

APLA BULLETIN

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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS

ANNEE INTERNATIONALE DES PERSONNES HANDICAPEES



Survey of Atlantic Provinces Legislation with Respect to Disabled Persons

By LILIAS M. TOWARD

For a considerable time all provinces throughout Canada have recognized the needs of certain groups of handicapped persons, particularly the blind and mentally retarded, and have provided for their care and education by means of legislation. This may take the form of a specific act dealing with the particular handicap, e.g. The Blind Persons Act or The Blind Workmen's Compensation Act or it may be included in a general statute which enables a particular minister, usually the Minister of Welfare or Social Services although it might be the Ministers of Health or Education, to provide such services as he may deem necessary.

Most provinces have some form of legislation which enables the province to enter into an agreement with the government of Canada for the payment of an allowance to severely handicapped persons under the provisions of The Disabled Persons Act (Canada).

Early in the 1970s all provinces of Canada expressed their belief in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as proclaimed by the United Nations by enacting a Human Rights Act or Code, in which faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, and in the equal rights of men and women was reaffirmed. These acts are similar throughout the country and provide legal protection from discrimination in employment, housing, accommodation, services and facilities, publication, notices and signs, purchase of property and contracts on the basis of race, nationality, origin, political belief or family status. In these early human rights acts there was no specific provision for protection against discrimination on the grounds of physical handicap. It was not until 1977-78 that some provinces amended their Human Rights Act to make such a provision.

NEWFOUNDLAND

In 1978 Newfoundland enacted two additional acts dealing with disabled persons:

1. **The Rehabilitation Act** — Chapter 18 of the Acts of 1978. This Act provides that every disabled person ordinarily resident in Newfoundland is entitled to be provided with rehabilitation services which are supervised by the Director of Rehabilitation under the Minister of Rehabilitation and Recreation.

These services may include rehabilitation counselling, occupational diagnosis, guidance and advice, adjustment services, occupational training and maintenance. The maintenance and travel allowance may include an allowance for the disabled person's guide or escort to enable the disabled person to derive the full benefit of vocational rehabilitation services provided by the Act.

Under the provisions of this act a grant or loan may be obtained by the disabled

person for medical or psychiatric examination and for medical, surgical or psychiatric treatment when such services or treatment may be expected, within a reasonable time, to eliminate or reduce the impairment.

This act provides for an Appeal Board to which the disabled person affected by a decision of the director may appeal. The decision of the Appeal Board is final.

2. **The Building Accessibility Act** — Chapter 74 of the Acts of 1978.

This act requires that certain public buildings and apartment-type buildings in the province be constructed in such a manner that physically disabled persons will have entrances available for their use for lawful purposes as members of the public, and have access made available to facilities that are provided within the building for members of the public and within apartment-type buildings for the residents generally or the guests of residents. These facilities include ramps, elevators, washroom facilities identified by the international symbol of accessibility as prescribed, and telephones.

This act applies to all such buildings erected after December 31, 1978 and to similar type buildings which have been substantially reconstructed since that date.

Provision is made for a penalty clause for persons or corporations failing to comply with the act.

NOVA SCOTIA

Four further acts pertaining to disabled persons have been recently enacted in Nova Scotia.

1. **The Human Rights Act** was amended by Chapter 65 of the Acts of 1972 and further amended by Chapter 59 of the Acts of 1980.

As a result of these amendments an additional Section 11c was added stating that no person shall be discriminated against on the grounds of the age of the individual if the individual has attained the age of forty years and has not attained the age of sixty-five, or because of physical handicap which is defined as follows:

disability, infirmity, malformation or disfigurement which is caused by bodily injury, birth defect or illness and includes epilepsy and, but not limited to, any degree of paralysis, amputation, lack of physical coordination, blindness or visual impediment, deafness or hearing impediment, muteness or speech impediment or physical reliance on a seeing eye dog wheelchair or other remedial appliance or device.

In addition to the protection for disabled persons in the area of employment and employment opportunities, the amendments to the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act have extended the protection of the Act to the physically handicapped in the areas of accommodation, service and facilities.

2. **The Building Access Act** — Chapter 7 of the Acts of 1976. The Nova Scotia Act is similar in content to the Newfoundland

Act. It provides that public buildings and apartment buildings containing eight or more units which have been constructed on or after April 1, 1977 provide access for physically handicapped persons, elevators and washroom facilities. It is an earlier statute than the Newfoundland Act and does not contain any provision that a public telephone must be within reach of a disabled person nor is there any provision that such facilities must be provided in buildings which have been 'substantially reconstructed' as contained in the Newfoundland Act. A recent amendment to this Act provides that every bathroom or washroom doorway in buildings to which the Act applies which have been commenced on or after January 1st, 1980

shall be of a width of not less than thirty-two inches.

3. **Blind Persons' Rights Act** — Chapter 4 of the Acts of 1977. This Act provides that only blind people may use a white cane in any public place. It also provides that blind people are not to be denied accommodation; service or facilities in places to which the public is customarily admitted because they are blind and or because they are accompanied by a dog guide.

4. **Health Services Tax Act** — Chapter 126 R.S.N.S. 1967 as amended by Chapter 34 of the Acts of 1980.

There is no reference to disabled persons in the original act but in the 1980 amendment provision has been made for a tax rebate to a person with respect to a passenger vehicle, a truck having a load capacity not exceeding three-quarters of a ton or a van where that person is a disabled person and primarily uses the vehicle for his personal transportation. A similar tax rebate is granted on similar type vehicles with a device used primarily to enable wheelchairs to enter or leave the vehicle.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Their Human Rights Act was amended by Chapter 72 of the Acts of 1975 to provide specifically that there shall be no discrimination because of a physical handicap.

NEW BRUNSWICK

1. **The Human Rights Code** was amended to protect the rights of the physically disabled from discriminatory practices in the following areas: employment; membership in trade unions or employer's organizations; occupancy of commercial or dwelling units; sale of property; accommodation; services and facilities available in any place to which the public is customarily admitted.

2. **The White Cane Act** — Chapter W-8 of R.S. N.B. 1973 provides that no person not being blind shall carry a white cane in a public place.

This material was originally prepared for the Status of Women and Human Rights Committee of the Canadian Federation of University Women in Nov., 1980. Ed.

How the Blind

Cane or no cane, nothing left or right

to tap, here at the steep curb, how the blind

bear themselves: standing from the neck down

plumb as granite; how, in sheer necessity they

stand, their bearings lost, out

of every depth save courage,

perspective unavailable, not

knowing who is near them: how we

wait for some foreknown inflection or

a stranger's arm, for someone, anyone

God knows, any one to steer them.

"How the Blind" from AVAILABLE LIGHT by Phillip Booth. Copyright © 1974 by Phillip Booth. Reprinted by permission of Viking Penguin Inc.

Upcoming Event

August 10-13 (Monday-Thursday). Canadian American Librarianship; a conference sponsored by Folger Library, University of Maine at Orono. Topics include: Selection, acquisition, English and French resources, Franco-American programs, government publications. Panel discussions, exhibits, socials, banquet. Speakers include: Norman Horrocks, John Berry. Concurrent with an international conference on "The French Experience in North America." To be held in Orono, Maine. For further information, contact: Tom Patterson, Folger Library, University of Maine at Orono, Orono, Maine 04469. Tel.: (207) 581-2136.

From the President's Desk

As your new President I look forward to an exciting year ahead. APLA is an

Association of dedicated people. Last year's Executive, committee convenors

and members are to be congratulated for performing so well in their various

capacities. Special thanks should go to Ann Nevill (Past-President), Betty Sutherland (outgoing Treasurer), Christine Hayward (outgoing Secretary), Claude Potvin (outgoing Vice-President for New Brunswick), Bertha Higgins (outgoing Councillor for Aims and Objectives) Pamela Forsyth and Marion Kielly (Vice-

Presidents for Prince Edward Island for one year each). These people have served this Association well for periods from one to four years in their outgoing positions. This is also the time to tell the APLA Bulletin Editor and his Managing and Advertising Editors that they have done an excellent job over the past year. Your new Executive and their addresses, etc. appear below. We all look forward to hearing from you in the course of our term of office.

theme of discovering our own regional resources was very positive. It is nice to know we have such a wealth of information in the area. It also helped us to know each other and our collections a little better.

The 43rd Annual Conference of APLA will take place May 14-16, 1982 at Mount Allison University in Sackville, N.B. The theme will be PUBLIC RELATIONS AND TODAY'S ECONOMIC REALITIES. We will explore such topics as proving that libraries are important when applying for funds; library orientation and the role of media; how the staff deals with the public, etc. We plan to have sessions of interest to all types of libraries, and anyone interested or working in libraries. Trustees can really have a field day with this theme. Trustees are our greatest allies when it comes to public relations. Ted Phillips will convene the 1982 Local Arrangements Committee and Ruth Cunningham has agreed to convene the 1982 Program Committee. We would welcome your suggestions for speakers.

