National Library News

Contents

INTRODUCTION

Librarians, publishers and booksellers have much in common. For all of us, books are our passion and our business. It is, therefore, fitting that we should celebrate Canada's most successful cultural product through a Canadian Book Summit held in cooperation with the Association of Canadian Publishers, the Canadian Booksellers Association's convention and trade show, and the Canadian Library Association's annual conference.

It is my pleasure to direct this issue of the *National Library News* to book lovers of all kinds and to recognize the efforts of libraries, publishers and booksellers.

Libraries rely heavily on publishers as the suppliers of one of the library's most important resources, just as publishers recognize the importance of the library market.

For the National Library of Canada, the relationship with publishers goes beyond the purchase of publications in expanding the national collection. Through legal deposit, as mandated in the National Library Act,

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publishers make a vital contribution to the development of a comprehensive national collection of publications in all formats, while ensuring that their products are made known, preserved and available to future generations.

In the interests of ensuring the long-term survival of print publications, the National Library has been a strong advocate of the use of permanent paper and has worked with publishers and paper manufacturers for more than a decade to promote the use of permanent paper in Canadian publications. This

significant aspect of its role in the preservation of Canada's published heritage has expanded with the burgeoning of electronic publishing. The Library is once again moving to ensure the preservation of intellectual content by advocating the development of publication standards and the retention of electronic publications as publishers originally presented them.

Making published material accessible to researchers is also a central part of the National Library's mandate — indeed of the mandate of libraries everywhere. The rapid expansion of technology and the availability of so many publications on-line undoubtedly affects copyright, intellectual ownership, and fair use of digitized material. With the introduction of CD-ROM products, publishers moved from sale to licensing. With on-line electronic publications, licensing is becoming the norm. While this is a new facet of our relationship with publishers and producers, the underlying objectives of preservation and accessibility remain the same. However, the shifting sands of electronic publishing mean that it is in all our interests for publishers, authors and libraries to work together even more closely than in the past.

The National Library's Publishers' Window is one of the ways through which we try to do this. A series of organized links to federal government information for and about the Canadian publishing industry, the Publishers' Window offers information about such services as Cataloguing in Publication, International Standard Book, Serial and Music Numbers, and provides access to the national bibliography, *Canadiana.*

A different type of link is through the National Library's public programming - concerts, readings, lectures and exhibitions. As a showcase of the nation's published heritage, the Library makes the published word come alive — on-site and on the Web.

It is in all our interests to heighten the profile of Canada's published heritage. What better way than through this celebration of the written word? My congratulations to everyone involved.

Marianne Scott
National Librarian

National Library   Bibliothèque nationale
of Canada   du Canada

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

COLLECTIONS SPÉCIALISÉES

Directory of
Special Collections
of Research Value
in
Canadian Libraries

Répertoire des
collections spécialisées
utiles à la recherche
dans les
bibliothèques canadiennes

[English]   [Français]

Canadá

The *Directory of Special Collections of Research Value in Canadian Libraries* has been updated and expanded. Originally published in 1992, the National Library has transformed the *Directory* into an electronic database application for the WWW. It is fully searchable and can be updated and enlarged.

COLLECTIONS

The Ronald I. Cohen Lucy Maud Montgomery Collection

by Ronald Cohen,
Collector and Philanthropist

I t all began with my collecting instinct, I suppose. That meant stamps at age six and coins at age 10. Those early hobbies shaped the focus of the collection of Lucy Maud Montgomery's works that I have given to the National Library. How? Well, the collection was never assembled as an "ordinary" book collection of, say, first editions, as important as first editions may be to the Library and to collectors. It was structured more like a stamp or coin collector's dream. It was built on variants.
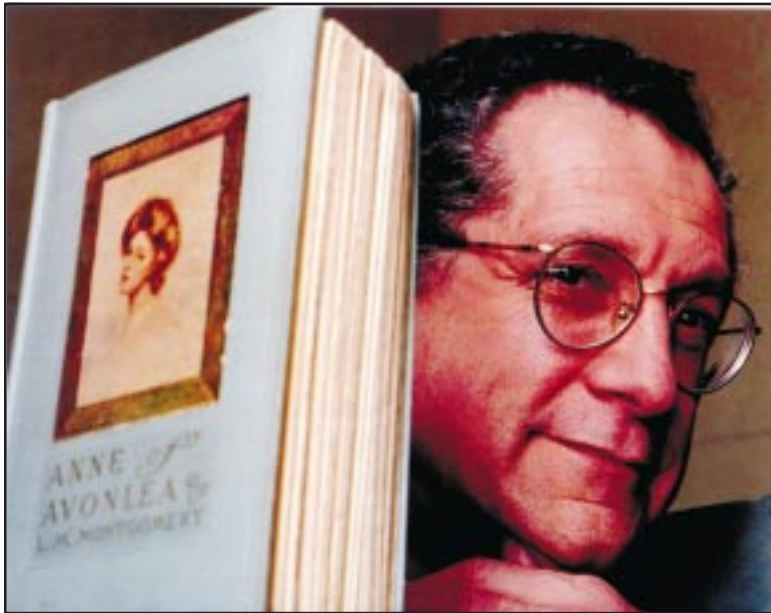

Photo: *Ottawa Citizen*

Because of the absence of a descriptive bibliography of the works of Lucy Maud Montgomery, any LMM collector is faced with a jigsaw puzzle in which only the edge pieces, namely, the titles of the books, are clear. No complete picture of the inside of the puzzle exists. Once beyond the early L.C. Page (Boston) editions of Montgomery's first seven books (published between 1908 and 1915), the publishing priorities of which are clear, things become murky, if not utterly inscrutable. (Except for

The Golden Road, none of these seven works was published in Canada before *1942*, the year Montgomery died!) When McClelland, Goodchild & Stewart, later McClelland & Stewart, became the Canadian publishers, the trail went cold. The establishment of the priority of editions and even printings is uncertain, to say the very least.

To compensate for the missing background information, I tried to assemble as many different copies as I could in the hope that they would some

day offer clues to bibliographers, scholars, collectors, those who treasure these works not only as stories but also as artifacts. Differences in the presentation of the title page, the binder's cloth, the name of the printer, the type face in which the printer's notice is set, the copyright date and so on led to the painstaking gathering of pieces of the puzzle.

To an enthusiastic collector, the delight is in the hunt. If anything, my joy in this regard was heightened when the National Librarian expressed interest in the collection. She gave my collecting a sense of purpose. I had not previously thought of any long-term goal for the collection. After all, collectors collect to, well, collect. When I realized that the collection could also have a value to the National Library, its *raison d'être* was fixed. The hunt became more intense and more rewarding. For example, I found no fewer than five serious contenders for the title of first Canadian edition of *Anne's House of Dreams*. The collection includes not one, but three copies of the rare 1916 book of poetry, *The Watchman*, two of them in dust jackets (different jackets, of course). The final coup, though, was found in the week the gift was delivered, a 1909 edition of *Anne of Green Gables* in a dust jacket!

