving in the Canadiana collection, although there can be exceptions under specific conditions. Included are items that cannot yet be physically acquired and stored under full control of the Library's technical environment; informal or incomplete publications; promotional sites and advertising materials; hypertext-linked, open, highly distributed documents; and service sites. Access to these publications can nonetheless be provided by collection at the Linked level if so desired.

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## Content is the paramount consideration in selecting an electronic publication; this is followed by a consideration of formats available.

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official publications of foreign countries, and the publications of international organizations of which Canada is a member).

**Linked** status means a publication is hosted elsewhere and the National Library provides a link to that site. The Library has no control over the publication but is committed to the ongoing maintenance of the link. Linked status could be applied to the same types of non-Canadiana publications as outlined in Served status above, if no service requirement to have the publication mounted locally exists.

appropriate to complement or enhance Canadiana collections in other formats. An "original" publication is defined as one released initially, or solely in networked electronic format. When a networked publication is parallel to a publication in another format (e.g., print), it is considered to have "original" status if it has enhanced content or functionality (e.g., graphs, sound, indexes). The existence of links in the networked version is not by itself considered sufficient enhancement to give the publication "original" status.

Preference is given to publications that are complete, independent, self-contained and coherent entities. The National Library interprets the boundary of an electronic publication as normally comprising the linked objects on one communications network domain intrinsic to the publication.

In addition, the National Library will not necessarily attempt to preserve all versions of a particular electronic publication it collects. In the on-line

Non-Canadiana publications will be selectively collected in the National Library's areas of emphasis (Canadian music, Canadian literature and the historical approach to the development of Canadian society) and in library literature. Other non-Canadiana publications may be collected to support library services and resource sharing. Linking directly to a single format of the latest version of a publication is considered an appropriate manner of collecting for most non-Canadiana publications.

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### SELECTION CRITERIA

The collecting status will be applied in tandem with specific selection criteria and guidelines. The intention is that these criteria and guidelines will be reviewed periodically to reflect changes in collecting priorities and developments in the rapidly changing world of electronic publishing.

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### FORMAT SELECTION

Content is the paramount consideration in selecting an electronic publication; this is followed by a consideration of formats available. When an electronic publication is available in more than one format, preference is given to acquiring standard formats. The choice of format types at the time of selection of Canadiana publications is to be inclusive in order to increase the future options for preservation. A more exclusive approach, including conversion to other formats or weeding, can take place later, when the survivability of the format is more evident. Formats collected should include those accessible to the perceptually disabled.

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## The National Library is committed to providing universal, equitable access to networked electronic publications as a public good.

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A networked electronic publication is considered to be Canadiana if it is of Canadian origin, or it is of foreign origin and has a Canadian subject, or the creator is Canadian. The National Library will

environment, publications can and do change frequently and it is not feasible to capture all instances of change in all cases.

Certain categories of publications will generally not be selected for



The factors influencing format selection for Canadiana include the ability to acquire the complete publication; the ease or probability of preserving publication integrity, downloadability and survivability (ability to convert or to migrate); the ability to ensure current access and ease of use for clients; and the ease of acquisition. For non-Canadiana, a single format that is supported in-house is considered sufficient.

#### ACCESS POLICY

The National Library is committed to providing universal, equitable access to networked electronic publications as a public good. Therefore, all such publications collected by the National Library should in principle be accessible to both on-site and off-site users. Access will be provided in such a way that intellectual property rights are respected as required by Canadian law.

### Access will be provided in such a way that intellectual property rights are respected as required by Canadian law.

The National Library recognizes that there may be restrictions on access to some materials from time to time. All electronic publications will be organized, indexed and made accessible through the Library's Web service or its successor. Access will include bibliographic access integrated with full-text access to publications and other listings as appropriate.

Bibliographical access will be provided through the library's AMICUS database and associated products, although access to electronic publications collected at the Linked level, for example, may be provided by other means. An electronic publication receiving regular cataloguing treatment will have a cataloguing level, based on the same criteria as those set for other

format publications, for example, according to subject criteria, or currency.

#### PRESERVATION POLICY

The National Library will normally preserve electronic publications in electronic form. Appropriate preservation measures including proper environmental conditions for storage, security measures, and conversion and migration strategies will be taken to ensure the longevity and accessibility of the electronic collection. The Library will endeavour to preserve the "look and feel" (i.e., the presentation and functionality) of archived publications, although it recognizes that this may prove difficult for some materials. Archiving activity will concentrate on the preservation of the intellectual content; certain interactive, dynamic aspects of the original may not be retained.