Thank you for the confidence you have placed in me and my Executive. I hope we serve you well. Barbara Eddy, President

The Editor's Diary

In an address before the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (C.N.I.B.) in Toronto on May 14, Monique Begin stated that "the National Library of Canada is trying to coordinate reading services across Canada and an interdepartmental committee on copyright is cleaning up legal tangles. The CRTC is urging cable operators to produce more programs for the disabled. The CBC, for its part, believes reading services are best at the local community level and is offering technical advice and where needed, its facilities to deliver the signal to a cable head. The readings could be available on local FM channels or cable facilities." As indicated, this talk was given to the C.N.I.B.; a similar impetus is taking place in other areas of disability. This consciousness raising is occurring amongst librarians and libraries as well. We hope that this issue reflects the activities and spirit in Atlantic Canada.

This issue contains several other items of interest including the merit award citation to Shirley B. Elliott. I first met Miss Elliott some years ago and have often sought her advice and her assistance, and we continue to work together on Acadiensis. Congratulations to Miss Elliott (Shirley) on an award well deserved!

We also include two conference reports. One deals with the conference on printing history in eastern Canada held in Halifax, March 1981. I understand that at least one informal meeting has taken place since that conference and hopefully some positive spinoffs will occur from these meetings. For starters see Lochhead and Elliott, "A Dictionary of Publishers, Printers, Booksellers, Stationers, etc. in the Atlantic Provinces, 1751-1900", Bibliographical Society of Canada. Papers 2(1963), pp. 82-83. The second conference report is on one of the sessions of the Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA)

in Halifax, which dealt with CBC materials. The CBC and the Public Archives of Nova Scotia are currently discussing arrangements for CBC materials. We can all attest to the fact that the CBC has some sort of music archives. We have all been treated to its holdings daily on the program, 'And Now For an Interlude of Music'.

We are also printing the A.P.L.A. brief to the Federal Cultural Review Committee. We strongly believe that briefs, position papers and other such documents of your association should be in your Bulletin. In the next issue, baring the continual mail strike, we will print the Wolfville A.P.L.A. resolutions.

Also planned for this issue were articles to deal with the new technology and the disabled and an update of the Wees report (Task Force on Library Service to the Handicapped, Report - Groupe de travail sur le service de bibliothèque aux handicapés, Rapport). The requested articles were to come from British Columbia. Perhaps the post office was giving a trial run on the then threatened strike for my letters were mailed on April 16 and only arrived in B.C. during the first week of June, just after the proposed deadline. We still hope to obtain the review of the Wees report of 1976 and an article on the Hub in Saint John's for a later issue.

The University of Toronto's Faculty of Library Science's library literature reading bulletin has just recommended an article which appeared in the Nov. 1980 issue of the Bulletin. This is the first time that an article has been cited from the Bulletin. The article was Peter S. Greig's 'So You Want to Index'. We have had the opportunity of printing two other articles by Peter, one on Atlantic Canada bibliography and one on book collecting. We hope to obtain future articles from Peter. Thanks again, Peter and congratulations from the editorial staff.

COMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM ANNUAL REPORT 1980-81

The past year was another quiet one for the committee. There were no reports of any major attempts at censorship in libraries in the region.

Their committee was able to meet only once during the year, at the Wolfville conference. Throughout the year, the membership for New Brunswick was vacant.

During the year, the selection policies for Nova Scotia academic libraries were gathered.

In accordance with the resolution of the Corner Brook Conference, a copy of the videotape message was donated to the CLA Intellectual Freedom Committee. CLA then asked that the means and costs of distributing the videotape to national television networks be investigated. This has been done.

Two items were received from the CLA Intellectual Freedom Committee. One was a brief on the legal aspects of intellectual freedom in libraries. This is a summary of a presentation given at the Vancouver conference in 1980. The other item contained information on how to deal with censorship in libraries.

Andrew Poplawski, Convener

"Bulldog Clips" - (Addendum to Clip No. 18 "Supplies")

By ALICE W. HARRISON

We are pleased to inform our readers that the Crown Binding Service is once again serving as a supplier of "Materials for Conservation in Archives, Libraries, and Museums", their catalogue can be obtained by writing 18 Mill Street, Frankford, Ontario K0K 2C0.

Since the article was published in March

we have received the new catalogue 500 from Carr McLean Ltd. which includes a very good section on archival items on pages 91 through 97. This catalogue can be obtained by writing to them at 461 Horner Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M8W 4X2.

It should be noted that other library supply catalogues may carry archival items, individually listed in the index.

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APLA Bulletin

The APLA Bulletin is a bi-monthly organ of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association whose object is to promote library service throughout the provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland to serve the professional interests of librarians in the region and to serve as a focal point for all those in library services in the Atlantic Provinces, and to cooperate with library associations and other organizations on matters of mutual concern.

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MAILING ADDRESS

Typed manuscripts and advertising information regarding the Bulletin should be addressed to the appropriate editor c-o 53 William Street, Fredericton, N.B. E3A 4W7; other inquiries should be addressed to the appropriate officer c-o School of Library Service, Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S. B3H 4H8.

We're Not Perfect Yet!

By ELIZABETH HAMILTON

Estimates of the number of disabled persons in Canada vary: the Special Committee on the Disabled and the Handicapped put the figure at over two million Canadians (1); the National Building Code, Supplement Five, states that "One in every seven Canadians has an affinity associated with aging or permanent disability"; another source reminds us that if temporary disabilities, such as fractured limbs or pregnancy, are added to the tally, the figure of disabled persons in our society can be as high as 50 percent.² While not all of those people will require the resources of a university library, it still represents a significant group with specific requirements in terms of the architecture of the building, the services provided, and the nature of the collection, to carry out the theme of the International Year of Disabled Persons—"Full Participation and Equality". Nothing would please me more than to be able to write that the library system serving Saint Thomas University and the University of New Brunswick provides complete accessibility to disabled persons, that information is provided in a variety of formats to meet the course work of all disabled students, and that we are without equal in our provision of services to disabled persons. Unfortunately, however, we are not yet the Crane Library of Atlantic Canada. But awareness comes improvements.

The library system serving the University of New Brunswick and Saint Thomas University was provided with an opportunity to re-examine its facilities and services for disabled students last year, when one of the disabled students attending Saint Thomas University telephoned the library to ask questions regarding the accessibility of the library. This student, Rick Price, has proved an invaluable and patient resource person in exploring the problems and possible solutions regarding access for disabled students. As a result of his telephone call, the library set up a meeting between disabled students on campus and representatives of the library and of Saint Thomas University to explore services and physical accessibility. There was a lot to talk about.

The main library and its branch serves both Saint Thomas University and the University of New Brunswick. Over the past few years, Saint Thomas University has had approximately four or five disabled students each year enrolled in their programs. The layout of the STU campus is very easy to get around, as it is mainly on one level, and there is a ramp system enabling students to move easily between buildings. The University of New Brunswick is a much larger institution, and the buildings are spread over the side of a fairly steep hill; the University has had fewer disabled students over the past few years, averaging about two or three a year in the U.N.B. program. Winter presents particular hazards for anyone trying to navigate the campus in a wheelchair or on crutches; the ice and snow, combined with the steep hill, makes a trip to the library a major effort.

PHYSICAL ACCESS

Part of the theme of the International Year of Disabled Persons is "Full Participation". Among other things, full participation means complete accessibility, the ability to move freely in society without architectural barriers. When the Harriet Irving Library, the main library building, was designed in the mid-1960s, physical access for the disabled was not a predominant concern in the minds of either the architects or the library. As a result, there were several problems relating to physical access for which solutions had to be found.

The main entrance of the Harriet Irving Library is nice to look at, but a combination of a door step and heavy doors presents a formidable obstacle to a disabled person. Because of a heating

system for the terrace in front of the library, cutting the step away and/or installing a ramp presents considerable difficulties; even were that done, the doors themselves are difficult to open without a considerable amount of pressure. On examining the other access points to the building, it was apparent that the loading area near the parking lot was the only one which was suitable for wheelchair access. Designed to facilitate the movement of books and furniture, the loading area has a gently sloping ramp leading up to a platform, a level entrance, and a set of wide double doors. There is a door bell at that entrance, and during the day, there is someone handy to the area to open doors and offer assistance. In the evenings, the staff of the Circulation Department must be telephoned in advance to ensure that the doors will be unlocked.

