

CANADA

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF CANADA

MR ROCH CARRIER — NATIONAL LIBRARIAN

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2001 – 2002

The National Library of Canada has made considerable progress in terms of connecting with all levels of government, with libraries of all types and with the citizens of Canada whose heritage reflects many cultures around the world.

ACCOMMODATION

The critical accommodation needs of the National Library of Canada continue to be a major priority of the National Librarian. These needs are now very well-known to the Parliament and Senate of Canada. We continue to work to make this issue a concern to the citizens of Canada. Progress is reflected in the number of letters that have come from citizens across the country to the highest levels of government.

CONNECTING TO CANADIANS

In the past year, more efforts have been made to reach individual Canadian citizens in the following ways:

AMICUS

Use of AMICUS has doubled since we announced that the service was free in June 2001. More and more individuals are signing up to search AMICUS (containing the National Library's catalogue as well as the catalogues of over 1300 libraries across Canada) and more libraries have registered to use interlibrary loan.

DIGITAL LIBRARY OF CANADA

This group has developed excellent websites ranging from the music of La Bolduc to kid's and teacher's pages. In March of 2002, the number of hits on our website reached 20 million and continues to grow.

MULTILINGUAL SERVICES

One full-time position has been designated to coordinate the NLC activities related to serving multicultural communities.

ABORIGINAL RESOURCES AND SERVICES

An aboriginal specialist has been hired to develop NLC programs to serve aboriginal communities. NLC is also working to develop a strategy to promote the deposit of Canadian aboriginal publications with the National Library of Canada. An external advisory board will soon be struck to assist NLC in developing these programs.

YOUTH

In addition to websites targeted at Canadian youth, the Library has begun to offer public programming during school breaks to attract Canadian youth. Work continues on the planning for the International Forum on Canadian Children's literature in June 2003.

PRINT DISABLED

The Council on Access is working to ensure that the 3 million print disabled Canadians have equal access to information. Discussions are underway regarding the possibility of a pilot project to test a national site license for Recordings for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFB&D)

CANADIAN GENEALOGY CENTRE

In order to better serve genealogists and family history researchers, the National Library is partnering with the National Archives to develop a Canadian Genealogy Centre. This Centre will be developed in stages over a 3 year period, with a "virtual" aspect as the flagship of its first stage of development. The goal is to offer single-portal access to online research tools and large bodies of authoritative content.

CONNECTING TO GOVERNMENT

GOVERNMENT ONLINE

Work continues on a federal government publications view on AMICUS. NLC is actively involved in the Department of Canadian Heritage's cultural portal.

METADATA COORDINATION

A new position of Metadata Coordinator was staffed as a focus for expertise and coordination of various metadata initiatives within NLC and to promote the library's leadership role in the area of metadata within the federal government.

CONNECTING TO LIBRARIES

RESEARCH ON THE USE OF NLC BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORDS BY CANADIAN LIBRARIES

In the fall of 2001, McGill University Graduate School of Library and Information Studies undertook an introductory study to track the use made of a small random sample of NLC records by Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) and Canadian Association of Large Urban Public Libraries (CALUPL) members.

Questionnaire analysis (58% response rate) revealed that the saving per library through using NLC records as the basis for copy cataloguing rather than originally cataloguing items was \$16,400 per annum for university libraries and \$7,800 for large urban public libraries. An extrapolation to all university and large public libraries suggests an annual saving of \$1,476,000 for all Canadian university libraries, and \$249,000 for all Canadian large urban public libraries, a total of \$1,725,000 as a result of NLC catalogue record use for copy cataloguing. This study is available on the Library's website: <http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/6/17/s17-211-e.html>

VIRTUAL REFERENCE CANADA (VRC)

Since the last report the Library has continued development of this service (formerly Collaborative Digital Reference Service). Programming of the VRC algorithm was completed, and beta testing has begun.

The Library was named a member of the newly formed U.S. National Information Standards Organization Committee on Networked Reference Services (Committee AZ).

ADDRESS:

395 Wellington Street
Ottawa
Canada K1A 0N4

Tel: + 1 613 996 1623
Fax: + 1 613 996 7941

Email: roch.carrier@nlc-bnc.ca WWW: <http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/index-e.html>