The National Library will attempt to avoid conversion of networked electronic publications by allocating priority to acquiring "format neutral", i.e., standard format, publications. When conversion of proprietary format to standard format is necessary and feasible for long-term preservation purposes, it is accepted that the superior presentation of the format is sacrificed to long term preservation needs.

#### CONCLUSION

There are many challenges ahead for the National Library as it continues to collect, preserve, promote and provide access to a heritage electronic collection and to build a strong

resource for the study of Canada. With the establishment of specific policies and guidelines to direct selection, preservation and access provision for networked electronic publications, the Library has laid a solid foundation from which to construct its current and future programs.

#### Notes

<sup>1</sup> National Library of Canada. Electronic Publications Pilot Project Team and Electronic Collections Committee. *Electronic Publications Pilot Project (EPPP) Final Report*. June, 1996. <[www.collection.nlc-bnc.ca/e-coll-e/edown.htm](http://www.collection.nlc-bnc.ca/e-coll-e/edown.htm)>

<sup>2</sup> *Digital Library SunSITE Collection and Preservation Policy*. Berkeley Digital Library SunSITE. 1996. <[www.sunsite.berkeley.edu/Admin/collection.html](http://www.sunsite.berkeley.edu/Admin/collection.html)> ♦

#### Did You Know...

that *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, 2nd Edition, 1998 revision* is now available?

Co-published by the Canadian Library Association, the American Library Association and the (U.K.) Library Association, this is the first consolidated revision of AACR2R that has been published in the last decade. It incorporates the group of revisions previously published as *Amendments 1993* and additional revisions approved by the Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR between 1992 and 1996.

The electronic version of this publication is also available as AACRe on CD-ROM.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Morton, CLA  
Phone: (613) 232-9625 ext. 322  
Fax: (613) 563-9895  
E-mail: [bj491@freenet.carleton.ca](mailto:bj491@freenet.carleton.ca)



GREATER ACCESS TO ALTERNATIVE FORMAT MATERIALS:

## National Library Hosts a Meeting of Alternative Format Producers

by Gwynneth Evans,  
Director General, National and International Programs

**D**id you know that publications in alternative formats (Braille, audiocassette, large print) represent only about three per cent of the world's publications?

Many groups are working towards greater equality of access to information, especially for those who cannot read conventional print. Representatives of several key Canadian groups met at the National Library in December 1998 to discuss the opportunities and challenges of providing access to information in the electronic environment.

The National Library of Canada espouses and promotes the principles of universal, affordable and equitable access to information for all Canadians. As an agency of the federal government reporting to Parliament through the Minister of Canadian Heritage, the National Library has worked with other departments to ensure that the needs of Canadians with disabilities are met in the policies, programs, services and collections that are the direct responsibility of federal departments.

Examples of National Library participation in and contributions to interdepartmental programs include the Adaptive Technology for Libraries Program (1991/92 to 1995/96) and Large Print Publishing Program (1992/93 to 1996/97), which were integral to the National Strategy on the Integration of Persons with Disabilities. In the first program, 120 Canadian libraries received matching grants for equipment that enables persons with print handicaps to use conventional printed materials. Under the second program, 14 publishers received partial

funding to publish 56 Canadian titles in large print.

National Library staff have been intricately involved in the development of guidelines to facilitate the publishing of government information in alternative formats. The Library is also working towards more accessible public outreach and programming, from developing audiovisual support for certain displays to providing appropriate facilities for meetings.

In the electronic environment, National Library staff have worked with colleagues in other key departments to ensure that the guidelines for government Web sites take into account the needs of print-handicapped persons. Information must be accessible to those using text-only browsers and lower-speed modems. Higher-end technologies, such as computer generated speech, and voice recognition and practices, such as the use of the ALT key in HTML, benefit not only those with visual disabilities but also all Internet users.

The move from print to digital and from analogue to digital has been dramatic in many fields. It is particularly significant in the production of Braille and audiocassette materials. For a number of years, for example, alternative format producers have been working with international standards organizations to develop the next generation of talking-book standards. Manufacturers have also

developed software and hardware that maximize the power of the technologies to make materials more physically and intellectually accessible.