Once in the building, there is a public elevator that serves all floors but the basement. A staff elevator gives access to the basement, which houses the newspaper collection, the reserve desk, and the microforms collection. Arrangements must be made with the Circulation-Reserve staff to bring the elevator down to the basement level; this is a very common routine, as staff use the same procedures in day to day work. A problem, as yet unresolved, occurs in the evening, when the connecting doors to these three areas are locked. If a disabled person is working with the microforms collection, there is no communications system to let the evening staff know when he/she is ready to leave, or is having difficulties with a reader, the film, or other such matters.

Another concern presented by the disabled students group was with washroom facilities within the building. When the library was designed, there was no provision in the building for washrooms in the public area with wheelchair access. Again, the building was examined to see if a solution could be found. And again, it was in the loading area that a single washroom was found which fit the requirements for wheelchair access. While the situation is certainly not ideal, in that the facilities are not strictly in the public area and therefore segregate the disabled person from the mainstream of activity, it does mean that a disabled student does not have to leave the premises to have access to basic human comforts.

In the past, one of the first problems encountered by a disabled student once inside the building was finding out what information was available in the library. The card catalogue in the Harriet Irving Library is of standard library design, which means that the top drawers are inaccessible from a wheelchair without assistance. While the card catalogue area is supervised by a Reference Department staff member who can assist the disabled person, a recent development in the library, the PHOENIX on-line catalogue system, should give greater independence to the disabled person in this area. The PHOENIX system is an interactive, on-line retrieval system, containing all the records created by the AAU-BNA project (approximately 72,000 records), and all the records created through the UTLAS system since January 1981. As well, PHOENIX allows access to over 100,000 records in the engineering field of study through a separate on-line file, Enlist. Anyone who has access to a computer terminal can find out what the library has by means of a simple query system which retrieves on keywords in the MARC record. There are terminals throughout the library building, in the branch libraries, and in other buildings on the campus—a total of over 300 terminals on campus. As well, the system can be accessed through the New Brunswick-Prince Edward Island Educational Computer Network or through the DATAPAC network. Although the items added to the library collection before the beginning of the AAU-BNA project will still have to be searched for in the card catalogue, the PHOENIX system should considerably increase accessibility to library resources

and help to reduce the number of trips necessary to find information for those that do have problems with the physical access to the building.

Discussions with the disabled students also brought out a number of inconveniences with the choice of furniture, positioning of facilities, and similar matters. The library has only a few areas that are carpeted; the Reference Department is one of these areas, and while the carpet is needed to muffle the discussions necessary in reference work, the students in wheelchairs pointed out that carpets do slow down their movements and decrease their manoeuvrability somewhat. While most of the carrels and tables are suitable for wheelchair use, there are a few tables housing reference tools that are too low for wheelchairs. The water fountains and public telephones are all at a standard height, as are the photocopying machines. If a new library building was under consideration today, there is no doubt that the design would provide for physical access to all; with a growing field of expertise in this area, it is infinitely easier to incorporate physical access features into the design of a building than to modify an existing structure.

The branch libraries in the library system have fewer access problems; once inside the building, the branch libraries are all on one level of their building, have entrances wide enough to allow a wheelchair to enter, and are accessible by elevator. Washrooms, telephones, water fountains, and other such facilities vary from building to building. With the exception of one building, the buildings housing the branch libraries are accessible through the main entrances. The exception is the Marshall D'Avery Hall, where the side entrance must be used.

SERVICES

While the best possible solution to library access for the disabled is to provide complete accessibility, it was recognized that library services would be important in compensating for the architectural problems of the library, its situation on a steep hill, and the snow, ice and wind of Canadian winters. Many of the services presently offered by the library can be used to good advantage by disabled students; other services only required slight modification to be of benefit. The Harriet Irving Library, for example, has stack supervisors on each floor during the day; their responsibilities include assisting library users in finding books when needed. As library users, disabled students therefore have a convenient source of aid; they are able to call upon these stack supervisors to help retrieve items on inaccessible shelves or render such aid as may be needed. In the evening and on weekends, the other members of the Circulation Staff take over this function as they move through the building in the course of their other responsibilities.

Another service which is routinely used by library users is the ability to renew books by mail, making a trip to the library for renewing materials unnecessary. The Circulation Desk provides forms for this, and unless the item is needed by someone else, the loan period can be extended as long as is necessary. The only problem in this area is those items which are on short-term loan and those items not usually subject to renewal, such as periodicals and reserve books. While a satisfactory arrangement has not been formalized, both the Registrar at Saint Thomas University and the library administration agree that something can be arranged so that no disabled student lacks the materials required for course work because of transportation or accessibility problems.

To aid in the problem of getting books from the library, especially in winter months, it seemed a logical move to have the library delivery van drop books off at the Saint Thomas administration building as well as the other branch libraries on its route. If a student has specific titles

required, the Circulation Department will pick them up and put them in campus mail for van delivery. The students at Saint Thomas can pick them up at the administration building, while students attending classes in other buildings on the campus can pick the books up at the nearest and most convenient branch library. The other departments in the library and in the branches that work in the public service areas have expressed a willingness to help out where they can; they have found that any suggestion or request, within reasonable grounds, is usually possible to fulfill. None of the staff members I spoke with had encountered a request yet that was beyond their capabilities. With reduced staffing in some areas, it is possible that limitations will have to be imposed in the future, but wherever possible, alternative arrangements will be made.

CONCLUSION

As a result of discussions with the disabled students group, the library has increased its awareness of the problems faced by disabled students in getting a university education. They have been extremely helpful in pointing out areas where improvements can be made, both in accessibility and in service. However, over the years, the majority of the disabled students who have attended either university have been paraplegics. This having been the case, the focus of attention for improvements in the library has been on physical accessibility for wheelchair students. Accessibility for the visually and/or hearing impaired has not yet been examined closely, and while the C.N.I.B. collection, housed in the York Regional Library, contains a variety of materials in a variety of formats, that library does not have large print, braille or cassette materials relating to university courses offered in its collection. There is still a lot of work to be done to make it possible for everyone to have access to and use of the library resources necessary for a university education.

Over the course of the next few months, we hope that we will have the opportunity of examining the needs of other disabilities and find some solutions to these needs. The library is planning to have a publication available for disabled students in September, and while it will be primarily prepared for paraplegic students, other access problems will be included as they are resolved. To further increase the awareness by library staff of the problems of the disabled, the Canadian Paraplegic Association, New Brunswick Division, has offered to help us plan a seminar on the disabled. We have not yet reached the point where we can say that full participation is possible for the disabled person, but with their help, we are working towards that goal.

As a final word, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to Rick Price, Mover and Shaker; to the staff of the Canadian Paraplegic Association, New Brunswick Division; to Larry Batt, Registrar of Saint Thomas University; and to the Office of the Dean of Students, University of New Brunswick, for their time, their suggestions, and their interest in the library and its ability to meet the needs of disabled students.

NOTES:

1. Canada. Parliament. House of Commons. Special Committee on the Disabled and the Handicapped. *Obstacles: Report of the Special Committee on the Disabled and the Handicapped*. Ottawa, 1981.

2. Kilment, Stephen A. *Into the Mainstream: a Syllabus for a Barrier Free Environment*. (Washington: Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare, 1975) as quoted in Wright, Kieth C. *Library and Information Services for Handicapped Individuals*. Littleton, Colorado: Libraries Unlimited, 1979: 116.

The Intrinsic Key

By FLORA DELL

Since the United Nations' General Assembly proclaimed 1981 International Year of Disabled Persons, newspapers, magazines and the media have published personal histories of disabled people informing the public of the different types of disabilities, how it has affected the life of the person concerned, their family and the community in which they live. Stories of courage, achievement and the capability of disabled people have been written to such a degree that ordinary people have been moved to support, contribute and publicly acclaim their attributes and display of inspirational uniqueness. We are justly proud of the disabled populace and we can all relate to that kind of feeling, we are comfortable, and we applaud.

The public, you and I, are saying we want to do something more for disabled people and then we add "especially this year". Something, no doubt, that will be personally satisfying and gratifying to ourselves. We erroneously continue to think of people with disabilities in terms of a group of people, we label them as "the blind", "the deaf" or "the handicapped" in such a way that it sets the disabled people apart, relegating them into a

community that segregates them from the rest of the populace. It creates a wall, a barrier or an obstacle between us, as surely as though it were made of concrete, and thus, inadvertently, "we" become "their handicap".