It is my hope that those of us who have been collecting similar examples of Canada's literary heritage will preserve them for all time in the national institution mandated to gather the nation's heritage. If, in addition to strengthening the Library's collection of one of Canada's best known and most loved 20th-century authors, this gift encourages other Canadians to follow suit with their collections, it will have served a more important purpose than my narrow collecting interest could ever have anticipated. ◆

Major Lucy Maud Montgomery Acquisitions at the National Library of Canada

by Pat MacDonald,
Research and Information Services

T*he National Library now has an outstanding, nationally significant collection of biliographically distinctive works by one of Canada's best-known and loved authors, thanks to two significant donations. Ronald I. Cohen, a Friend of the National Library, generously donated over 300 books by Lucy Maud Montgomery. In addition, the Friends of the National Library funded the acquisition of an extremely rare poetry volume published by the author.*

During her lifetime, Montgomery published 22 books of fiction, a serialized version of her life, a book of poetry and approximately 450 poems and 500 short stories. At her death, she left 10 volumes of over 5000 pages of unpublished personal diaries. Montgomery scholar, Dr. Mary Rubio, has described Prince Edward Island's most famous author as "Canada's most enduring literary export". Her first novel, *Anne of Green Gables* (1908) was an instant bestseller and was followed by seven sequels, the autobiographical Emily trilogy, and two well-received novels for adults. The red-haired 'Anne' has become a world-famous literary character, with near legendary status in Japan and Poland.

The Ronald I. Cohen Lucy Maud Montgomery Collection is a rich bibliographic resource which could lay the foundation for the production of an important research tool: a formal, descriptive bibliography of L.M. Montgomery. In bringing together many states, issues and variants of each edition, Mr. Cohen has provided the opportunity for a future bibliophile or bibliographer to conduct research on a vast array of Montgomery's published works in a single location. The collection has approximately 35

editions of *Anne of Green Gables* alone. Mr. Cohen also took great care to collect as many volumes in dust jackets as possible. These books with dust jackets represent the state in which the work was offered to the public and provide valuable and unique information about their publishing circumstances.

In keeping with Montgomery's international reputation, the collection also includes good representation of non-North American editions of her works. On various trips, the donor gathered editions from Great Britain, Australia, Japan, Norway and Korea. The collection also includes a number of rarities and a few unpublished works, e.g., two copies of the unpublished screenplay of *Anne of Green Gables: The Musical.* One of these was an early draft and the other a later version signed by its authors, Norman Campbell and Don Harron. (The musical feature film was never produced.) There is also a significant autographed letter in which L.M. Montgomery encourages a fan to write to the film studio, RKO, to persuade the studio of the importance of making a motion picture based on *Anne's House of Dreams*.

With some 120 editions and variants not previously held by the National Library, this collection enriches the National Library's Lucy Maud Montgomery holdings immensely. The Ronald I. Cohen Lucy Maud Montgomery Collection will be housed in the National Library's Rare Book collection.

An extremely rare volume of poetry by Lucy Maud Montgomery, which the National Library acquired through the support of the Friends of the National Library, will be housed in the same collection. This self-published volume bears the author's inscription, "with the compliments of the author -L. M. Montgomery, Xmas '03". The titles of the magazines (most of them American) in which the poems were originally published are included. A comparison of these poems with their listings in Ruth Weber Russell's *Lucy Maud Montgomery-: A preliminary Bbibliography -*(Waterloo, University of Waterloo Library, c1986) indicates that the earliest original publication date is 1897 and the latest is 1903. This volume, therefore, probably predates by five years the publication of *Anne of Green Gables* (Boston: L.C. Page, 1908), to this point regarded as her first book. McClelland, Goodchild & Stewart re-published two of the poems contained in this early volume ("Golden Rod" as "In the Days of Goldenrod" and "Two Loves") in the first trade edition of Montgomery's poetry, *The Watchman and Other Poems*, in 1916. It is worth noting that *The Watchman* preceded by a full 26 years the first Canadian edition of Montgomery's most famous book, *Anne of Green Gables,* which Ryerson published in 1942, the year of Montgomery's death.

No other copy of the rare 1903 volume of poetry is known to exist in a Canadian library and no record of this publication could be traced at the

British Library. The University of Guelph has a photocopy of a similar, but less complete copy. A note in its catalogue indicates that "this collection was probably privately printed by LMM to give to people she knew such as Marion Webb whose name is handwritten on the first page along with title 'Poems, L.M. Montgomery'".

Moreover, the author's early ambition to be a poet and her regard for poetry as a higher form of expression than prose adds to the significance of this book. While her fiction writing assumed more importance, she did not abandon her first love, as she published more than 500 poems in various contemporary magazines, primarily

between 1893-1916.[1] Although Montgomery's poetry varies in quality, her early poetry is praised for its freshness, an achievement which Kevin McCabe attributes to "the remarkable correlation between the markets she wrote for and her own loves and enthusiasms. The magazines wanted poems about fishing boats and storms at sea. She was born and bred within walking distance of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and always loved all the moods of the sea and shore. The magazines wanted poems about spring and meadows and woods. She loved the outdoors and spent most of her free time among trees, brooks, and fields."[2] While Montgomery's massive

popularity derives from her fiction, her poetry, which was designed for a popular audience, has been compared favourably with that of contemporaries such as Pauline Johnson and Robert Service.[3] ◆

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Notes

[1] Genevieve Wiggins, *L.M. Montgomery,* New York: Twayne Publishers; Toronto: Maxwell Macmillan Canada, 1992, p. 163.
[2] Kevin McCabe, "Introduction" *The poetry of Lucy Maud Montgomery,* Markham, Ontario: Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 1987, p. 2.
[3] Kevin McCabe, "Introduction" *The poetry of Lucy Maud Montgomery,* Markham, Ontario: Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 1987, p. 4.

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DONATIONS TO THE NATIONAL COLLECTION OF CANADIANA:

A Present for the Future

by Karen McGrath,
Corporate Development Officer

O n Thursday March 11, 1999, *National Librarian Marianne Scott hosted a reception at the National Library in honour of Ronald I. Cohen to recognize his generous donation to the Library of over 300 works by Lucy Maud Montgomery. Mauril Bélanger, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Heritage was on hand to congratulate Mr. Cohen on behalf of the federal government. Also in attendance were two Members of Parliament from Prince Edward Island: George Proud (Hillsborough) and Wayne Easter (Malpeque).*

Visiting many bookstores in Canada and abroad, Mr. Cohen painstakingly gathered this collection over the past 15 years . His donation has added more than 300 Canadian, British, American, foreign and variant editions to the Library's Montgomery holdings.

In thanking Mr. Cohen, Dr. Scott underlined the importance of such gifts in building the national collection of Canadiana. She explained that the

library's collection, which has now reached some 16 million items, is a living collection growing by over 500 000 items each year -- the sum of the nation's annual publishing efforts. Since 1953, much of this material is acquired through legal deposit. Much "pre-legal deposit" material remains to be purchased. The Library is very grateful to the Friends of the National Library who acquire materials and

donate them to the collection each year. Gifts from Friends such as Ronald Cohen are becoming more and more critical to ensuring the continuing viability of our national collection of Canadiana.

Thanks to Mr. Cohen's donation, the Library now has an outstanding, nationally significant collection of bibliographically distinctive works by one of Canada's best-known and loved authors which will be preserved for the use of Canadians now and in the future.

The Ronald I. Cohen Lucy Maud Montgomery Collection will be housed in the Library's Rare Book collection.

For more information on donating a gift to the National Library of Canada, please contact

Gifts and Exchanges Section
National Library of Canada
395 Wellington Street
Ottawa ON K1A 0N4
(819) 994-6855
(819) 997-2395
gifts@nlc-bnc.ca ◆

Copp Clark Closes Doors and Opens Book Collection to the National Library of Canada

by Pat MacDonald,
Acquisition and Bibliographic Services

The National Library of Canada received a major donation of Copp Clark imprints when Copp Clark Professional, "the last remaining division of Canada's oldest publishing company,"[1] closed its doors in June 1998. The acquisition, consisting of approximately 1800 post-1880 books and almanacs, adds to the National Library's considerable collection strength in educational textbooks and fills gaps in the Library's retrospective Canadiana holdings.