In December 1998, after a number of separate meetings, the Canadian alternative format producers, representatives of those departments with responsibilities for coordinating the federal strategy on integrating persons with disabilities, and those with strong mandates in ensuring equitable access to government information met in Ottawa. The purpose of the meeting was to bring alternative format producers and service providers together with federal colleagues to learn what each was doing and to look at the common features of the environment which all must address. Accordingly, presentations were made by the Canadian Association of Educational Resource Centres for Materials in Alternate Formats (CAER); the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB); the Institut Nazareth et Louis-Braille (INLB); La Magnétothèque; the Library Services Branch, Municipal Affairs and Housing, Government of British Columbia; and VisuAide.

Representatives gave overviews of their services and the status of digitization initiatives. A digital audio or talking book was demonstrated on a Canadian digital audio book player, VICTOR, developed in prototype by VisuAide. Although the discussion focused on Canadian plans and developments, the context was international, because all agreed that Canada must work in the international arena to support the exchange of information, resources and materials and to ensure the benefits of standardization and of the technologies. When alternative format materials account for such a small proportion of all published materials and when it is evident that the preparation and dissemination of alternative materials



call for special procedures, expertise, equipment and human capacity, no argument can be made for an isolated approach by producers, service providers or policy makers and funders.

The representatives of Industry Canada, Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC), the National Library (NL), Treasury Board, and Public Works and Government

Register of Works in Progress. (CANWIP registers those titles being reproduced in Braille, formal e-text, audiotope or large print.) The information in CANUC:H is used to borrow titles, and that in CANWIP is used as a source to plan the reproduction of educational, leisure and training materials (depending on the mandate of the producer). The

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**In an increasingly knowledge-based, global economy, Canada must be prepared to develop its assistive technology capacities and alternative format content to meet the varied needs of Canadians with disabilities.**

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Services Canada (PWGSC) not only learned a great deal about the access to information for print-handicapped persons, but also offered suggestions and support for collective initiatives among the producers and service providers. Through questions and discussion, the recommendation for a consortium to build a digital library of accessible format materials for perceptually disabled Canadians was accepted as a logical next step.

All those who attended the meeting were pleased by the exchange of information and viewpoints, the increase in knowledge and understanding of complex issues and the concrete result of moving towards a more formal structure in which the common concerns and challenges of producers and service providers can be addressed nationally and internationally. The CNIB agreed to take the lead in coordinating the development of a consortium to further common goals.

As an ongoing service, the National Library of Canada maintains the Canadian Union Catalogue of materials in alternative format (CANUC:H) and the Canadian

information in CANUC:H is shared, on the agreement of the libraries holding the collections, with the Library of Congress' National Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, so that the total number of titles for resource sharing can be increased and made known internationally.

Access to information is one of the pillars on which equality of opportunity for all citizens rests. In an increasingly knowledge-based, global economy, Canada must be prepared to develop its assistive technology capacities and alternative format content to meet the varied needs of Canadians with disabilities. Canada must also collaborate internationally to improve the situation for all blind and print-handicapped persons. For a long time, Canadians with print and perceptual handicaps were dependent on U.S. adaptive technology and content, but the scene is changing. Of course, access to the publications (whether traditionally or electronically produced) of many countries will continue to be necessary for Canadians with print and perceptual handicaps, as it is for those who read print. Our ability to work together within and

**Participants**

- James W. Sanders, CNIB (Chair)
- Margaret Andrewes, CNIB
- Michelle Brûlé, CNIB
- Paul Henry Buteau, INLB
- Gerry Chevalier, CNIB
- Gabriel Collard, INLB
- Gwynneth Evans, NLC
- Bruno Gnassi, PWGSC
- Barbara Greeniaus, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, B.C.
- Ross Hodgins, Treasury Board
- Karen Junke, HRDC
- Rosemary Kavanagh, CNIB
- Daniel Lapointe, La Magnéthothèque
- Mary Frances Laughton, Industry Canada
- Judy Lee, Industry Canada
- Vangelis Nikias, CNIB
- Charles Petit, VisuAide
- Michel Regnaud, HRDC
- Leigh Swain, NLC
- Karen Taylor, CNIB
- Richard Thompson, CAER

across the public, not-for-profit and private sectors to increase access to information for blind and print-handicapped persons will assist Canadians in becoming both more independent and interdependent.

The meeting that took place last December among producers, providers and public servants therefore signalled an important step in this direction. ♦

## SAVOIR FAIRE

# William Carson: The Great Reformer

by Amy E. Fisher,  
Reference and Information Services

**W**orking in the Reference Division of the National Library of Canada allows a tantalizing glimpse into the work done by many researchers. The audience at January's SAVOIR FAIRE was given much more than that when Henny Nixon presented a seminar on the life of William Carson, the great reformer of Newfoundland in the early 1800s. Mrs. Nixon, a familiar presence in the Library, has made ample use of its resources in her research.