We unthinkingly plan buildings, events and things for people with disabilities without first consulting the disabled people themselves and later wonder why a facility wasn't used as often as desired, or an event was termed as unsuccessful. How can we design, create and plan for someone or something when we really do not know what it is "to be" that person! We fail because we do not understand the feelings, the frustrations or the desires of the people we want most to accommodate. Unfortunately for all concerned, we do not consider the most important factor—"the person"—often in our efforts we do not see the person at all, just the disability. We sometimes forget to include the components and characteristics so necessary for independence, orientation and dignity, or to provide an ambience that would do away with intimidation. How can we feel then, that we are furthering the human rights of all people when we ask someone to share our experiences and activities in a world that is built and designed for those who are non-disabled. We say in effect

"come share with us but on our own terms" forgetting that perhaps now, this international year, persons with disabilities have terms of their own and we are unjustly preventing "full participation and equality" from becoming a reality and thus defeating the purpose of the United Nations theme for the year.

The things we do wrong are not intentional, and there has been well meaning and conscientious effort on the part of many people to change things, but that will no longer suffice, nor will it fulfill the needs of all people, we must be more cognisant of the fact that the culture of the disabled person is changing, culture referring to the fineness of feelings, thoughts, tastes, changing customs, development of the mind, education and training. It is no longer factual that a disabled person is considered or considers himself as a second rate citizen, as was once the case. Disabled people all over the world are enjoying a coming of age, they are comfortable with the awareness that all people are different and in that difference there are many similarities—based on those similarities and noting the differences of all people, disabled people know that special planning and development of our existing resources will be needed to meet the increasing needs of special groups, and they want to be a part of the design. We should clearly understand that it is not International Year FOR Disabled Persons but OF Disabled Persons.

People with disabilities have been learning to get along in a so called normal world for a long time. They have learned to accept us, just as we are, as different as we are, not as a whole group of "normal-non-disabled people"—that would be too overwhelming—but as individuals. We are accepted by people with disabilities for our "personhood".

There has been a concerted thrust by world bodies, such as Rehabilitation International, United Nations Planning

Assembly, the World Organization of Aging, etc., to educate, sensitize and to promote the need for services, activities and programs for all people, to be offered in the most dignified and appropriate manner possible, this movement motivated people with disabilities and special groups to eagerly anticipate the opportunity to join in, to use and to avail themselves of those programs and the equal opportunities we have been promising.

I had the opportunity of speaking with many people with different disabilities over the past months about libraries and their use. They suggested we invite a person who has concern, ability and knowledge of disability (could be a disabled person) to sit as a library board member as a beginning. It would have been an easy task to list the pros and cons of library use as disabled people reported, but that would refer to individual cases, when in fact the greatest desire expressed by all was that people do not want a shrine built in their honour in 1981, this international year, but rather bridges—bridges to span the obstacles, the barriers and the prejudices. They informed me that a person with a disability needs to be shown very clearly how to do the things that non-disabled persons can do, so they in turn can do them for themselves. Disabled people need things cut down to scale, made lighter for easy handling, a stronger light to read by, a flower with a strong scent, not necessarily visibly beautiful, placed near the talking books, a handle placed on the door instead of a hard-to-grasp knob, and most important of all, a quiet warm and kindly hellow, come on in—you're welcome here.

There is of course, a real need for removal of the physical and the environmental barriers, but we must think about the bridges we can build not only in 1981 but all through the decade of the 80s. Let "us" try to fulfill together the international year's theme.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Dartmouth Regional Library requires a Community Services Librarian, to be responsible for the overall direction of the Community Services Department. The successful applicant will be responsible for planning and organizing adult programming, public relations and supervision of publicity. The Department also coordinates the Library's Community and Outreach Services including one Book-mobile, Shut-In and Senior Citizens Services. Supervision of 3 full-time employees.

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APLA Brief to the Federal Cultural Policy Review Committee

Libraries are basic cultural institutions of prime importance to the cultural development and life of the nation.

1. Libraries provide services and information in support of writers, artists, performers, etc.

2. Libraries are "consumers" of the cultural product—books, periodicals, films, recordings.

3. Libraries are disseminators of the cultural product, providing a nationwide network for the distribution of the product, as well as information about it.

4. Libraries are the custodians and preservers of the nation's literary, historical and cultural heritage.

As expressed in the *Public Library Standards*, published by the Canadian Library Association in 1967,

"The library is a source of information, creative inspiration, and guidance for the intellectual growth of the individual." "The modern public library is a vital community resource and a basic social, cultural and educational agency."

Since any study of cultural and educational policy must concern itself with the supporting institutions, the Atlantic Provinces Library Association asks that this Federal Cultural Policy Review Committee consider seriously the importance of increased encouragement and support for libraries as an essential element in the improvement of the cultural policies and programs of the Federal government.

Areas of specific concern are:

1. Federal aid to libraries;
2. The National Library of Canada;
3. Canadian publishing and book distribution;
4. Libraries and computer and communications technology

I. FEDERAL AID TO LIBRARIES

Because traditionally they have been considered educational institutions, education being a provincial responsibility, libraries have not usually been eligible for direct federal aid. They have, however, taken advantage of some of the general federal programs such as Opportunities for Youth or Local Incentive Programs.

It is time to recognize that libraries of all kinds have much broader responsibilities than their educational function. Their contribution to the cultural, recreational and social life of the nation should be acknowledged.

Federal aid to libraries may be direct, in the form of grants for specific purposes, or indirect, in the form of services from the National Library of Canada, the Canada Council, or other federal agencies.

Recommendations regarding indirect

forms of aid are contained in following sections of this brief.

The general recommendation concerning direct aid is for the development of a mechanism for federal grants to libraries. Two types of grants should be considered.

1. Capital grants for new buildings or for expansion or improvement of existing facilities.

2. Grants for special projects, such as conversion of the catalogue of a special collection into machine readable form, so that the collection is accessible through the emerging computerized bibliographic networks. Special projects might include cooperative efforts of a number of libraries, such as a regional interlibrary delivery service.

II. THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF CANADA

The National Library recently published a report, *The Future of the National Library of Canada*. In general the Atlantic Provinces Library Association concurs with the recommendation that the National Library receive "additional human and financial resources to perform satisfactorily its statutory responsibilities."

The Association recommends that priority be given to the following:

1. Development of a decentralized nationwide bibliographic network to ensure the fullest sharing of information and library resources. This involves the development of standardized procedures to enable the various library systems with different computer equipment and programs to interchange bibliographic data. This utilization of modern technology would more efficiently fulfil the National Library's mandate (National Library Act, Section 7, 1, b) "to compile and maintain a national union catalogue in which the contents of the principal library collections throughout Canada may be listed."

2. Further development of the Multilingual Biblioservice, which provides a central collection of foreign language materials which are distributed through the nation's public library systems. More languages, larger collections and more central staff to administer and service the collection, are required to meet the needs of the ethnic minorities within the country.

3. Development of a centrally coordinated program of library services to the physically and visually handicapped in order to give the handicapped equal access to library service. Among services provided should be a union catalogue of special materials for the handicapped (e.g., recorded books for the blind) as well as an inventory of works in progress. Advisory services and the development and promotion of standards for facilities and services should also be provided.

4. Creation of a Public Library Development Office. The National Library's emphasis to date has been on services of greatest value to research libraries. There is an opportunity for it to provide better service to the ordinary citizen of Canada through an office devoted to the concerns of public libraries. Among the responsibilities of this office could be management and distribution of federal grants to public libraries and liaison between public libraries and the special services of the National Library.

III CANADIAN PUBLISHING AND BOOK DISTRIBUTION

The Atlantic Provinces Library Association recommends continued, but more coordinated, support for Canadian authors and publishers with the following specific recommendations.

1. Canada Council grants to authors and publishers should require that a portion of the grant go toward professional editorial and design assistance and on a national publicity program for the completed work.

2. The Canada Council policy of Canadian Book Kit Exchanges should be reviewed. It is suggested that, rather than gifts of preselected titles, grants be made to libraries for purchase of Canadian publications of their own selection. This would achieve the same purpose of wider exposure and increased sales, and eliminate the needless duplication of titles previously purchased by the library. These grants should be made in consultation with the appropriate provincial and local agencies rather than by-passing these established channels.

3. Regional publishers produce unique and valuable works. A coordinated national program for promotion of these works would encourage interchange on a nationwide basis, increasing the awareness of the uniqueness as well as the commonality of the various "regions" of Canada.

4. The Book and Periodical Development Council Task Force on Distribution should continue to study and make recommendations for improvement of the chaotic system of book distribution within Canada. The Task Force's recommendation for phased application of computer-communications technology to provide a national tele-ordering system should be implemented.

It must be recognized that Canadian libraries cannot fulfil their mandate by collecting only Canadian materials. The system for distribution of "foreign" books must provide access to publications from all countries at a reasonable cost while not creating unfair competition for Canadian publishers.