The donation was precipitated by McMaster University Library, which acquired the Copp Clark archives and, in turn, found a receptive home for the books at the National Library of Canada. Copies of the company's 19th-century books had been donated to the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto, in 1989.

As Copp Clark has played a major role in the history of Canadian publishing, its imprints are an important part of the National Library's Canadiana collection. Copp Clark can be traced to 1841, when Hugh Scobie, a Scot, opened a book and stationery store on King Street East in Toronto. Here he published and edited a newspaper, the *British Colonist*. In 1847, he produced the first edition of the *Canadian Almanac and Directory*, which is currently published by IHS/Micromedia.[2] The "oldest and most widely used single-volume reference work in Canada",[3] the *Canadian Almanac and Directory* was also the first annual publication and the fifth title received by the National Library of Canada through legal deposit on February 14, 1953.

In 1869, two employees, William Copp and Henry Clark, purchased control and eventually renamed the company after themselves. A few years earlier, the Ontario government had passed legislation enforcing the use of local textbooks in schools. This encouraged publishers to produce texts in major subject areas. By the early 1900s, Copp Clark had evolved into a major publisher of textbooks, particularly in language arts and mathematics. It had also established its own typesetting, printing, and binding operations.

In addition to its work as an educational publisher, Copp Clark acted as an agent for several publishing houses in the United States and the United Kingdom and provided warehousing facilities for other publishers. A number of Copp Clark imprints are rare first Canadian editions of British or American authors. For many years, Copp Clark published L. Frank Baum's Oz series under its imprint. "The copies prepared for Canadian issue generally were modified by substituting a binding bearing a Copp Clark imprint on the spine and by substituting the Copp Clark imprint on the title page for that of Reilly & Britton/Reilly & Lee."[4] Copp Clark also published works by such other notable authors as Winston Churchill, G.K. Chesterton, Joseph Conrad, F. Scott Fitzgerald, John Galsworthy, G.A. Henty, Washington Irving, Rudyard Kipling, Sinclair Lewis, Sir Walter Scott, Alfred Tennyson, and Edith Wharton. Although Copp Clark was for many years the leading Canadian importer of 'colonial editions', it also published a number of Canadian authors, including Gilbert Parker, Robert Barr, Charles G.D. Roberts, and Sara Jeannette Duncan.[5]

The National Library selectively acquires publishers' papers as part of its Canadian Literary Manuscript collection. These are generally the papers of small press or independent publishers who contribute to the development of the Canadian literary heritage. Publishers' archives held by the National Library include: Sono Nis Press, Blackfish Press, Oolichan Books, Gauntlet Press, the House of Anansi Press, Coach House Press, and Éditions du Sentier.

Notes

[1] Copp Clark purchased the Canadian Almanac and Directory Publishing Company in 1996 and the new company was renamed Copp Clark Professional. Source: Simon Fraser's Canadian Publishers' Records Database <www.lib.sfu.ca/cgi-bin/trust1.pl?cprd>, CPRD ID: 0180.

[2] Carol Toller, "Copp Clark Professional closes", *Quill & Quire*, vol. 64, no. 5 (May 1998), p. 13.

[3] "IHS/Micromedia acquires Copp Clark Professional", *Feliciter*, vol. 44, no. 5 (May 1998), p. 58.

[4] C. J. Hinke, *Oz in Canada : a bibliography*, Vancouver: W. Hoffer, 1982, p. 13.

[5] George L. Parker, *The Beginnings of the Book Trade in Canada*, Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1985, pp. 247-248. ◆

THE ELECTRONIC COLLECTION:

A Showcase for Canadian Works

by André Paul,
Acquisitions and Bibliographic Services

The Library promotes Canadian works in a number of ways: in Canadiana, The National Bibliography; on its Web site; through its exhibitions; and with lectures and presentations by Canadian authors. The electronic collection is another way for the Library to promote and provide direct access to Canadian works.

In initiating the collection of electronic publications in April 1997, the National Library's objectives were to archive and preserve for posterity, electronic documents which risked being lost forever, and to promote Canadian electronic publications and make them directly accessible to users.

Internet technology makes it possible to aspire to and achieve these goals. The electronic collection is of particular interest to the Library because it offers opportunities to increase awareness of Canadian works.

When one considers the countless searches conducted daily on search engines around the world, it is clear that access to electronic publications is greatly expanded on the Web. A few clicks and original works can be viewed directly from home, school or workplace.

Some of the more avant-garde Canadian electronic commercial publishers deposit their publications in the Library's electronic collection. They include Canadian Policy Research Networks, Coach House Books, CorpoMedia, Spirafilm, Concertina and Huguette Bertrand, who self-publishes original electronic publications.

When the Library learns of an electronic publication, it contacts the publisher to request that a copy of the work be deposited in the electronic collection. In some instances, the publisher makes the first approach. We are indebted to all these publishers, particularly those who initiate the process of contributing to the preservation of Canada's published heritage in electronic form and enrich this electronic collection.

It includes some 18 percent of publications issued by commercial publishers (approximately 330 of 1800 titles, as of February 1999). The commercial sector needs further development compared to the government publishing sector, which constitutes the major portion of the collection at the moment. Items in the collection may be located by title, subject or keyword.

Researchers consulting the Library's resAnet Web catalogue <www.nlc-bnc.ca/amicus/ ecatalog.htm> for example, may locate a work published in Canada on a topic of interest to them. If a work has been published electronically and been deposited in the Library, the resAnet bibliographic record will contain one or even two dynamic URL address(es) which contain a hypertext link to the electronic version of the document: the Library site URL address and also, in the majority of cases, the publisher site URL address.

So for "window-shopping" fans, here is a good place to visit:

<collection.nlc-bnc.ca/e-coll-e/ index-e.htm> ◆

Electronic Publications
Title List

- The Children's reader
- Federal government publications issued in alternative format, 1981-1992
- Nouvelles de la bibliothèque nationale
- The Proofreader
- Publications du gouvernement fédéral produites sur support de remplacement, 1981-1992
- Rapport annuel. Bibliothèque nationale du Canada
- The Reader

▷ **Home**   ▷ **Beginning of titles**

From the Exhibition Room...
The Long Road to Publishing

by Michel Brisebois,
Rare Book Curator, Research and Information Services

For at least the first 100 years of printing in Canada, the concept of the publishing business as we know it today, with paid authors, distribution outlets and financial risks, did not exist. The early printers were mainly job printers, government printers and booksellers/importers.

Although primarily focusing on the users of print during Canada's 250 years of printing history, "Impressions", the National Library of Canada's major exhibition for 1999, does give the public numerous examples of the long road from printing to publishing.

Eighteenth-century printers operated in a similar fashion to today's quick printing shops, albeit more slowly. You gave the text and number of copies needed, and you received the finished product along with an invoice. The Halifax Customs House document, most probably printed by John Bushell in the mid-1750s, and the receipt printed in Quebec City by William Brown and Thomas Gilmore in 1765 are two of the earliest examples of job printing known in Canada.

