

CANADA

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA / BIBLIOTHÈQUE ET ARCHIVES CANADA

ROCH CARRIER – NATIONAL LIBRARIAN / ADMINISTRATEUR GENERAL

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2003 – 2004

LEGISLATION FOR LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA

Bill C8: An Act to establish the Library and Archives of Canada received Royal Assent on April 22, 2004. First introduced in May 2003, it has now been approved by both Houses of Parliament and awaits a final step, Proclamation. At the same time that Proclamation of the legislation occurs, the first Librarian and Archivist of Canada will be named. The text and Legislative Summary of the legislation is available at: <http://www.parl.gc.ca/37/3/parlbus/chambus/house/bills/summaries/c8-e.pdf>

TRANSFORMATION

The National Library and the National Archives have been working as one institution for some time through a common Management Board and an extensive Transformation process led by Assistant Deputy Minister, Andrée Delagrave. A major consultation process will be launched with the naming of the Librarian and Archivist of Canada. Over 100 organizations will be asked to respond to a consultation paper on strategic directions for the new institution. There has been extensive consultation and planning throughout the organization. A two day all staff meeting will be held in June.

REVISED REGULATIONS FOR LEGAL DEPOSIT

In line with new definitions and a modernization of legislative language in C-8, new Regulations have been drafted. They have been the subject of a pre-consultation with selected publishers and will be posted in the Canada Gazette in the near future for a more formal review. There are a number of changes to update the language used in the Regulations but more importantly to set out requirements in the on-line environment. It is intended to move on extending legal deposit to maps which were previously collected by the National Archives and to on-line publications.

E-PUBLICATIONS / E-RECORDS / FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WEBSITES

Library and Archives Canada (LAC) is continuing to build a major collection of Canadian on-line publications. By the end of March, 2004 over 12,000 on-line electronic publications have been acquired for the collection. At the same time, the federal government is supporting the notion that the electronic record will be the official record of government. Guidelines to publishers and to government departments have been issued to indicate preferred software for acquisitions purposes. LAC is also acquiring significant federal government web sites including the extensive website of the former Prime Minister, Jean Chrétien, who left office in December 2003 and a major Royal Commission on the future of health care.

PORTRAIT GALLERY OF CANADA

Planning is continuing for the establishment of the Portrait Gallery of Canada in a prominent location across from Canada's Parliament Buildings. This LAC program will convert and add to an existing building and is expected to open to the public in 2006.

THESES CANADA PORTAL

The LAC program to acquire, catalogue and publish theses accepted at Canadian universities (over 230,000 to date) has been reviewed and enhanced with a new Theses Canada Portal. There is now free access to 45,000 digitized Canadian theses in PDF format.

VIRTUAL REFERENCE CANADA (VRC)

A major LAC initiative continues to move forward with significant promotion at conferences and the launch of Release 6 of the VRC application in May. This Release has enhanced functionality for follow-up, geographic coding, statistical reporting as well as supporting a major push to include the archival community.

MIKAN / AMICAN

Many of the collection holdings of the National Archives of Canada are now available through MIKAN, a major systems initiative, launched in 2003. This system was built on the existing AMICUS software and functionality of the National Library. An important next step is being developed for the merger of the two systems to AMICAN.

NATIONAL HUMAN RESOURCES STUDY

LAC has been supporting a national study of human resource needs and challenges for the library, archival and museum communities in Canada. The project, lead by the University of Alberta, has undertaken a major literature review followed by extensive surveying. A draft report is available at: <http://www.cdncouncilarchives.ca/events/summit.html> .

CONFERENCES

Over the last year, the LAC organized several major conferences to lead national discussions in a variety of areas. An international conference on Canadian children's literature was held in June 2003. In September the LAC co-sponsored a major symposium called Preservation of Electronic Records: New Knowledge and Decision –making with the Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI) and the Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN). Lastly in October 2003, a national conference on Metadata was held at the LAC.

Electronic Clearinghouse for Alternate Format Production

Through its Council on Access to Information for Print-Disabled Canadians, LAC is leading the development of an Electronic Clearinghouse for Alternate Format Production. Through this mechanism, publishers will make their electronic files quickly and securely available to alternate format producers, significantly reducing the time delay for the provision of material to the print disabled. See: <http://www.collections.canada.ca/accessinfo/s36-205-e.html>

SCHOOL LIBRARY STATISTICS

LAC has worked with Statistics Canada to undertake a census survey of school libraries throughout Canada. The survey was conducted in the fall of 2003 and the analyzed results are expected to be available in the fall of 2004. Data were collected from all types of schools below the tertiary level of education. This will be the first comprehensive survey of school libraries in Canada and will provide a critical benchmark for studying the status of school libraries in the country. Statistics Canada is Canada's national statistics organization.