IV LIBRARIES AND TECHNOLOGY

Rapid advances in communications and computer technology offer libraries a tantalizing array of possibilities for improving present services and expanding into new areas. Combinations of these technologies already provide automated

cataloguing support systems and on-line information searches of data-bases thousands of miles from the library. It is possible to foresee a linkage of bibliographic systems to provide an on-line catalogue of the holdings of the nation's major libraries.

Another aspect of modern technology is the emerging videotext systems. Canada's Telidon system already has pilot projects providing access to a variety of information on the home television set. Libraries, as a result of their strong tradition of providing free access to information, are vitally concerned with the development of the data bases to be used with the Telidon system.

The Atlantic Provinces Library Association points out the following areas of concern:

1. Communications costs place an unfair burden on libraries in Atlantic and Western Canada. It is therefore recommended that through the National Library there be developed a mechanism for subsidization of communication costs so that libraries in all regions have equal access to bibliographic and information networks.

2. Since, in libraries across Canada, there is a great reserve of experience and expertise in the collection, organization and use of information, these resources should be drawn upon in developing and implementing Telidon. It is recommended that libraries of various types and sizes should be involved in the pilot projects being undertaken in various parts of the country.

SUMMARY

Libraries are of fundamental importance to the encouragement, creation, dissemination and preservation of Canadian culture. As such, they merit federal assistance in the form of direct aid and support services. The importance of providing such assistance in response to and in consultation with the appropriate provincial, local and institutional authorities must be emphasized. The Federal government has a strong role to play as catalyst, coordinator and facilitator but it must also provide a more substantive form of assistance in the form of grants for development and maintenance of facilities and services.

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Library Fire at Pictou

The Library was located in a new 3 storey building which accommodated several other businesses and offices. The Library opened in the late fall of last year and the official opening was held May 4, 1981.

Arson is believed to be the cause of the fire and although there was little actual fire damage to the Library, smoke and water damage was extensive.

The initial estimate of the loss is approximately one-third of the total collection, or 3,000 items. This includes hardcovers, paperbacks, magazines and

records. Through the insurance coverage, professional cleaners have been hired to clean the balance of the stock. We estimate this cleaning of soot and smoke deodorizing to be completed in another 2 weeks. Therefore, it is not until this is complete that we will know our total loss.

To date no specific plans have been made for the relocation or rebuilding of the Pictou Library. By the end of June one of the Bookmobiles will be providing temporary library service to Pictou.

—Received 10 June from Ann Green.



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Printing and Publishing in Eastern Canada, 1751-1900

By KAREN SMITH

A common interest in and a desire to learn more about early eastern Canadian printing and publishing attracted approximately forty participants to a workshop held at the Killam Library, Dalhousie University, March 13-14. The workshop, sponsored jointly by the Dalhousie School of Library Service and the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, provided a much needed forum for individuals concerned about the state of historical bibliography and the study of the publishing industry in eastern Canada.

After registration Friday evening, an informal reception provided participants with an opportunity to meet and to talk with the workshop guest speakers. The varied backgrounds of the academics, educators, librarians, archivists, book sellers, private collectors, book designers, and bibliographers present made private conversation very informative and interesting. A good rapport was established as similar interests quickly emerged.

An official welcome by Professor Douglas Lochhead, Mount Allison University, opened the Saturday sessions. Professor Lochhead pointed out that a great deal of important work in eastern Canadian bibliography remains to be done and that hopefully new initiative and inspiration would emerge as a result of the workshop. Professor Lochhead's optimistic remarks set the tone for the day's proceedings.

Mr. Lou Collins, civic historian and collector of Nova Scotiana, presented the first paper on early printers and printing in Nova Scotia. He ably traced the beginnings of printing from the first newspaper printed in Halifax in March 1752 to the 1823 printing of Thomas Haliburton's *Statistical and Historical Account of Nova Scotia*. Halifax imprints of the period 1786 to 1979 from Mr. Collins' private collection were placed on display to illustrate the quality of the work done in Halifax. Mr. Collins also noted a number of other accounts of Nova Scotia publishing.

IYDP Information

If you want information about IYDP activities in your own province, try contacting the following committees for IYDP:

NEW BRUNSWICK
New Brunswick Coordinating
Committee for IYDP
43 Brunswick Street,
Room 87,
Fredericton, New Brunswick
E3B 1G5
Tel: (506) 457-0215
Contact: Camille LeBlanc

NEWFOUNDLAND
Consumer Organization of
Disabled People of Labrador and
Newfoundland
c-o Irene McGinn,
Glovertown,
Bonavista Bay, Nfld.,
AOG 2L0
Tel: (709) 533-2351
Contact: Irene McGinn

NOVA SCOTIA
Nova Scotia Provincial
Committee IYDP
c-o Dept. of Social Services,
Box 696,
Halifax, Nova Scotia,
B3J 2T7
Tel: (902) 424-4303
Contact: Ross Thorpe

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
P.E.I. Special Committee for 1981
c-o P.E.I. Council of the
Disabled,
Box 2128,
Charlottetown, P.E.I.
C1A 7N7
Tel: (902) 892-9149
Contact: Kay Reynolds

Professor Lochhead's formal paper on nineteenth century maritime bibliography complimented Mr. Collins' presentation. Mr. Collins presented basically what we know and Professor Lochhead pointed out what we do not know, but should. The importance of retrieving and recording of information of almost everything put to type was stressed. Professor Lochhead went on to outline a number of possible bibliographical projects that should be done if maritimers are to do quality studies on their cultural and intellectual history.

A visit to the Public Archives of Nova Scotia, acquainted the group with the new archival facilities and allowed them to view first hand a number of representative rare Nova Scotia items. Mr. Hugh Taylor, Provincial Archivist, and Ms. Margaret Campbell guided the group through the archives and answered queries about the archives services and the items being examined.

After lunch the focus moved to early Ontario and Quebec printing and publishing. Dr. Patricia Fleming, University of Toronto Faculty of Library Science, presented a very detailed step by step procedure for researching and then compiling a pre-1840 Ontario-Quebec bibliography. Drawing upon her vast knowledge of all facets of the printing and publishing industry, Dr. Fleming covered such diverse topics as how to date type faces, nineteenth century advertising practices, and printers' unions. Not only did Dr. Fleming leave her audience with a good overview of pre-1840 Ontario-Quebec bibliography; she left them with many valuable research methods to apply to their own historical research of the printing and publishing industry.

Elizabeth Hulse, a librarian at the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto, carried the history of Ontario and Quebec printing and publishing industry up to 1900. After a brief summary of the methodology used, Ms. Hulse chose a representative year to illustrate the complexity of the printing and publishing industry. The year chosen was 1870; the city, Toronto. By briefly tracing the history of the printers listed in the 1870 city directory and commenting on the allied printing industries such as paper making, Ms. Hulse was able to present a clear picture of how a thriving printing and publishing industry is close to the economic, political, and cultural life of a centre.

After a brief break a medley of topics was introduced.

In an attempt to draw attention to lesser known but still valuable early printing Dr.

Charles Armour, Dalhousie University Archivist, spoke on the historical significance of nineteenth century printed business invoices. Many old invoices give the only surviving indication of the company's full name and address, include accurate engravings of the office buildings, list company officials, and occasionally give the invoice printer's name. Dr. Armour concluded his remarks by mentioning some other valuable printed items that should be preserved: posters, ads, price lists, catalogues and many other now rare forms of commercial printing.

The Nova Scotia Legislative Librarian, Shirley Elliott, presented a summary of government publishing in Nova Scotia before 1800. Ms. Elliott emphasized the historical value of pre-1800 Nova Scotian government documents. Often government publications are the only source for details relating to the province's political and social history.

Professor Robert Dawson, Dalhousie Department of English, presented a realistic view of the role of letterpress printing today. It is Professor Dawson's belief that the letterpress is destined to either quality private press work or a 'hobby club fate' as it is simply neither fast

nor efficient enough to compete against today's printing technology.

Nineteenth century Nova Scotiana is an invaluable source of historical information of value to scholars writing 19th century Nova Scotian studies. It must not be forgotten that the items also have a very real monetary value. John Townsend, owner of Schooner Books, brought this unavoidable point to the forefront in his overview of current prices for valuable Nova Scotiana. As the zeros multiply behind rare items, all collectors can take comfort in the fact that their purchases are preserving invaluable records of the province's printing and publishing.

Guided tours of the Dawson Room concluded the busy day. The Dawson Room, Killam Library, is a showcase for many of the printing presses used to produce the type of material discussed throughout the day. Thus tours of the Dawson Room were a fitting end of a very informative and inspiring workshop.

One of the purposes of the workshop was to initiate new research in the area. It is heartening to note that since the workshop a discussion group has already held one meeting to consider possible projects in the area of maritime bibliographical research.

