

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2005

Canada

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Canada's Newest Knowledge Institution

On May 21, 2004, the Library and Archives of Canada Act was proclaimed and the institution officially became Library and Archives Canada (LAC). A new integrated organizational structure was put in place on June 21, 2004, and in September, Ian E. Wilson was formally appointed Librarian and Archivist of Canada.

Canada is the first large country to fully integrate all of the functions of its national library and national archives. In addition, the new institution has a museum mandate through the Portrait Gallery of Canada. LAC's goal is to build a new kind of knowledge institution that will provide Canadians with the documentary resources necessary to foster learning, innovation and growth. Integration of staff, programs, and services is going well. However, this will be a multi-year endeavour.

In 2004, we launched four catalytic initiatives which were identified as key to the future of the new LAC. They are "catalytic" because they involve rethinking work processes and services. The initiatives cover digital collections, metadata strategy, service delivery transformation, and the integration of LAC's core business systems (AMICAN).

The Digital Collection Initiative will streamline and enhance the acquisition, management, preservation and accessibility of Canada's digital documentary heritage.

The Metadata Initiative will improve access to content and services for users. The Service Delivery Transformation Initiative looks at ways to provide seamless, efficient, multi-channel access to LAC services and content. AMICAN is an integrated system to support the intellectual and physical management of, and access to, all LAC holdings.

The Council of Federal Libraries and the CFL Consortium

The Council of Federal Libraries (CFL) is an organization of federal government libraries established in 1976 by the, then, National Librarian of Canada as a means of coordinating library services in departments, branches and agencies of the Government of Canada.

The Council recognizes two interdependent factors:

- the leading role of the Library and Archives Canada in coordinating and supporting access to Canada's published heritage, resource sharing and library development among Canadian libraries, and
- the need for cooperation and concerted action within the community of federal libraries across Canada.

The Council's purpose is to improve the utilization of federal library resources and facilities through coordination and sharing of resources; to advise the Librarian and Archivist of Canada on matters related to library services and access to information within the federal government; and to promote communication, cooperation and professional development among federal library staff. The Council also serves as a forum for discussion of federal library, information and information technology policies, programs and procedures to inform the Government of Canada. A major goal

of the Council is to promote the most cost-effective and efficient information services possible to the staff of parent agencies, other government agencies and the nation at large.

Fundamental changes in the global environment and rapid progress in technology are precipitating major changes to the functioning of Government of Canada Library services. Library and Archives Canada, in consultation with Federal libraries and the CFL, is working to develop a strategy to transform library services to meet both current and future needs of Government users.

The CFL Consortium was established in 1995 to use the collective purchasing potential of government libraries to realize cost savings for its members in the acquisition of goods and services, and promote the development of new and improved information products. The Consortium is made up of those CFL libraries which pay a membership fee and share costs for certain products and services while enjoying reductions on the costs of others. It has a mandate to make information resources available to all libraries despite their size, allowing for the smallest government libraries to gain access to information products through joint purchasing. A shared library of electronic books, for example, is made affordable through a tiered pricing model. The Consortium works with the CFL to bring attention to new technologies and trends and by offering vendor seminars open to members and is expanding services to include licencing of electronic resources across departmental boundaries.

In 2005-2006 the Consortium has received funding to act as a coordinator of a site licencing project for electronic resources across the Government of Canada. Working with member libraries in subject based clusters the CFL Consortium will create a proposal for a working model that can be implemented by the Government of Canada via the CFL infrastructure in place to give access to information resources to all Public Servants who need them.

Portrait Gallery On March 23, 2005, the new concept designs for the Portrait Gallery of Canada were announced by the Minister of Canadian Heritage, the Honourable Liza Frulla, and the Minister of Public Works and Government Services, the Honourable Scott Brison. Opening late in 2007, the Portrait Gallery's exhibitions and public programming will be housed in a graceful Beaux-arts heritage structure at 100 Wellington Street opposite the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa. Formerly the American embassy, the building will be transformed into a gallery welcoming some 250,000 visitors annually through a major restoration and the addition of a state-of-the-art modern wing, as designed by the partnership of Dixon.Jones/Teeple/Cole Architects. The Portrait Gallery of Canada is a programme of Library and Archives Canada (LAC), and the major portrait collection gathered by LAC over more than one hundred years will form the foundation for the activities of the Gallery. The Gallery itself has a unique mandate to focus on the men and women from all walks of life who have helped to build our country and who continue to build it. Hence, in addition to the great names from our history books, it will represent Canadians from all parts of society, because these individuals, too, have made uniquely diverse and irreplaceable contributions to our country.

Legal Deposit of Publications Regulations The legislation creating Library and Archives Canada modernized the language with respect to legal deposit to permit extending coverage to Internet publications. The text of new Regulations has been completed and is awaiting posting in the Canada Gazette for review. Once this regulatory process is completed, the new Regulations will come into effect January 1, 2007. At that time it is intended to extend legal deposit to maps and to Internet publications.

Internet Publications / Websites

At the end of March 2005 over 15,000 Internet publications had been acquired, archived and catalogued in AMICUS, the national bibliographic database. Library and Archives Canada (LAC) is continuing to build a major collection of Canadian on-line publications. While preparations for an extension of legal deposit to these materials are well underway the current processes of negotiation with publishers for the archiving of each title continues. Over the past year LAC also continued to acquire, archive and describe some major federal government and non-government web sites. There continues to be heavy use made of LAC's Canadian Information By Subject that describes some 8,000 websites of Canadian interest.

Canadian Theses

In the 2004-2005 fiscal year, the over 45,000 Canadian theses available in electronic form on the Theses Canada Portal were indexed, making them full-text searchable. Building on the successful launch of the Portal, LAC built a data harvester and repository based on the OAI Protocol for Metadata Harvesting and conducted a pilot project to harvest both metadata and electronic theses from four Canadian universities. The harvesting program is expected to be available to other universities in the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

Benchmarking

With the assistance of consultants from McGill University, the Published Heritage Branch of LAC undertook a benchmarking survey with 8 other national libraries. This internal survey was structured around a series of questions on acquisitions (including legal deposit), cataloguing, national bibliography and innovation including policies, practices and resource levels.

School Library Statistics LAC worked with Statistics Canada in undertaking a census survey of school libraries throughout Canada. The survey was conducted in the autumn of 2003 and the analyzed results were made available in spring 2005. Data were collected from all types of schools below the tertiary level of education. This is the first comprehensive survey of school libraries in Canada and provides critical benchmark for studying the status of school libraries in the country. Statistics Canada is Canada's national statistics organization.

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