

# CANADA

## LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA

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ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2007

### STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

In 2006, Library and Archives Canada adopted a new Strategic Framework that sets out how we will rebalance our activities in light of our changing environments. Our five corporate priorities state that LAC will:

- Adjust all aspects of its activities to adapt to the needs and benefit from the opportunities of the digital information environment;
- Increase the relevance and accessibility of LAC collections and expertise to Canadians outside Canada's Capital Region;
- Focus its role in Government of Canada information management on the development of effective recordkeeping;
- Make systematic use of collaborative arrangements and increasingly deliver on its mandate through or with others; and
- Ensure citizen/client research and evaluation results are built into management decision making.

LAC is building a new business model which will change the way we work and align our resources so that we generate the key results we wish to achieve for Canadians.

### AMICAN AND THE TRUSTED DIGITAL REPOSITORY

One of the most exciting developments to emerge from LAC's transformation is a system we call AMICAN, designed to support the intellectual, digital, and physical management of and access to all LAC holdings. Ultimately, our clients will have a single point of access to everything in our collection. Through AMICAN we will create a simple search interface that will give users seamless, integrated access not only to LAC holdings in a variety of media, but to the collections of our partners across the country.

The pilot project for this feature has already won the silver medal of distinction from GTEC (Government Technology Exhibition Conference) for excellence and innovation in enabling and managing e-government in the public sector.

### DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

New legal deposit regulations came into force in January 2007. For the first time, cartographic materials and online publications are subject to legal deposit.

Library and Archives Canada is building a 'virtual loading dock' to support the automated transfer of electronic documents from publishers and allow us to meet our legislated mandate.

## **HARVESTING OF WEBSITES**

Library and Archives Canada is a leader in harvesting Canadian websites. To date, LAC has harvested the Canadian Federal Government web presence and the provincial and territorial government web presence once. Nearly 100 million digital objects were captured in the two harvests of the Federal Government domain, and, 18.7 million digital objects were captured in the provincial and territorial harvest. In future, LAC intends to provide open access via the Internet to the Federal Government portion of this collection.

## **A TRULY NATIONAL INSTITUTION**

LAC's collections, services, and public programs must reflect Canada's geographic, linguistic and cultural diversity. Part of our role involves working closely with library and archival networks across Canada to make our documentary heritage better known and appreciated in all parts of the country.

In this context LAC is developing a number of collaborative national strategies designed to provide leadership in the achievement of national goals, including strategies that will support the information needs of our Aboriginal and multicultural communities.

## **CANADIAN DIGITAL INFORMATION STRATEGY**

The Canadian Digital Information Strategy (CDIS) aims to develop a national digital information infrastructure to support the creation, management, preservation, access and use of Canadian digital information by raising and facilitating discussion of the issues and advancing concrete initiatives. A series of national consultations culminated in a National Summit in December 2006. Library and Archives Canada is now working with its partners in different jurisdictions and sectors to pursue the strategy development phase. (<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/cdis/012033-601-e.html>)

## **A PRIME LEARNING DESTINATION**

Our documentary heritage relates the stories of the Canadian experience and reflects our identity and our achievements as a nation. LAC is currently developing the framework for an expanded Learning Centre which will offer teachers and students the chance to discover the primary documents, voices and stories that illuminate our collective history.

## **A LEAD IN GOVERNMENT INFORMATION MANAGEMENT**

One of our most fundamental roles is to support the management of Government of Canada records so that the decisions, deliberations and day-to-day operations of a dynamic federal system are preserved. We are developing a government-wide policy on Information Management to ensure that government records of ongoing business and long-term archival value will be kept and managed in ways that make it easy to find them, and catalogued, organised and stored in cost-effective ways.

## **MAKING DIGITISATION A PRIORITY**

In 2005-2006, LAC digitised more than two million images and the demand for digitised materials grows daily. In 2006, users viewed 194 million digital objects through the LAC website, a 281% increase from 2004.

The digitisation of materials in our collection is an excellent way of making our collection known both within and beyond our borders, and we currently maintain more than 100 virtual exhibitions on our website. Many of these lead into detailed databases for research in depth. As a result of our expertise in this burgeoning field, Library and Archives Canada is also in considerable demand to participate in national and international partnerships to digitise library and archival materials. We recently signed an agreement with the National Archives of Ireland to digitise their census records. We have also held talks with Google Scholar to discuss access to our national union catalogue and to our e-theses holdings. In 2006, LAC launched several new sites featuring some of the best of our heritage.

- In partnership with the Canadian Intellectual Property Office we launched 'Made in Canada', featuring a searchable database of some 14,000 digitised images of Canadian patents. (<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/innovations/index-e.html> )
- Codex Canadianis brings home the digital version of one of the earliest manuscripts about Canada. Created in 1700, the Codex is a 79 page manuscript beautifully illustrated with drawings and watercolors featuring First Nations people, landscapes, flora and fauna of the New World. The manuscript is in the custody of the Gilgrease Museum in Tulsa, Oklahoma - our partners in bringing this important piece of our heritage to Canadians. (<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/codex/index-e.html> )
- A long awaited and highly praised site features our Aboriginal Documentary Heritage - including photographic and manuscript records of Aboriginal peoples from 1872 to the 1950s; 'Treaties, Surrenders and Agreements'; and an extensive section on Aboriginal soldiers during World War One. (<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/aboriginal-heritage/index-e.html#start> )
- LAC digitised the 1911 Canadian census records and posted them online, accounting for an average of nine downloads a second from that site. (<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/1911/index-e.html> )

## IFLA 2008 IN QUEBEC CITY

Library and Archives Canada is supporting preparations for the 2008 IFLA World Library and Information Congress, and we are pleased to be your host for the CDNL meeting next year. We look forward to welcoming you all to Quebec City.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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