

Canada in the Making Project – Update

by Beth Stover, Bibliographic Research Coordinator, and William Wueppelmann, Electronic Systems Specialist.

CIHM has been receiving a number of e-mails lately from researchers interested in knowing what stage we are at with the scanning of official publications. We thought this would be a good opportunity to update everyone on our progress.

CIHM is currently four and one-half years into this six year project and everything is progressing on schedule. There are now over 1 million pages of pre-1900 government publications available for full-text searching on ECO.

Our users may be interested in hearing that in the Collection Descriptions part of ECO, we have recently expanded the description of the **Early Official Publications** http://www.canadiana.org/eco/english/collection_govdocs.html; project.

We have now detailed the major types of government publications that can be found in ECO, outlining what time periods and jurisdictions are covered. As well, we have added information on the background of the project, summarizing how the collection development policy was created.

During the first three years of the Official Publications project we have concentrated on the digitization of pre-1867 materials. For this time period, we currently have digitized approximately 6500 (or 95%) of the monograph titles selected and close to 1300 (or 85%) of the serial issues selected. We hope to digitize the remaining pre-1867 titles by early next year. Many of these “missing” titles were published in the Maritimes and we now have a Halifax researcher - Jessica MacLennan - busily trying to find locations for these elusive titles.

For the most part, we have spent the last 18 months concentrating on titles for the 1867-1900 time period. At present, there are over 1300 monograph titles and over 500 (or 40%) of the serial issues selected for this period digitized. Please consult the **New Titles** section

of ECO frequently <http://www.canadiana.org/eco/english/index.html>, as over the next 18 months, we will be regularly adding major serial titles such as the English Sessional Papers, the Senate and House of Commons Debates and Journals, the Statutes of Canada and 1st reading federal bills.

As well, over the next eighteen months, a number of new features will be added to the ECO user interface. These are expected to include an improved interface for browsing the collection, the availability and display of extended bibliographic information, the ability to view and navigate all issues held for a particular series or serial, and some additional searching and navigation options.

All in all, the next eighteen months looks to be very exciting, with lots of new materials being added regularly, and changes being made to the ECO interface that will be of great assistance to researchers.

Evaluation of the revised CITM site, Phase III

CIHM will be making a second effort this fall to evaluate the *Canada in the Making* educational content developed last year, "Aboriginal Treaties and Relations". The first effort was made last spring, but failed due to a very poor response rate. This time several strategies are being employed in an effort to increase response rates. One hundred fifty schools across Canada have been sent an introductory letter informing them that they will be receiving a survey from CIHM and inviting them to participate. A \$5 gift certificate to Indigo-Chapters will be included with the surveys as a token of appreciation. Care has also been taken to inform potential participants of the nature and value of CIHM's online resources and the importance of their assistance in demonstrating the value of those resources to funding bodies.

Should any teachers not included on the mailing list wish to participate in the survey, it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact CIHM for an electronic version or visit the *Canada in the Making* Web site at:

http://www.canadiana.org/citm/index_e.html#evaluation

CIHM would like to be able to provide a similar token of appreciation to all participants; however, the very limited funds available for this evaluation only allow us to send gift certificates to the first 50 participants not included on the mailing list discussed above.

A recent article by Ian Bron about the *Canada in the Making* learning resource appears in the Canadian Historical Association's *CHA Bulletin* Volume 30.2, 2004. Please visit :

<http://www.canadiana.org/eco/english/broncitm.pdf>.

CIHM welcomes the following new subscribers:

Oxford English Dictionary

Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI

Bibliothèque de l'Assemblée Nationale

Library and Archives Canada (LAC) consultation paper

Librarian and Archivist of Canada Ian Wilson recently released *Directions for Library and Archives Canada*, a consultation paper which invites “feedback that will help LAC connect with the expectations of partners, stakeholders, and Canadians in general. A summary of the comments will be posted on the Library and Archives Canada site in Fall 2004 ...”. CIHM, which has been involved in the Partnerships Review, will also be responding to this request for feedback.

CARL session 2 June 2004, Winnipeg

The Canadian Association of Research Libraries session titled: *Here today, gone tomorrow?*, which took place during the Congress, was primarily directed at scholars, hence the location. Their flyer included the following statement: *Please join us to explore the future of scholarly works.*

Keynote speaker was Clifford Lynch, Executive Director, Coalition for Networked Information. In *The Stewardship of digital scholarship* his focus was not on technology, but on policy and the taking of responsibility, mobilizing resources and applying them.

Brian Lavoie, OCLC Research Scientist, talked about *The “hows and whys” of preserving digital materials*. Key concerns are the exponential growth of digital information and the problems of fragile storage media, technological obsolescence and short shelf life. One project he focused on was the Camileon Project, which involves emulation.

Bruce Walton, Chief Electronic Records Development Division, LAC, talked about *Building a digital institution at LAC*.

Lucianne Duranti, Project Director InterPARES 2 Project, talked about *Lost in obsolescence: the future of digital documents*. The focus of this presentation was on authenticity regarding preservation copies of digital information.

David Moorman, Senior Policy Advisor, SSHRC and Charles Humphrey, Head, Data Library, University of Alberta, talked about the *Future of Canadian data archiving*.

