

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2009

Name of Country: *Canada*

Name of Library: *Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec*

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1. General overview

In 2008-2009, Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BAnQ) entered a repositioning phase influenced by two significant facts:

- After ten years of intense development punctuated by two institutional mergers, the assertion of its provincial presence and the substantial expansion of its mission as virtual library, BAnQ proceeded to further consolidate its achievements;
- Due to the economic downturn and budgetary restrictions, current or upcoming, resources and expertise must now be shared between all cultural actors as networking becomes essential.

Consequently, BAnQ chose to put its institutional maturity at the service of solidarity and cooperation by prioritising its commitment toward three bodies of exchange and collaboration: Québec libraries; digital cultural heritage communities; and heritage libraries of the French-speaking world

- ❖ Mandated by the *Ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine* to preside over the *Table de concertation des bibliothèques québécoises* committee, BAnQ pioneered, in collaboration with the library and archives community participants sitting on the committee, concrete initiatives with positive outcome for the community: creation of the *Catalogue collectif des bibliothèques du Québec* that brings together close to 90 catalogues representing almost 1000 user service points; and implementation of a one-stop document processing service that will ensure the streamlining of bibliographic entry production and guarantee free access for all.
- ❖ A firm believer in the pivotal role of digitisation in the expression of genuine cultural diversity, BAnQ has campaigned for the implementation of a digital cultural network, in partnership with the *Société des musées québécois*. In the light of the convincing results of the *Enquête sur l'état des lieux de la numérisation au Québec* survey, the institution undertook to bring together the major Québec library science, archival and museum institutions in a permanent cooperative body to draw up an action plan that will be tabled before the government in the next few months.
- ❖ In October 2008, the Web portal of the *Réseau francophone des bibliothèques nationales numériques*, produced by BAnQ, was officially launched at the 12th *Sommet de la Francophonie* in Québec City. To date, the portal features 94 collections from 100 countries consisting of five categories of documents (newspapers, magazines, books, archival fonds and maps). To efficiently enrich the *Réseau*, its members, actively backed by the *Organisation internationale de la Francophonie*, set out to complete field assignments in libraries of developing countries eager to develop digitisation projects. The first of these missions was carried out by BAnQ in June of this year at the *Bibliothèque haïtienne des Pères du Saint-Esprit*.