It is often written that early shops relied primarily on government contracts to print proclamations, laws and the numerous forms associated with government administration to survive. Examples in the exhibition include Peter Russell's Proclamation printed in York [Toronto] by Watters and Simons in 1798; the Rules of the first House of Assembly of Lower Canada printed in Quebec City by John Neilson in 1793; and the Statutes of the Colony of Vancouver Island printed at the British Colonist Office in 1866. One must also remember that, very

early on, merchants used local printers to produce advertisements and commercial forms of all types, such as the Prices Current printed in Halifax in 1829. The printing of most of the broadsides in this exhibition was done by job printers. Books and pamphlets, as well as political speeches and even funeral letters, were also printed as long as the customer was willing to pay.

Since the population was small, it was not profitable to publish works such as bibles and dictionaries which, because of size, required a large investment of paper and time. The printers-turned-booksellers preferred to import them rather than print them, and newspapers were filled with advertisements for books received from England and France. Some printers would add their own title page to a work printed outside the country, thus giving the impression of a local production. Although printed in Cincinnati, Amos Blanchard's *Book of Martyrs* received a title page bearing

the words "Kingston, U.C.: published by Blackstone, Ellis and Graves, 1835". The advent of stereotyping -- making a mould from the face of a type form and filling it with molten metal -- reduced the cost of printing popular works. The resulting plates, which could easily be made in multiple copies, were sent to small printers all over the U.S. and Canada, eliminating the need for type-setting and freeing their type for other work. Murray's *English Reader*, stereotyped in New York but printed in Toronto, is a good example of this practice.

Printers would take on the complete cost of printing only if they were assured of a large and stable market. This was the case for almanacs. Despite the very small population, and an even smaller literate population, the printer could count on selling his almanacs at a profit, often through a series of booksellers, since they were indispensable to most households. Numerous almanacs can be seen throughout the exhibition.

Other books were also popular with printers-turned-publishers, particularly foreign novels and religious books. The *Histoire de Jean de Calais* cheaply and anonymously printed in Quebec City in 1810, and religious works printed in Saint-Philippe (Quebec) by Father Pigeon are good examples. Guide books, such as the one for Niagara Falls, and directories, such as the 1876 *Winnipeg Directory*, containing advertisements for local businesses, gave printers an opportunity to finance their production without relying entirely on sales.

During the first half of the 19th century, the practice of publishing by subscription allowed authors to have their work published without having to face great expense. But there was a catch. The printer required a minimum number of paid-up customers before the work was printed. Adam Kidd reported

gathering 1500 subscribers for his *Huron Chief,* published in 1830. Early newspapers and magazines relied on subscriptions to survive but few lasted for more than a few years. By 1860, most newspapers, using new and efficient forms of distribution, such as the railway, and taking advantage of a boom in commercial activity, turned to advertising rather than subscriptions to realize a profit.

With an increase in population, a more efficient and widespread system of transportation, developing commercial and industrial sectors, and a growing middle-class, it became more profitable for printers, especially those with the capital to purchase high-speed presses, to take on publishing contracts. "Impressions", the National Library of Canada's major exhibition for 1999, is certainly a tribute to the pioneer printers, booksellers, and publishers of Canada. ◆

Read Up on It

by Céline Gendron,
Canadian Literature Research Service

The Canadian Literature Research Service program *Read Up on It is now in its 11th year.*

The kit promotes Canadian books for children according to a selected theme. In 1999, the focus is on humour and the choice of the books proposed reflects the presence of humour in children's literature for different age groups.

The following are the general selection criteria:

- Canadian books (authors or illustrators) and books published abroad whose content is Canadian
- respect for the selected theme
- books still available from publishers or distributors
- quality of the text and the illustration and of the text as compared to the illustration
- books in both official languages, taking geographic distribution into account
- prize-winning books, which received awards during the year
- respect for ethnic and linguistic community values

The selected books must — either through illustrations or text — highlight various examples of humour while keeping respect for others in mind. To illustrate this year's theme, 25 English-language and 25 French-language examples of Canadian works produced in the past three years will be chosen and annotated by professionals for the quality of their writing and illustrations.

This is one way in which the National Library of Canada highlights our rich literary heritage. Intended for use by teachers and parents, the *Read Up on It* kit reveals new approaches to foster discussions about Canadian children's literature in the classroom, the library or at home. A "Message for teachers, librarians and parents" provides numerous ways for adults to encourage reading and writing or even break through the barriers of illiteracy. A list of publishers, whose books are included in the kit, is provided, and *Read Up On It* is mounted on the National Library's Web site.

Finally, the loyalty and support of the partners and collaborators in the *Read Up on It* kit contribute to the important presence of this National Library of Canada program in the Canadian community. Through it, national library associations (the Canadian Library Association and the Association pour l'avancement des sciences et des techniques de la documentation), the Canada Post Corporation, the Canadian Federation of University Women, the Canadian Children's Book Centre, Communication-Jeunesse, Access Network, YTV, Télé-Québec, and, of course, our primary collaborator, the National Literacy Secretariat, help children to learn to love books, to discover Canadian authors and illustrators, and lastly, to enjoy reading all their lives. In addition, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) has joined the partnership this year to provide a list of books in alternative format.

After more than a decade, the program is more topical than ever, whether as a tool to promote children's literature, a literacy resource, or as a vehicle of works for children with visual impairments. *Read Up on It* represents the vitality of Canadian literary production for children and young adults. ◆

The Handman's Tale

by Randall Ware,
Public Programs

When I was hired by the National Library 10 years ago to build an authors' program featuring readings, lectures and launches, it seemed the most natural thing in the world for me to do. I had just spent 10 years running the National Book Festival at the Canada Council. I knew many writers. More important, I could sense the growing public interest in Canadian writing. In the past decade, the National Library of Canada has welcomed more than 500 writers and hosted more than 750 events for writers, publishers and booksellers, ranging from simple (!) poetry readings to an annual Gala featuring the winners of that year's Governor General's Awards.

All this activity helps to promote the world's largest collection of Canadiana. Authors' readings raise awareness of the writers and the National Library's collection very effectively.

The Library's reading series, which features both writers of fiction and non-fiction, includes book sales as an essential component of the activity.

For the past few years, we have worked in partnership with Ottawa's Independent Booksellers to bring writers here and to promote their readings.

Most of the readings are arranged through the offices of book publishers and their hardworking promotion and publicity staff. These programming contacts reinforce the Library's commitment to publishers, a commitment the National Library honours in a variety of ways from the administration of legal deposit to ISBN and ISSN numbers to a Publishers' Window on the Web.

These essential contacts with book publishers and booksellers have brought the National Library fully into the writer/reader cycle. We like to say that National Library is at its best when it has writers in it. Writers, we might all agree, are the root of our business. But we might say equally that, without our frequent contacts with publishers and booksellers, we would be poorer as a major national literary institution.

Cooperation is at the heart of the Canadian book business as it must be for nations such as ours whose cultures are subject to constant pressure from beyond their borders. We are pleased and proud to help to promote Canadian books and to safeguard these same books for future generations. ◆

SERVICES

CIRCLE OF KNOWLEDGE:

From Research to Publication

by Mary Bond,
Research and Information Services

Consider an author who has just completed the manuscript of a novel set in Montreal in the roaring twenties. The plot is terrific and the characters are well developed. However, the backdrop of Montreal society during that time period needs fleshing out. On the advice of a friend who is a librarian, the author visits the National Library of Canada to check its collection of Canadian newspapers, magazines and city directories, as well as histories of the 1920s and of Montreal. This is how an author can discover the riches of the largest collection of published Canadiana in the world.