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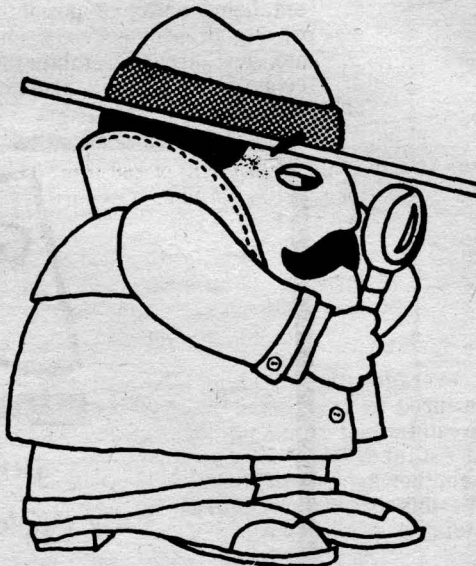


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Valerie Young exiting library.



COM catalogues provide bibliographic access for wheelchair patrons.



Valerie Young, tape library coordinator, gives a journal article to Rob Ganong.

Facilities for the Disabled at St. Mary's

By MARGO SCHENK

Saint Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia has a well-deserved reputation for its sensitivity to the needs of disabled students and for its attempts to meet their special requirements. Disabled students from the four Atlantic provinces attend this university in numbers greater than the combined enrollments of disabled students in all other universities in the region. Virtually all visually impaired university students in the region attend Saint Mary's University.

Because of numerous elevators, ramps and internal building links, the university is almost completely wheelchair accessible. The Patrick Power Library has also been planned to meet the special needs of the disabled.

The National Research Council of Canada Association Committee on the National Building Code issues building standards for the handicapped. In general, these guidelines consider such factors as width of doorways, ramp slopes, door weights, doorhandles, washroom size, and elevator standards in order to maximize the accessibility of public buildings. This examination of the Patrick Power Library with regard to accessibility for the handicapped is, of course, limited to only one particular environment. I hope that other librarians will investigate their own buildings in an endeavour to provide more accessible libraries in the future.

The Patrick Power Library has wheelchair access through the main front doors where there are no steps or raised thresholds. Since the door requires a moderate pull by a stationary handle 1 m from the floor, wheelchair patrons with average arm strength can enter unassisted. Although there are double doors, each side is wide enough for the average wheelchair of 660 mm. The exit, although it is through a security system with a light metal restraint, is manoeuvrable by patrons in wheelchairs.

Flooring in the library allows for ease of movement for handicapped people. The lobby floor is quarry tile, providing a smooth, non-slip surface. In the other areas of the library, such as the reference room, reserve reading room, and stack areas, the carpet is compact low-pile for free wheelchair movement.

The public elevator in the centre of the building allows the handicapped to use the three floors of the library. Elevator buttons are less than 1.52 metres high, and patrons in a wheelchair are therefore able to reach the elevator buttons to select the appropriate floor.

An important consideration in any public access building is the washroom facility. Yes, the Patrick Power Library has "all mod cons" but only the

washrooms on the main floor permit wheelchair access, and these were modified when it was discovered that they did not conform to Building Standards for the Handicapped.

For those with visual impairment, the Patrick Power Library offers a special service to university students in the Atlantic region. Volunteers read curriculum related journals or newspapers on demand. The co-ordinator of this service is Valerie Young, who posed for some of the photographs which accompany the text of this article. She is responsible for the liaison between volunteer readers and patrons. At the present time, the Community Tape Resource Library has a permanent collection of 200 titles, and a summer project, funded by the Secretary of State, is now underway to update and catalogue the resources of the library. One of the students employed on the project, Rob Ganong, also kindly consented to serve as a model to illustrate library facilities.

It is probable that libraries have a head start on other public buildings in providing access to the handicapped, since ramps and elevators are necessary in order to allow the free movement of booktrucks. Advances in library technology are providing wider accessibility; COM catalogues can be used by unassisted wheelchair patron, more material is being recorded on cassette tapes, and document delivery via an on-line terminal seems a possibility in the near future.

Both disabled and other library users often require assistance from staff at the Information Desk in order to gain access to a variety of information. In serving the disabled students, however, library staff must be sensitive to both the informational and physical needs of the patron.

"Full participation and equality" is the theme of the International Year of Disabled Persons. In order to achieve this goal libraries must have a physical environment which enables handicapped patrons as much accessibility as possible.

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APLA Merit Award 1981

Shirley's extensive knowledge of Nova Scotia history, government and legislation, and of the collection of the Legislative Library, has made her a widely recognized and highly regarded authority on these subjects. She has assisted librarians, researchers and students locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. Always willing, always interested, Shirley's contribution has often been acknowledged in the prefaces of scholarly and popular publications.

Her own publications—bibliographies and thoroughly researched books and articles—have done much to improve access to, and inspire interest in, the history of Nova Scotia and of the Atlantic region. At the National Conference on the State of Canadian Bibliography held in Vancouver in May of 1974 Shirley presented a paper entitled "A Regional Bibliography of the Atlantic Provinces".

As a result of her resourcefulness and persistence there is now an extensive program for the microfilming of Nova Scotia legislative documents.

She has initiated many indexing projects, e.g., the index to the Journals of the Legislative Assembly; the Status of Bills, a weekly report of the progression of legislation during each session, distributed to parliamentary and legal libraries across Canada.

When Shirley came to the Legislative Library in 1955, she began the long and arduous task of reorganizing and fully cataloguing that library—a major accomplishment.

Shirley has been an active member of national, regional and local library associations, serving on executives of CLA, APLA, HLA and the Bibliographical Society of Canada. She has been an enthusiastic committee worker and an initiator of projects. She was largely responsible for starting The Atlantic Provinces Checklist and served as editor from 1957-1965. She was first chairperson of the Alberta Letts Fellowship Committee (1974) and continued to serve on that committee until 1980.

PUBLICATIONS:
Editor, Atlantic Provinces Checklist (1957-1965).

Editor, Nova Scotia in Books, 1752-1967 (1967).

Member, editorial Board of Nova Scotia Historical Quarterly.

Regular column, "Novascotiana" in Journal of Education (N.S. Dept. of Education).

Bibliographies of current Nova Scotia monographs and articles for inclusion in each issue of Acadiensis.

Contributor to the Dictionary of Canadian Biography.

Province House (1966).
Nova Scotia Book of Days (1980).

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:
Member of Royal Commonwealth Society, Canadian Federation of University Women, IODE, Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia.

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS:
Acadia University, B.A. M.A., Simmons College, S.B. (Library Science).

HONOURS: Member of Senate of Acadia University, Honorary Librarian, Cambridge Military Library.



SHIRLEY B. ELLIOTT

NLC Services to the Handicapped; a Status Report

By J.E.T. REID

Planning for National Library Services to the visually and physically handicapped began in May 1975 as a result of a lengthy study by the National Library Task Group on Library Service to the Handicapped. The task group, in its thirty-six recommendations, envisaged the establishment of a coordinated national program of library service to handicapped members of the general public, with responsibility for the program shared among the national, provincial, and local levels of government, with private agencies and organizations working with the handicapped, as well as with organizations of the handicapped themselves.

Unfortunately, the planning for this service began at the same time that the government was undertaking a program of budget and staff cuts. As a consequence, it was not possible for the National Library to commit sufficient resources to this area. Mr. Ross Hotson was appointed to the Library staff in May, 1975 in order to begin planning for the service and established effective liaison with groups, libraries, producers of audio materials and governments; he built extensive files on services and he published a newsletter, Extension. However, it became apparent in 1978 that it would not be possible to provide Mr. Hotson with the required support staff and the National Librarian announced that planning for this service would be discontinued in March, 1979. In making the announcement, the National Librarian expressed his hope that such a program would be initiated again in the not too distant future.

Almost immediately, the National Library submitted requests to the Treasury Board for supplementary funding in order to mount a more modest program than that envisaged by the task

group. This smaller program would consist of the maintenance of a union registry of reading materials in production, a union catalogue of library materials for the visually and physically handicapped, a central reference, information and consultation service, and the maintenance of liaison among agencies across the country. No action had been taken on these requests by the time the National Library submitted a brief to the House of Commons Special Committee on the Disabled and the Handicapped, in September, 1980.

The National Library brief restated the proposal to establish the modest program as described above and emphasized the importance of establishing a National Library presence and program in this area.

Obstacles, the report of the House of Commons Committee was released in February, 1981. Recommendation 60 of the report urged "That the Federal Government direct the National Library to proceed immediately with a program to coordinate reading services for visually and print handicapped persons." The program to coordinate reading services outlined in Obstacles is essentially the same as that proposed by the National Library.

