

# CANADA

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF CANADA / BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE DU CANADA

ROCH CARRIER – NATIONAL LIBRARIAN / ADMINISTRATEUR GENERAL

## ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2002 – 2003

### CREATION OF THE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES OF CANADA

Legislation was introduced to Parliament in May to create the Library and Archives of Canada. The Government of Canada announced its intention last October to establish a new institution that combines the National Library and the National Archives. The Minister of Canadian Heritage indicated that it was her intention to create a world-class knowledge and preservation institution.

The legislation, available at [http://.parl.gc.ca/37/2/parlbus/chamus/house/bills/government/C-36/C-36\\_1/C](http://.parl.gc.ca/37/2/parlbus/chamus/house/bills/government/C-36/C-36_1/C), harmonizes the legislation for the two organizations as well as modernizing the language used. Definitions, for example, have been broadened to include online publications. There is a provision for the Library and Archives to harvest from the Web. The new institution will retain its status as a departmental agency that reports to Parliament through the Minister of Canadian Heritage. Draft Regulations for legal deposit are being prepared for discussion by the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage.

It is anticipated that the legislation will be approved and put into effect in the fall. In the interim there are a number of steps that have been taken to integrate and 'transform' the existing institutions. A common Management Board has been established chaired by the National Librarian and the National Archivist. An Assistant Deputy Minister has been appointed to lead the transformation process. A number of working groups have been established to examine many aspects of work including collection policies, services to the public and services to government, preservation, digital presence and strategic policy and planning. Some organizational responsibilities have been reviewed and integrated.

### LEGAL DEPOSIT OF ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

During the year Library staff worked in close collaboration with officials from Justice Canada and the Department of Canadian Heritage to work through changes in legislation and deposit regulations to permit the extension of legal deposit to online publications. While over 9200 Canadian online publications have been acquired for the Library's electronic collection each title has been acquired as a result of negotiations. A consultation paper was prepared to be discussed with a broader publisher community. The announcement of the creation of the Library and Archives of Canada overtook this work.

### CONSULTATION ON ONLINE NEWSPAPERS

An extensive consultation was held with online newspaper publishers in October 2002.

## **CANADIAN GENEALOGY CENTRE**

The Centre began operations in March 2003. The Centre is a web-based resource that enables researchers to access a large resource of pertinent source material. The Centre is a partnership between the National Archives and the National Library.

## **DIGITAL LIBRARY OF CANADA**

A number of large projects were launched in 2001-2002 including Canada, By Train, Early Images of Canada: Illustrations from the Rare Book Collection; Aboriginal Resources and Services, From Colony to Country: A Reader's Guide to Canadian Military History; and PIKA: Canadian Children's Literature Database.

## **AMICUS**

An increase in usage of some 42% over last year has been noted. AMICUS is a comprehensive database providing free access to more than 26 million records in hundreds of libraries across Canada.

## **GOVERNMENT ON-LINE AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY**

The Government of Canada's initiative is to make all programs and services available electronically to Canadians by 2005. During the past year the Library's GOL Task Force has launched a New Books Service, taken a leadership role in cross-government metadata development and implementation, and begun to act as the Government's registrar of controlled vocabularies.

## **VIRTUAL REFERENCE CANADA**

More than 180 members from all parts of Canada have joined this initiative that was formally launched in January. A virtual reference chat service is being tested. A special emphasis is being placed on the needs of archival institutions.

## **MASS DEACIDIFICATION**

The Library's in-house service has been replaced with two service contracts with the private sector. Since the establishment of the service over 1 million items were treated.

## **INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON CANADIAN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE**

A major conference has been organized for June 2003 to be complemented by a number of activities across the country including a national summer reading program for children and a series of storytelling events in First nations communities.

## **COUNCIL ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION FOR PRINT-DISABLED CANADIANS**

The Council's workplan, mandate and membership can be found at <http://nlc-bnc.ca/accessinfo/index-e.html>. The Council has developed a vision and implementation plan for a clearinghouse so that publishers' e-text masters could be made available to alternate-format producers. Approval in principle has also been given to develop a database of training and advocacy materials for print-disabled post-secondary students.

## **CULTURAL ACTIVITIES**

Recent digital exhibitions on trains and hockey have proven to be particularly popular with young people; an exhibit celebrating Aboriginal achievement forged new links with First Nation, Inuit and Metis communities. A travelling exhibit celebrating jazz artist Oscar Peterson opened at the Canadian Embassy in Washington to be followed by venues in France, Germany, Australia and Japan. "Our Favourite Things: 50 Years of Collecting for Canadians" is a major exhibit in celebration of the Library's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary which features 150 items selected from the Library's collections by current and former staff.

Address:  
395 Wellington Street  
Ottawa  
CANADA K1A 0N4

Tel: +1 613 996 1623  
Fax: +1 613 996 7941

E-mail: [roch.carrier@nlc-bnc.ca](mailto:roch.carrier@nlc-bnc.ca)

URL : www : <http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/index-e.html>