Although they range from the classic, the controversial and the scholarly to the practical, the popular and the funny, the following publications have in common that they were researched, at least in part, using the National Library of Canada's collections and services: *Firing the Heather: The Life and Times of Nellie McClung* (Mary Hallett and Marilyn Davis, Fifth House); *Last Stop, Paris: The Assassination of Mario Bachand and the Death of the FLQ* (Michael McLoughlin, Viking); *The Annotated Anne of Green Gables* (Edited by Wendy E. Barry, Margaret Anne Doody and Mary E. Doody Jones, Oxford University Press); *Les Premières Nations* (Olive Dickason, Septentrion); *Strangers at our Gates: Canadian Immigration and Immigration Policy, 1540-1997* (Valerie Knowles, Dundurn Press); *How to Research Almost Anything: A Canadian Guide for Students, Consumers and Business* (Stephen Overbury and Susanna Buenaventura, McGraw-Hill Ryerson); *Books You Need to Do Genealogy in Ontario: An Annotated Bibliography*

(Ryan Taylor, Round Tower Books); *Dictionary of Canadian Place Names* (Alan Rayburn, Oxford University Press); *Histoire de l'Outaouais* (Institut québécois de recherche sur la culture); *Scorned & Beloved: Dead of Winter Meetings with Canadian Eccentrics* (Bill Richardson, Knopf Canada).

The National Library's collections and staff are acknowledged by most of these authors; some provide details of the collections or materials which they used. Alan Rayburn, for example, notes his research in "the library's vast collection of published histories and reference materials", while Mary Hallett and Marilyn Davis checked "cartloads of early Canadian magazines". Their notes and bibliographies make it apparent that a wealth of Canadian books, magazines, newspapers and government publications were consulted. Many of these authors worked on-site, making full use of the Library's reference, general and special collections and seeking the assistance of staff with their research. Michael McLouglin expresses appreciation for the ability of the librarians "to uncover the most recondite sources" while Ryan Taylor states that the "ongoing assistance and interest" of staff "demonstrate to me exactly what a national library is for".

Our collections and services are also available to researchers unable to visit in person. Most publications in our general collection can be borrowed on interlibrary loan by arrangement with your local library, whether in Canada or abroad. To discover the depth and breadth of our collections, you can search our online catalogue on the Internet <www.amicus.nlc-bnc.ca/wapp/resanet/introe.htm>. No access to the Internet? Then you can send questions to the National Library through your local library or contact us directly by telephone, fax or letter. We can identify relevant sources in our collection, advise you on a research

strategy, provide factual information, or refer you to another institution or organization for further assistance.

When your manuscript is ready, we can assist you by locating contact information for editors and publishers or direct you to one of the many excellent guides on publishing in Canada. We might ask you to share the joys, frustrations, insights and results of your research with other researchers and staff in our SAVOIR FAIRE seminar series.

The collections of the National Library are acquired through legal deposit, purchase, gift and exchange with other institutions. The legal deposit regulations, through which the largest part of the Canadiana collection is obtained, require that Canadian publishers deposit up to two copies of a publication (book, pamphlet, periodical, microform, CD-ROM, etc.) with the National Library, depending on the number of copies published.

There are a number of benefits for publishers. One of the two copies you send to the Library will be housed in our Preservation Collection to ensure its availability for future generations of researchers. It will be stored in special environmental conditions and be available for restricted use in the Library. The other copy will be placed in our general collection for use on-site and through interlibrary loan. The titles noted above are the best evidence that a comprehensive Canadiana collection at the National Library helps researchers create new works for publishers to consider.

When a publisher deposits a publication with the National Library, a bibliographical description of it is entered in the National Library's on-line catalogue and the national bibliography, *Canadiana,* ensuring that the publication will be made known to researchers inside and outside Canada as well as to booksellers, many of whom

contact the Library to track down publishing and ordering information for particular titles.

Publications received by the National Library are also promoted through cultural events such as public readings and lectures held at the Library, and through inclusion in exhibitions and bibliographies prepared by Library staff on Canadian history, people, art, institutions, literature, music, etc. Virtual exhibitions and electronic versions of the bibliographies on our Web site ensure a worldwide audience.

One of the great joys for those of us who work with the National Library's collection daily lies in knowing that the strands of research for which we provide assistance may result in a new publication and that our next client might turn out to be the author of a book which will be on our shelves one day. With such a collection, the possibilities are infinite.

For further information, contact
Reference: (613) 995-9481
Fax: (613) 943-1112
E-mail: reference@nlc-bnc.ca
Internet: www.nlc-bnc.ca
Mail: 395 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0N4

(Mary Bond is the acting head of the Public Services Section, Reference and Information Services Division and the compiler of *Canadian Reference Sources*, a seminal guide for those researching Canadian topics.) ◆

Do You Know...

about SAVOIR FAIRE, a monthly seminar series given by researchers and staff members of the National Library of Canada? The series focuses on scholarly activity at the National Library and fosters information exchange among researchers and staff.

PUBLISHERS, SELF-PUBLISHERS AND THE NATIONAL LIBRARY...

On Publishing and Distribution, or How the Library Can Help You

by André Paul,
Acquisitions and Bibliographic Services

A *book summit is the ideal occasion for stressing the close collaboration between the National Library of Canada and the creators and distributors of Canada's published heritage. Their purposes complement each other. Their accomplishments lead to many discussions. Here, we review the contact points and discussions between stakeholders, the methods by which publishers communicate with us and their reasons for collaborating with the National Library.*

To do this, and to illustrate the interrelationships, we will follow the steps for creating and distributing Canadian writing.

STEP 1: GATHERING INFORMATION

For publishers wishing to stay abreast of the latest developments and new federal government publishing initiatives, or even for authors and self-publishers who want an overview of publishing when planning their new publications, the Library's Web site, "Publishers' Window on the Government of Canada", is the best source of information <www.nlc-bnc.ca/window/windowe.htm>. Frequently, this is the first contact with our services. The site provides a single access to government agencies that supply information or regulate in this area, together with timely information on matters of interest to Canadian publishers, such as submissions relating to Bill C-55 on advertising services provided by foreign publishers.

The Publishers' Window on the Government of Canada has information on the following topics:

- copyright,
- publishing support programs,
- translation support programs,
- programs for promoting Canadian authors and works,
- reports and market research on the publishing industry,
- income tax regulations,
- various government agencies dealing with publishing.

The site also offers links to Canadian publishers' associations and non-government organizations involved with publishing in Canada, such as Canadian cultural attachés abroad, the Public Lending Right Commission, and the Canadian Intellectual Property Office. It also features a variety of useful reference tools, such as Canadian laws, postal rates, exchange rates and the Web search tool "Canadian Information by Subject".

Pertinent information collected at this stage allows a publisher to weigh critical factors before embarking on a project. It also helps in planning and decision making. The National Library's publisher services can help at this stage, and publishers often consult us. Among the most frequently asked questions are those concerning the difference between legal deposit and copyright, the number of copies that must be deposited with the Library and the reasons for the legal deposit requirement.

STEP 2: INTERNATIONAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS

Just before publishing a work, publishers should consider the need to register it in an international numbering system. Numbering systems provide each work with its own unique number and make it easier for the book industry to identify the work and for libraries and others to place orders. At this point, publishers meet the National Library once again when they contact the Canadian ISBN Agency or ISSN Canada to obtain an ISBN (International Standard Book Number) or an ISSN (International Standard Serial Number), or even an ISMN (International Standard Music Number).