An ad hoc Interdepartmental Committee with representatives from over twenty departments and agencies, including the National Library, was struck to frame a government response to the report of the Special Committee. This response will go to the Cabinet and will lay the groundwork for government's response to and action on the report. It is not possible to predict what action will be forthcoming, but there is hope that the National Library will, at last, receive the resources necessary to establish a program for the visually and print handicapped in Canada.



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But Will a Wheelchair Fit?

By IAN WILSON

On Tuesday, October 14, 1980, a series of documents was signed by all Market Square funding partners. And that meant full steam ahead for construction planning of the new Saint John Free Public Library and Regional Library Headquarters. Board members and staff have had the opportunity this year to review several sets of plans and schematic drawings with library consultant, Albert Bowron and the project architect and the developer. Preliminary lists of furnishings and equipment, revised preliminary lists, stock projections figures, thoughts (nightmares) on moving are well underway and will naturally assume an increasingly major role in staff and board members' time as actual construction approaches.

The major impetus for the new library came in 1963 with the presentation of a 5-year plan of library service expansion by then regional librarian, the late Helen C. Cummings. The culmination of this presentation to City Council was to be the new Central Library and Regional Headquarters. Time passed, serious consultation continued, the Market Square concept evolved and the library came to be considered a vital component of this centre. For many years, the library board members have been determined that one present inadequacy which will be corrected is direct accessibility of new library service for disabled persons. Our library consultant, Albert Bowron (Information, Media and Library Planners) has been a tremendous asset in this as in all planning to date. From the beginning, he had assumed this concern from library trustees and staff and such accessibility has been at the forefront of many meetings. Further to this, we are advised by Derek Fletcher of the Rocca Group and project manager for the developer that we need not worry—many of our concerns are now assumptions for new buildings; particularly those involving government funds. Ray Affleck of Arcop Associates and project architect has also expressed strong viewpoints on the right of access for the disabled. This is most encouraging as he will also be responsible for the library's interior design. Such a combination of factors has created a receptive atmosphere for suggestions and ideas about accessibility for disabled persons. Nevertheless, our building committee and staff continue to assume as little as possible on the principle that since this is the second new public library to be constructed in a 200 year-old city, if we don't ask now there may not be another chance for 100 years.

As only one component of the Market Square Complex, our immediate concern must begin with the front entrance to the library. This front entrance, though, is well within the interior of Market Square's main building. The architect and developer have wrestled with the various possible approaches for disabled persons to enter the complex itself and have incorporated the results in schematic drawings.

A valuable assistance for us in these deliberations of accessibility for disabled persons occurred during a visit to a new library. It will eventually be several new libraries, but the first for us involved a trip to Portland Public Library, Maine. This particular city was chosen initially because of the many features comparable to Saint John City and surrounding metropolitan area. As we had hoped, it quickly became evident that much thought had been given to access for physically handicapped individuals and it was most helpful to inspect furniture items and review ideas with the cooperative Portland staff.

One immediate discovery was that card catalogue cabinets for the adult collection were at a height reachable from a seated position. Had I not thought of that because I think of the card catalogue more as a piece of machinery than furniture? At any rate, our automated book catalogue covers acquisitions only from 1977 onward and basically does not include special collections or music, so we have a decision to make for the card catalogues which will move with us.

Some decisions on facilities for the disabled are related to other policies. For example, one most common staff suggestion was to eliminate all public washrooms—notoriously prone to costly vandalism if not outright destruction. Only serious consideration of implications for children's programmes led to the inclusion of one set of public washrooms on the first of two floors. Wheelchair cubicles will be included there as well as in the staff washrooms (which were a foregone conclusion). Another policy involved the decision that one charge-out point would be used for all types of material and all age groups. With this in mind, much thought must be given to counter height arrangements, both for the disabled and for children.

Certain other decisions have fallen into place quite naturally. At one particular board committee meeting, the pros and cons of an escalator were discussed with the general consensus that it would be more dangerous than a flight of stairs for a person on crutches or with impaired vision. When this was mentioned to the developer we were advised that escalators are too expensive and we would not have one anyway. Similarly, a unanimous staff request was sent forward requesting windows that open. Thoughts then turned to public areas where the crank to open or to close a proportion of the exterior wall windows should be accessible to anyone in a wheelchair. We were subsequently advised that the air circulation system proposed for the building has a substantial energy saving component and that all windows will be permanently sealed.

Decisions do remain for us at this point concerning interior furnishings and equipment—how many tables and carrels at wheelchair height—how many low browsing units for new materials?

In any new building there is compromise—what you want versus what you

will get, and cost is not always the only reason. With a complex of the type with which we are integrated this is inevitable.

The architect assured us that the elevator shaft will be flush with the floor when the doors open and that the interior panel can be reached from a seated position. Fine, but we do not like the location of the elevator at the far rear corner of what will be the boys' and girls' room—a lengthy trek from the front entrance of the main floor. Having been shown on the plans how the library integrates with surrounding retail space and the necessary public access elevators to the lower parking level, it was apparent that our elevator shaft could not be moved. In this case, the elevator stays where it is, and our recommendation for a book lift more "up front" was accepted.

It is fortunate that we are not restricted to discuss accessibility for the disabled in purely economic terms—in this complex such accessibility without undue hardship has been assumed from the beginning, and not just for the library. In our library past, only the most determined have bothered to attempt entry. There have been some, and I have helped to carry more than one occupied wheelchair up the 10½ stone steps to the central library front door and the further 23 to the information centre. This is not to imply that for the new library we have any idea of the number of disabled persons who will use the facility. It is, in my view, tremendous progress that the point of this planning aims to allow the disabled individual one basic choice in library use—entry with relative ease if the person wishes to do so. This decision on principle, not related to a guess as to how many we might expect. A vital point here relates to the entry itself—no rear door, no side ramp behind a bookstack, but entry through the same frontal approach as anyone else; naturally easier to prepare for in a new building.

In attempting to put thoughts together and ask the right questions, we have found that the National Research Council's **Building Standards for the Handicapped 1980** is most useful. The topical arrangement provides a checklist for the librarian and specifications for the architect covering specifics of access from the front entrance to the rear fire exit. Two recent federal documents (noted below) set the current scene for disabled persons in Canada. AND, along with **Library Literature**, do not forget the National Library of Canada's Documentation Centre.

Saint John's Mayor Robert Lockhart recently participated in a special awareness week for International Year of Disabled Persons programme by spending a day in a wheelchair. Finding the day a real learning experience, he is quoted in the **Evening Times-Globe** of May 5, 1981: "For more than 90 per cent of the population, you literally disappear when you are in a wheelchair... It seems if you aren't at eye level, you don't exist. It's like being invisible."

This is much of what we hope to eliminate from the new library. So finally, for those readers who have reached this point, if you know of something that you are sure we have forgotten, please write—there is still time for additions.

Canada. Department of National Health and Welfare. **Disabled persons in Canada**. Revised ed. Ottawa: Supply and Services Canada, 1981. 156 p.

Canada. Parliament. House of Commons. Special Committee on the Disabled and the Handicapped. **Report**. Ottawa: Supply and Services Canada, 1981. 189 p.

National Research Council of Canada. Associate Committee on the National Building Code. **Building standards for the handicapped 1980**. 5th ed. Ottawa: National Research Council of Canada, 1980. 25 p.

Atlantic Provinces Library Association Prize Recipient

Heather Creech, of St. Marys, Ontario is the 1981 recipient of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association Prize awarded to the student in the Dalhousie University School of Library Service graduating class who, in the opinion of faculty, shows the most professional promise. Ms. Creech is an honours graduate in English from Queen's University and received Fellowships from the Faculty of Graduate Studies at Dalhousie in 1979 and 1980. In the Summer of 1980 she undertook a special internship

programme at the University of Calgary Library. Her previous library experience was at the Edmonton Public Library and at Telesat Canada in Ottawa. Ms. Creech is now Reference Librarian, Sir James Dunn Law Library, Dalhousie University. Her article on "Who Reads Science Fiction" is scheduled to appear in a forthcoming issue of **Emergency Librarian**. She is a member of the Canadian Library Association and the Atlantic Provinces Library Association.

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Automation from the Library Manager's Perspective

By DEBORAH NICHOLSON
AND
RASHID TAYYEB

Planning and implementing automation can be the most challenging responsibility of a library manager's career. Because the issue is so complicated and entails substantial capital investment, a successful venture requires systematic, responsible management.

PLANNING

The only way to see clearly through the complexities to be considered is to examine the goals of the library and keep them firmly in mind throughout the procedure. They should be established before anything else is done. They should be specific, up-to-date, and prioritized. Automation should not be one of them; it should be considered the means of attaining goals, but not a goal itself.