Mrs. Nixon began her presentation with a brief mention of the difficulties inherent in researching Carson's life, pointing out that many primary sources were destroyed by the fires which plagued St. John's during the 19th century. She said that she has been able to use many secondary sources held by the National Library, including Geoffrey Bilson's *The Darkened House* and D.W. Prowse's works on Newfoundland history. To document Carson's political activities, Mrs. Nixon is examining early St. John's

newspapers held by the National Library. (She mentioned a slight language-usage barrier, which she overcame with the help of a Samuel Johnson dictionary from the Library's main reference collection.)

Illustrating her presentation with a series of slides, she described William Carson's early years in Scotland and England, his upbringing and his medical education at the University of Edinburgh. He practised in Birmingham as a gynaecologist, and at the city's hospital and dispensary. Carson's other activities included membership in the Lunar Society and the publishing of articles and pamphlets on such subjects as unusual medical treatments. These ventures combined to give him a reputation as something of a radical.

William Carson immigrated to Newfoundland in 1808 and remained there until his death. As Mrs. Nixon pointed out, he found ample opportunity to carry on his reforming ways. Initially, he advocated diversification of economic activity for Newfoundland's fishing industry; soon he moved to campaigning for more services from England for the people in his adopted home. Ultimately, he was deeply involved in the colony's political

life, crusading for responsible government, and running for office once this goal was achieved in 1832. Mrs. Nixon also touched on Carson's other activities in Newfoundland, mentioning his system of quarantine for cholera, and his service as physician to the last Beothuk Indian during her final illness. In addition, he was the first chairman of the Agricultural Society in Newfoundland.

Mrs. Nixon concluded with the comment that although his reforms were not always welcome, William Carson was very much part of the spirit of revolution which dominated his era. ♦

## Did You Know...

that the *Report of the Federal Task Force on Digitization* is now available on the National Library of Canada's Web site?

The Federal Task Force on Digitization was set up in April 1997 in response to the Information Highway Advisory Council's stress on the importance of maintaining a strong Canadian presence on the Internet in both official languages. The Task Force identified the major issues to be addressed and proposing appropriate mechanisms to facilitate electronic access to Canadian content by transforming information, art, artifacts and scientific collections into digital form.

The report may be found at [www.nlc-bnc.ca/coopprog/finalreport/index.htm](http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/coopprog/finalreport/index.htm) .



## National Library of Canada Digital Projects

The National Library of Canada is engaged in digitization and other digital activities in order to create a collection of electronic resources and research tools to support the study of Canada and Canadians and ensure a strong Canadian presence on the information highway.

To help achieve this goal, the National Library often works with partners such as the Schoolnet Digital Collections Program which is funded by Industry Canada.

The Art of Illustration: A Celebration of Contemporary Canadian Children's Book Illustrators

Canadian Confederation

Bring a Legend to Life: Read Up On It! 1993

Canada Speaks

Canadian Music Periodical Index

Canadian Newspapers on Microform held by the National Library of Canada

Celebrating the 90th Anniversary of McClelland & Stewart

Celebrating Women's Achievements

Claude Champagne Virtual Exhibit

Cultivating Canadian Gardens: The History of Gardening in Canada

Directory of Special Collections in Canadian Libraries

Disc-O-Logue

Governor General's Literary Award Winners

Earle Birney

Emily Carr: At Home and At Work

Stephen Leacock: Humorist and Educator

Gabrielle Roy: Winner of Three Governor General's Literary Awards

Yves Thériault (French only)

The Glenn Gould Archive

Heroes of Lore and Yore: Canadian Heroes in Fact and Fiction

Incunabula, Hebraica & Judaica

Index to Federal Royal Commissions

New Wave Canada: The Coach House Press and the Small Press Movement in English Canada in the 1960s

North: Landscape of the Imagination

Out of This World: Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy

The Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters and Sciences 1949-1951

Sir Ernest MacMillan: Portrait of a Canadian Musician

Virtual Gramophone: Canadian Historical Sound Recordings

For further information contact:

Information Resource Management

National Library of Canada

395 Wellington Street

Ottawa Canada K1A 0N4

Tel: (613) 947-5888

Fax: (613) 996-3573

e-mail: [Doug.Hodges@nlc-bnc.ca](mailto:Doug.Hodges@nlc-bnc.ca)