In the case of ISBN and ISMN numbers, the Canadian ISBN Agency assigns blocks of numbers to publishers, usually in a single transaction, unless the publisher uses up the block of numbers and needs a new set. Occasionally, publishers also need clarification on where the numbers should appear in the publication or on assigning several numbers for multi-volume works or multimedia sets. Some publishers also want to know more about the ISBN and the meaning of the ISBN's different components.*

Publishers also contact the Canadian ISBN Agency to update the information on their ISBN prefix. Changes in a publisher's name, address or contacts are reflected in the agency's records. They are also entered in the *Canadian ISBN Publishers Directory*. This summer, the Library expects to be able to make the directory available on

its Web site to provide publishers with a useful reference work in which they can locate the information they now obtain from the agency.

ISSN Canada assigns individual ISSN numbers to each new serial publication. Contact between serial publishers and ISSN Canada is therefore more frequent. Apart from requests for information on how to obtain an ISSN number, the most frequently asked questions relate to the uses and advantages of the ISSN, its recommended placement in the publication, what constitutes a title change for a serial publication and how to obtain a new ISSN in the event of a change of title.

An interactive ISSN application form has been available on the ISSN Canada Web site since September 1998 <www.nlc-bnc.ca/issn/e-issn.htm>. This makes it much easier for publishers to request ISSNs and has resulted in more Internet interaction. Currently, more than 75 percent of the requests received each month come over the Internet.

Some publishers have expressed interest in printing a barcode as well as the ISSN on the publications. Because of the increased demand for barcodes, we have compiled a list of producers, which has been added to the Web site.

STEP 3: CIP RECORD

In the days leading up to publication, publishers and self-publishers contact one of the five regional CIP (Cataloguing in Publication) agents or the Library's CIP Office and request a pre-publication cataloguing record. The CIP record appears on the verso of the title page and establishes the essential data to describe the publication and its content bibliographically. When necessary, publishers are contacted again to obtain additional information

about the author, the data appearing on the title page, or the content of the work. Occasionally, the publisher questions the data selected for the record or wishes to modify its content. The CIP agent is then responsible for addressing the publisher's concerns.

Libraries that purchase publications with CIP data are very appreciative of the cooperation shown by publishers. As the following steps illustrate, this cooperation is essential to the success of the program. Buyers, therefore, benefit from having access to verified data right in the publication as

well as to the CIP data available on-line.

STEP 4: FORTHCOMING BOOKS

Once the pre-publication cataloguing data are established and recorded in the Library's bibliographic system, they are used to generate the printed list and Web resource *Forthcoming Books*. This list promotes awareness and sales of publications in different fields. The list of new publications in *Forthcoming Books* is distributed monthly at no charge in the magazines *Quill & Quire* and *Livre d'ici*. The list is also

Legal Deposit

Legal Deposit is the means by which a comprehensive national collection is gathered together as a record of the nation's published heritage and development. Canadian publishers are required to send two copies of all the books, pamphlets, serial publications, microforms, spoken word sound recordings, video recordings, electronic publications issued in physical formats (CD-ROM, CD-I, computer diskette, etc.), and one copy of musical sound recordings and multimedia kits they publish, to the National Library of Canada.

Legal deposit applies to all types of publications in all types of formats. The original legislation, which applied primarily to books, was extended to include serial publications in 1965, sound recordings in 1969; multimedia kits in 1978; microforms in 1988; CD-ROMs and other electronic publications issued in physical formats, and video recordings in 1993.

On April 25, 1995, legal deposit regulations changed. Legal deposit is now based on the number of copies produced (rather than on the selling price, as had previously been the case).

- Two copies must be deposited when 101 or more copies are made.

- One copy must be deposited when more than three but fewer than 101 copies are made.

- Legal deposit does not apply if three or fewer copies are made.

- Only one copy of musical sound recordings and of multimedia kits must be deposited.

For additional information, contact

Canadiana Acquisitions and Legal Deposit Office
National Library of Canada
395 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0N4
Telephone: (819) 997-9565
Fax: (819) 953-8508
E-mail: legal.deposit@nlc-bnc.ca

disseminated through *Forthcoming Books* on the Web <www.nlc-bnc.ca/forthbks/efbintro.htm> which also includes previous monthly lists. Another considerable benefit is that this Web site gives publishers national and international coverage. Through it, libraries and any other buyers have another source of information on new publications.

STEP 5: LEGAL DEPOSIT

Finally, the work is published and ready for distribution. Publishers then communicate with the Library to deposit this new publication, in accordance with the National Library Act. Publishers often discuss copyright registration and questions related to preservation, access, and the use that will be made of the deposited copy of the work with Library staff. They also

explain requirements for documents with a limited print run or distribution or artists' books. Library staff contact publishers to check on the deposit status of their publications or to obtain information about the author, distribution source or bibliographic data.

Two copies of all new publications, or, in certain cases, a single copy - that is the contribution

CIP agents for trade publishers and self-publishers

... from Alberta, British Columbia and the Territories:

CIP Office
Library Processing Centre - Catalogue Records
2206 East Mall
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, British Columbia
V6T 1Z8
Telephone: (604) 822-6838
Fax: (604) 822-4789
E-mail: cip@unixg.ubc.ca
Web site: http://www.library.ubc.ca/cip/cip.html

... from Manitoba and Saskatchewan:

CIP Office
Technical Services
Elizabeth Dafoe Library
University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3T 2N2
Telephone: (204) 474-9476
Fax: (204) 474-7596
E-mail: parting@bldgdafoe.lan1.umanitoba.ca

... from Ontario (excluding the Ottawa area):

CIP Office
University of Toronto Library
7th Floor, Room 7039
St. George Street
Toronto, Ontario
M5S 1A5
Telephone: (416) 978-1803
Fax: (416) 978-7457

... from the Ottawa area and English-language publishers in Quebec:

CIP Office
Acquisitions and Bibliographic Services
National Library of Canada
395 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0N4
Telephone: (819) 994-6881
Fax: (819) 997-7517
E-mail: cip@nlc-bnc.ca
Web site: http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/cip/

... from French-language publishers in Quebec:

Responsable CIP
Bibliothèque nationale du Québec
2275, rue Holt
Montreal, Quebec
H2G 3H1
Telephone: (514) 873-1100, ext. 375 or 1-800-363-9028
Fax: (514) 873-4310
E-mail: s_rousseau@biblionat.gouv.qC.CA
Web site: http://www.biblinat.gouv.qc.ca/texte/t0021.htm

... from the Atlantic Provinces:

CIP Office
Cataloguing Department
Killam Library
Dalhousie University
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3H 4H8
Telephone: (902) 494-6687
Fax: (902) 494-3576
E-mail: tremblay@is.dal.ca

required from publishers and self-publishers to ensure the long-term preservation of their work and to permit on-site consultation or interlibrary loan.

STEP 6: NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACCESS TO CANADIAN WRITING

Once the final bibliographic records are established, they are disseminated worldwide. Canadian writing ("Canadiana") is indexed in CD-ROM and microfiche versions of the national bibliography *Canadiana,* copies of which are distributed across Canada and abroad. Catalogue records are also sent electronically to many libraries and bibliographic services.