CARL Research Associate Kathleen Shearer and Mark Jordan, Acting Coordinator of Library Systems, SFU, talked about the *CARL institutional repositories project*. More information about this can be found at: http://www.carl-abrc.ca/frames_index.htm. 21 out of 26 CARL libraries have in place or have started building IRs. There is a wide variety of content. Challenges are standards, preservation and funding commitment. CARL will hold a pre-conference session on this at the Access Conference in Halifax later this year.

Kathleen also talked briefly about the *CARL knowledge dissemination project*. More information about this can be found at: <http://www.kdstudy.ca/about.html>.

CARL plans to make the presentations available online. Check the CARL web site.

CIDL Open Meeting 3 June, Winnipeg

About thirty-five participants were involved in active discussions to determine the Canadian Initiative on Digital Libraries' next steps in developing a national digitization strategy. Before the discussions got underway, Leigh Swain, Manager of the Digital Library Taskforce, gave an update on Library and Archives Canada and Brian Bell, CIDL chair, summarized his paper *Digital Canada: toward a common information infrastructure for Canada* to set the tone for the meeting. Attendees were divided into several groups. Doug Langrell facilitated the session. In addition, there were presentations from three panel members: Brian Cantwell-Smith, Dean, Information Studies, University of Toronto; Liette Robert, Group Sales Coordinator, Marketing, Manitoba Museum; and Shauna McCabe, Senior Curator, Confederation Centre Art Gallery.

A key recommendation was to change CIDL's name, because it focused only on libraries. CIDL needs to include others involved in digitization, such as museums, archives, etc. A suggestion was to change "libraries" to "resources" and develop new terms of reference.

Some other recommendations: develop a communications plan to reach out to others involved in digital projects (including a web based survey to define stakeholders), develop partnerships and establish working groups (e.g. digital standards). The Steering Committee will begin following up on the recommendations, according to agreed priorities, in the coming months.

Digitization and Preservation

From: <http://www.arl.org/eneews/may04.html#1>

ARL Endorses Digitization as a Viable Preservation Reformatting Option under Some Circumstances

On May 5, ARL directors received an e-mail from Mary Case inviting feedback on a discussion paper prepared at the request of the ARL Preservation Committee: "Recognizing Digitization as a Preservation Reformatting Method." The ARL Preservation Committee, chaired by Bill Gosling (Michigan), believes that the overwhelming advantages of digitization for access, along with the emerging consensus around best practices, argue for support by the library community of digitization as a viable preservation reformatting strategy. The committee offered this document as a first step in building that community support and is committed to facilitating the development and implementation of policies, standards, and best practices where they do not currently exist. The draft was prepared on behalf of the committee by staff at the University of Chicago and the University of Michigan and benefited from the comments of a number of additional preservation staff and funding agency staff. ARL directors discussed the draft paper on May 12 at a briefing during the ARL Membership Meeting and also at the ARL Preservation Committee meeting. There was considerable support in these discussions that digitization is a viable preservation reformatting strategy for some, if not all, materials. There was also support for ARL to revise the discussion paper based on the comments received and to use it as a catalyst to encourage community use of standards and best practices in this area.

Based on these discussions, the ARL Board accepted the ARL Preservation Committee discussion paper and endorsed digitization as an acceptable preservation reformatting option under some circumstances. The Board agreed with the paper's recommendation that ARL take a leadership role in encouraging community acceptance and use of digitization standards and best practices and encouraged ARL staff to secure discussion paper endorsements from other organizations with allied objectives. For more information, contact Judith Matz, ARL Communications Officer, <judith@arl.org>.



New email extension for CIHM

Please note that our new email extension is: **@canadiana.org**

This replaces the former extensions: @nlc-bnc.ca and @lac-bac.gc.ca

CIHM's general email is now: **info@canadiana.org**

Upcoming Events

7-9 October 2004

L'Institut de l'histoire de l'Amérique française conference in Chicoutimi, Quebec. CIHM will have a booth in the exhibits area with Quebec Regional Researcher Christine Veilleux.

13-16 October 2004

Access Conference, Halifax. Electronic Systems Specialist William Wueppelmann will be attending the conference. CIHM Board Member Brian Bell, who is also Chair of the Canadian Initiative on Digital Libraries, will speak on "Digital Canada: toward a common information infrastructure for Canada". More information about the conference is available at <http://library.acadiau.ca/access2004/index.html>

23-26 October 2004

National Land Claims Research Workshop, Halifax. Cataloguing Coordinator Judi McNeil will do a presentation on materials in the Early Canadiana Research collection that relate to this topic.

25-27 October 2004

Association pour l'avancement des sciences et des techniques de la documentation (ASTED) conference, Québec. CIHM will have a booth in the exhibits area with Christine Veilleux.

3-5 February 2005

Ontario Library Association (OLA) conference, Toronto. Bibliographic Research Coordinator Beth Stover and Judi McNeil will be at the CIHM booth in the exhibits area.

Library and Archives Canada news

The Learning Centre was recently launched:

<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/education/index-e.html>;

The Genealogy Centre has undergone major improvements:

http://www.genealogy.gc.ca/index_e.html;

**The CIHM Bulletin is a bi-monthly electronic publication,
first issued October 2001 (Vol. 1, no. 1).**

Magdalene Albert, editor

If you have comments, questions, suggestions, or would like to receive previous editions, please contact us: info@canadiana.org.



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