The bibliographic records indexed in the Library's bibliographic systems are also accessible on-line to researchers and users of such services as resAnet and Access AMICUS <www.nlc-bnc.ca/amicus/ecatalog.htm>. By these methods, Canadian writing is made better known and sales of Canadian works are promoted. Bibliographic access is an important component in library resource sharing. Authors' readings, exhibitions and other public programs at the Library also raise awareness of Canada's published heritage.

HOW TO REACH US

Publishers often prefer to talk to a human being to obtain information. The National Library staff is keenly aware of publishers' requirements and tight deadlines and, for the most part, provide instant answers. In February 1998, we installed a new electronic telephone message system that allows users to reach the main services directly, even if they don't know what number to call. A directory and guide to all our services is also available in print or electronic format.

CONCLUSION

In the course of producing and distributing Canadian writing, publishers and the Library are brought into regular contact. We aim to provide efficient service and maintain good relationships with all publishers and self-publishers. We welcome your comments and suggestions on improving our services.

Note

*La Bibliothèque nationale du Québec offers the same services to francophone publishers in Quebec. ◆

Did you know...

that Access AMICUS is now available continuously seven days a week (except between 4:30 a.m. and 5:00 a.m., Eastern Standard Time)? For more information, please contact

Client Information Centre
Telephone: (819) 997-7227
Fax: (819) 994-6835
E-mail: cic@nlc-bnc.ca

Telephone Bulletin Board's Menu Options
Dial (613) 995-9481
Welcome...

☎ information on hours, location, parking and use of the Library as well as about the Friends of the National Library.

☎ research and information services such as Reference, Copying and Circulation, Music, Rare Books and Interlibrary Loans.

- reference services or catalogue enquiries.
- special collections including music, children's literature, Canadian literature, rare books and the Lowy Collection.
- Client Services, Interlibrary Loans.

☎ services to publishers and libraries such as Legal Deposit, CIP, ISBN, ISSN and cataloguing products and services.

- Legal Deposit.
- ISSNs.
- ISBNs, ISMNs, Cataloguing in Publication, and for information on barcoding and on the Publishers' Window on Government in Canada.
- receptionist, call re-directed to the appropriate service.

☎ information on Public Programs

☎ automated directory of Library employees.

☎ leave a message in our general voice-mail box

Technology to Increase Access to Canadian Content and the World of Knowledge

by Oryst Iwanycky,
Information Technology Services

The AMICUS database, a key resource of the National Library, provides the library, research and publishing communities with information on the premier collection of Canadian materials in the world. The database is a rich storehouse containing more than 16 million records from many Canadian libraries in the arts, social sciences and humanities and official publications and is an important source for research in science and technology. In addition, the AMICUS database includes half a million authority records (providing details about Canadian authors, government bodies and private organizations) and the holdings of over 500 Canadian libraries. AMICUS not only furnishes records for published items but also provides information on upcoming publications through its pre-publication records.

The National Library offers a variety of services and products to provide access to the information contained in the AMICUS database: Access AMICUS, *Canadiana* CD-ROM and resAnet. Access AMICUS is the flagship service, the gateway to the entire database of 16 million records representing the collections of the National Library and hundreds of other Canadian libraries. *Canadiana* CD-ROM and resAnet provide access to the collections of the National Library (approximately two million records).

ACCESS AMICUS

This fee-based service, subscribed to by more than 800 Canadian libraries, enables you to exploit the entire AMICUS database of 16 million records. Available since 1984, it best suits those requiring complete information from a wide variety of sources (the holdings of over 500 libraries are included in Access AMICUS). For publishers, the service provides access by publisher name, ISBN, ISSN as well as author, title and subject. Searches can be refined by date, language, location and hundreds of other limiters. The search results can be downloaded for bibliographies, publication lists and other uses. A Web version of Access AMICUS, to be introduced later this year, will expand key features of the service. Access AMICUS on the Web will provide access to electronic items on the Web directly. In addition, you will be able to send a request to borrow items in AMICUS. For items not found in AMICUS, you will be able to request a search for the item in other databases. In tandem with the Web version of Access AMICUS, a Z39.50 service will also be offered later this year.

Now on CD-ROM, *Canadiana: The National Bibliography* provides access to approximately 1.7 million records. The CD-ROM edition of *Canadiana* continues the National Library of Canada's work, begun in the early 1950s, listing all publications produced in Canada and those published outside Canada written by Canadians or covering Canadian topics. CD-ROM technology has enabled the Library to offer Canadiana records in a more flexible and cost-efficient manner compared to that of the microfiche and paper formats. The first release, published June 1998, includes an extensive CD-ROM database with more than 1.2 million records, including Canadian books, periodicals, government documents, theses, maps, microforms, music scores, sound and video recordings and electronic items. The second release boasts an additional 500 000 records, primarily for publications prior to 1973. The product, which now covers the complete automated holdings of the National Library, has some unique searching features, including the ability to search by map coordinates, publication date, and a host of other indexes not available in Access AMICUS. Future releases are expected to incorporate the National Library's Publishers' Directory. The product is priced at $129.95.

RESANET

Available without charge on the National Library's Web site, resAnet provides access to 1.9 million brief AMICUS records describing the National Library's rich collections. A simple Web interface enables users to view the National Library's rich heritage of Canadian publishing <www.nlc-bnc.ca/amicus/ecatalog.htm>. ◆

Canadians, Public Libraries and the Information Highway

by Ralph W. Manning,
National and International Programs

Libraries have been centres for learning in the world for many centuries and have existed in Canada since 1606. Modern libraries provide a broad range of services which cover the information, education, research and leisure needs of many individuals and organizations. As such, they are a vital component of the culture and identity of most civilizations.

Recent studies have reaffirmed the importance of libraries in the lives of Canadians. People who use libraries do so regularly, as demonstrated by a research project undertaken for the Book and Periodical Council in 1996 (*Dividends: the Value of Public Libraries in Canada*, 1997). It is, moreover, increasingly apparent that individuals use libraries for many different purposes. This becomes even more important to our understanding of the impact of libraries as their role in Canadian society is reassessed in the light of technological and social change.

In 1997, the Canadian Library Association (CLA) commissioned a study on behalf of an informal consortium of the provincial and territorial libraries, the National Library of Canada, Industry Canada, Association pour l'avancement des sciences et techniques de la documentation, and CLA. One of its key objectives was to provide information on how public libraries are used across the country in the context of the emerging information highway.

The key findings, as documented in the report *Canadians, Public Libraries and the Information Highway* submitted to the Canadian Library Association by Ekos Research Associates Inc. in October 1998, were

- nearly two in three survey respondents reported having a public library card;
- two in three respondents reported having visited a public library in the past 12 months, with one in five reporting having been at least 12 times;
- respondents visited public libraries an average of 7.7 times in the past year;
- close to four in 10 reported visiting a library in the last week.

While the study did not investigate the reading habits of Canadians *per se*, a strong link between reading and libraries remains. The report demonstrated the importance of public libraries in promoting recreational reading and literacy, pointing out that the average number of visits to Canadian libraries increased between the 1991 "Reading in Canada" study and the present study from 6.4 to 7.7 times per person.

Public libraries are used for a wide range of activities that goes beyond the borrowing of books and browsing or studying in the library. The new Ekos study reports that newer services such as the Internet and on-line databases are used by one in 10 respondents.

Public libraries have embraced the information highway and accept their role in providing access to it for many Canadians. Indeed, LibraryNet, a cooperative venture of Canada's public libraries, library jurisdictions and agencies, librarians, and Industry Canada, has been established "to encourage the growth of these new roles and to help Canadian libraries connect to the information highway and to one another." The Ekos study demonstrated that Canadians see public libraries, along with schools, as highly appropriate locations for public access sites to the information highway. A recent study commissioned by the Canadian Centre for Management Development and some provincial governments has confirmed the finding.

The role of public libraries is changing as society changes. Technological developments have had a tremendous impact on libraries over the past 25 years. These changes are forcing libraries to investigate how they use technology both to deliver traditional services and to integrate communications technology into the library's role as a gateway between the individual seeking information and the exploding world of information that exists not only in more familiar forms such as books, magazines, audio-visual documents and maps, but also in digital formats available through the information highway. ◆

Removing Barriers

by Katherine Miller-Gatenby,
National and International Programs

Worldwide, there are more than 750 million people with disabilities. As we move towards a highly connected world, it is critical that the Web be usable by anyone, regardless of individual capabilities and disabilities. The W3C is committed to removing accessibility barriers for all people with disabilities -- including the deaf, blind, physically challenged, and cognitive or visually impaired. We plan to work aggressively with government, industry, and community leaders to establish and attain Web accessibility goals.[1]

This is how Tim Berners-Lee, Director of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) and inventor of the Web, announced the creation of the Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) in April 1997. WAI is an international program committed to removing barriers to full participation in the use of the World Wide Web for persons with disabilities.

What are the barriers?

Web sites may be inaccessible to potential users in a number of ways. Users with disabilities may not be able to see a screen, hear a sound clip, or manipulate a mouse or keyboard. They may have difficulty reading or understanding a text. Some users without disabilities may also find the information on some Web sites inaccessible. They may have a limited understanding of the language used. They may use a text-only browser or be without any sophisticated electronic equipment. They may be in a situation in which they cannot use their hands, eyes or ears in conjunction with the computer. For example, an individual may be in a public kiosk in a noisy shopping centre or at an airport. Some users may have small screens or slow connections. Any of these conditions can block access to the information on a Web site.

Web site designers can address accessibility in the design of Web pages and Web sites by recognizing that equipment and abilities vary widely. Users may employ different input devices (e.g., voice recognition) and output devices (e.g., a refreshable Braille pad). They may use a keyboard

The principles of accessible design are principles of good design.

for inputting information and a screen as an output device, but may not have a sound card in their computers. Developing accessible Web sites requires what the WAI has identified as "graceful transformation"[2]. This means that documents on the sites "remain accessible despite ... physical, sensory, and cognitive disabilities, work constraints, and technological barriers"[3]. It does NOT mean that Web pages should be "dumbed down" to the lowest common denominator or limited to black text on a white background with no images. Neither does it mean that several versions of the same document must be created. Rather, each document should be designed to ensure that the information is delivered to users in the form that best suits their needs and capabilities. One well-designed document can be rendered in different versions depending on the needs of the users and the technology they use.

For example, the use of images can improve the presentation and clarity of the information in a Web page. However, the information in an image is completely inaccessible to a blind user. Using HTML "alt tags" (i.e., the ALT attribute in the <IMG> tag) to provide a meaningful text alternative for every image supports blind users and others who use text-based browsers, but it does not restrict the page designer's creativity or impede the client who can see and understand information presented in graphics. With the text alternative, the document can transform gracefully from one user to another, with the information intact.

Creating Web sites and Web pages using the authoring tools currently available is easy. Designing them well is not. The Web is a dynamic, sometimes volatile, environment employing many new techniques and tools. How can Web masters ensure their sites remain accessible, particularly when many authors contribute to the site?

The WAI updated the draft *Web Content Accessibility Guidelines* and two related documents: *Techniques for Web Content Accessibility Guidelines* and *List of Checkpoints for the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines* in February 1999. All three are available on the WAI Web site <www.w3.org/TR/WD-WAI-PAGEAUTH/#toc>. The *Government of Canada Internet Guide*, third edition, published by the Treasury Board Secretariat has also been updated recently. It has a section on universal accessibility <canada.gc.ca/programs/guide/3_1_4e.html#2>. Both tools provide useful,

easily comprehensible information about accessible Web page design. In addition, the federal government's Internet Advisory Committee has a sub-committee, the Access Working Group, which is in close contact with the WAI and ensures that the *Internet Guide* is consistent with the WAI working groups' activities.

The principles of accessible design are principles of good design. Some are simple. For example, Web page style and navigation structure should be clear and consistent[4]. Consistency makes the information easier to read and understand. A predictable navigation structure makes the whole site easier to use. Both help to remove accessibility barriers for all people, with or without disabilities.

_____

[1] "World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) Launches International Web Accessibility Initiative. W3C Leads Program to Make the Web Accessible for People with Disabilities", Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA, April 7, 1997 Media release
<www.w3.org/Press/WAI-Launch.html>

[2] *Web Content Accessibility Guidelines*: W3C Working Draft 26-Feb-1999 World Wide Web Consortium, Web Accessibility Initiative. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Institut National de Recherche en Informatique et en Automatique, Keio University, 1999.
<www.w3.org/
TR/WD-WAI-PAGEAUTH/>

[3] *Ibid.*

[4] *Ibid.* ◆

The National Library of Canada congratulates the Association of Canadian Publishers, the Canadian Booksellers Association and the Canadian Library Association on their cooperative presentation of the Canadian Book Summit.

OBITUARY

Staff and Friends of the National Library of Canada regretfully learned of the death of Professor René de Chantal, in Ottawa in November 1998. Professor de Chantal was a member of the National Library Advisory Board and its chairman from 1975-1979. A professor of French literature and a linguist, Professor de Chantal was born in Moose Creek, Ontario in 1923 and studied at the University of Ottawa, McGill University and the Université de Paris, where he obtained a doctorate with a remarkable thesis entitled *Marcel Proust, critique littéraire,* which was also published by Presses de l'Université de Montréal in 1967. He also dedicated a significant part of his activities to the defence of the French language, publishing *Chroniques de français* at the University of Ottawa. He first taught at the University of Ottawa, then at the Université de Montréal where he was a full professor, dean of the Faculty of Arts, dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and then vice-president. Appointed to the Department of External Affairs in 1966 as Director of Cultural Affairs, he later became the minister at the Canadian embassy in Paris. Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and of the Académie canadienne-française, Professor de Chantal was awarded Montreal's Grand prix littéraire and received an award from the Académie française. We would like to extend our deepest condolences to his wife and children.

Dr. Guy Sylvestre
Former NL of Canada

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

National Library
of Canada

Bibliothèque nationale
du Canada

Canada

Services

Services of the
National Library of Canada

The National Library of Canada, located at 395 Wellington Street in Ottawa, is home to Canada's published heritage. The National Library's main role is to acquire, preserve and promote the most comprehensive collection of Canadiana for ALL Canadians, now and in the years to come. The Library holds materials such as books, periodicals, sound recordings, manuscripts, and electronic formats. Notable strengths include Canadian newspapers, Canadian city directories, rare books, music, literary manuscripts and Canadian literature for children and for adults.

The National Library of Canada offers a wide variety of services to researchers, librarians, publishers, government agencies and the general public. For example, a teacher responsible for selecting children's books for her class may find assistance in bibliographies provided by the National Library's Canadian Literature Research Service. Librarians can learn how to improve their services for disabled clients by contacting the Library. The Library offers a reference service that is well equipped to handle a wide range of enquiries. An interlibrary loan service assists other libraries trying to locate items not in their own holdings. Publishers can benefit from the pre-publicity generated by the Cataloguing in Publication program.

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