The library's situation can then be examined in the light of these goals. This analysis should reveal problems confronted in providing present services and provoke ideas for new ways to meet the goals. At the same time, constraints must be identified. Financial limitations can be crippling, for example. The library may be obligated to utilize the computer of the parent organization. The structure of the budget may prohibit the shifting of money from one section to another. A realistic acknowledgement of limitations is as necessary to the planning process as the delineation of objectives.

With objectives and constraints identified, alternatives can be examined. Systems should be considered for their potential as well as present benefits. The effort put into the development by the system's staff should be an important criterion when considering it. In addition, new ways to utilize the system should be considered. A creative application of the system could provide the most satisfactory solution.

Members of the library staff must be involved throughout the planning process and kept informed of developments. Their day-to-day involvement in routine procedures may provide them with knowledge of factors of which the library manager is unaware. More importantly, their involvement in planning a new system can be vital in the new system's success. Prior knowledge of a new system reduces their stress in adjusting to it and increases their commitment. When the University of California at Berkeley planned the closing of its card catalogue, aspects of the planning were assigned to staff members or groups of staff members to study and report on. Each team met monthly with a co-ordinating group, consisting of the university librarian, the associate and assistant university librarians, and the head of the systems office. The reports were circulated throughout the staff for comments.

Planning can sometimes be in danger of continuing endlessly, never reaching a conclusion. The planning must be kept proportionate to the problem being considered. Careful planning will reduce but rarely eliminate risk.

Planning for automation can be time-consuming and expensive. In some cases, the effort required is beyond the capabilities of the library staff, and it is preferable to hire outside consultants. Consultants can provide up-to-date expertise. Unlike members of the staff, they can focus all their resources on the problem. In addition, they are better able to look at the issue with objectivity and a fresh approach. Some planning costs could be saved by co-operative planning, particularly when gathering data and examining the available options. Such co-operation need not mean co-operative implementation, but could provide access to more expertise and reduce planning time.

IMPLEMENTATION

When an automated system has been selected, detailed plans for implementation should be prepared and prioritized goals established. The manual system should be examined in detail and

the effects of the new system envisaged.

Automation itself is not a panacea. Irrespective of how flexible the system might be, it is the efficiency and effectiveness with which the system is operated that would determine the positive utilization of the system. An automated system in inefficient hands may become nothing more than a machine-operated manual system propelled by traditional idiosyncrasies. The most important factor is to visualize the ultimate impact of one or more automated functions not only on the library services as a whole but to contemplate its "ripple effect" in broader context.

The underlying movement towards integrated systems, network co-operation, decreasing hardware costs, as well as increasing labour costs must be viewed in totality to conjure future impact of present implementation. Managers must take a hard look at cost benefit tradeoffs and play a prophetic role in shaping future capabilities, scheduling, staffing and work priorities, taking into consideration the existing and proposed regional, national and international networking developments.

In the short term, an automated activity such as cataloguing may suffice to reduce redundancy and workload but in the long run, it should be viewed to accommodate and support other library functions of acquisition, record keeping, inter-library loan, circulation, etc. The integrated capability and future networking prospects should not be overlooked. These ought to be considered as long term effects of the automated system in direct relation to optimal services to the patrons. As Montague points out, "we must understand the real requirements of the user—one of our most critical reasons for existence."²

IMPACT OF AUTOMATION ON LIBRARY SERVICES

The impact of automation on library services and staff is dependent upon a number of factors involving the degree of utilization, the library environment, and the managerial commitment. These factors, in turn, would rely upon several factors, such as the manual library operations prior to automation, the number and levels of staff before automation, the attitudes of the staff, as well as the philosophy of library management. Apart from these variables, the one most significant factor would be the degree of staff awareness and preparedness to meet the challenges of the new environment.

Consequently, the impact on staff would vary significantly among libraries. Some libraries may be able to reduce staff while others may have to increase. Some libraries may manage with existing manpower; others may increase productivity with the same staff, or even with reduced manpower.

The impact on organizational change would be considerable, as automation would alter work assignments, independence, and reporting structures. Staff balance between professional, para-professional and support staff would be affected, especially in cataloguing departments. Managers would have to review all staffing considerations through proper planning, meaningful involvement, and effective staff development programmes.

EVALUATION

Since there are a wide variety of systems supporting various library functions through many hardware configurations, e.g. in-house computer facilities, turn-key systems, minicomputers, etc., the criteria to evaluate the system would vary accordingly.

Managers quickly realize that establishment of sound evaluation criteria is no mean task—little is written about it in the past. As an example, a comprehensive bibliography on automation published in the *Journal of Library Automation* (Dec. 1978)³ consists of about 575 articles on various aspects of automation in libraries. There are only 8 citations on evaluation of the systems, which clearly indicates the

dearth of information on this important topic. Lately there has been some movement towards it and the evaluation process is receiving some emphasis and exposure.

There are numerous ways by which a system might be evaluated. The formulation of the criteria would depend upon the nature and extent of automation in a library as well as the library's goals and objectives and possible reasons for automation.

F.W. Lancaster suggests 10 possible reasons for mechanization that deserve continuous monitoring and evaluation—(1) improved productivity, (2) staff reduction, (3) improved control, (4) error reduction, (5) improved speed, (6) increased range and depth of service, (7) facilitation of cooperation, (8) improved by-products and fringe benefits, (9) effective dissemination of data bases, and (10) reduced cost of operation.⁴

From the manager's perspective, the cost considerations are usually of paramount importance. Both the cost effectiveness and cost considerations should be evaluated taking into view the short-term as well as long-term advantages of each activity.

The automated system itself may provide data to evaluate and measure various criteria. Integrated on-line systems are extremely valuable in providing pertinent data on existing internal operations as well as user needs by continuously analyzing the system's performance. This criteria must be built into the system prior to implementation. In future, automated integrated systems would facilitate continuous monitoring and control of library services and activities which are now extremely labour intensive as performed in a manual library services environment.

In summary, the technological advances and changing library concepts, urged on by an exacting clientele, dictate that a

majority of libraries be automated by the end of this century. This demands that the library manager assume a dynamic leadership role to define, develop and prioritize future capabilities by utilizing automated systems with utmost care and foresight. The role of libraries in society must be accelerated in realistic terms, by embracing technological developments, if they are to survive.

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News and Notes

NEW BRUNSWICK

HAUT-SAINT-JEAN REGIONAL LIBRARY

New Bookmobile

The long-awaited new bookmobile has finally arrived. The service will resume on June 1st, 1981, after being suspended for more than seven months. The acquisition of this new vehicle was made possible through a special grant of \$20,000 awarded to the region by the Department of Youth, Recreation and Cultural Resources. Besides the regular stops that were previously made in Madawaska and Victoria counties, communities in Restigouche county will be added to the new bookmobile schedule. With these new stops, 100 per cent of the population in the Haut-Saint-Jean region will receive library service.

Edmundston Public Library

April 13, 1981 was a memorable day for the population of Edmundston, when the newly renovated library finally opened its doors, after being closed for four months. An average of 700 books per day were circulated in the first two weeks after reopening.

People of Edmundston are very proud of their new facilities. A larger reference section is now accessible to the adult users. The new children's section, separated from the adults, is very attractive with its new circulation desk and bright colors. The activity room will certainly be very useful in planning new projects for children and adults. Also, the staff room and storage areas are welcome additions that were needed long ago.

National Book Festival

The main attraction in the region during the National Book Festival was the presence of a famous storyteller from Montreal, Tante Lucille, who visited each public library (St-Quentin, St-Leonard, Grand-Sault and Edmundston) of the region. She attracted six hundred (600) youngsters during her tour. This major activity was sponsored by the National Book Festival and the Canada Council through its program of Public Readings by Canadian Writers.

SAINT JOHN REGIONAL LIBRARY

April 1st, 1981 marked the start of another year for the Saint John Regional Library System and on April 22nd, Mrs. Frances Corbett, Chairman of our Regional Board, cut the ribbon opening a library for the French speaking community of Saint John. Although the library is not yet a part of the regional library system, the library has participated in its planning, along with several other agencies. The library is located in the classroom of L'Ecole King George.

During the month of May, the St. Croix Public Library is showing the art works by Therese d'Amour whose art reflects her love for the Canadian wilderness and her special feeling for the shores and forests of the Maritimes. Originally from Quebec, Therese d'Amour lives in St. Andrews, N.B., where she has her studio. One-person shows of her work have been held in Fredericton, Halifax, and Maine.

Board and staff alike attended the '81 A.P.L.A. Conference. Dr. Norman Skinner, Chairman of the N.B. Trustees Association and Chairman of the City Library Board, chaired the afternoon trustees session, while Mrs. Frances Corbett, Regional Chairman, acted as a panelist and the regional librarian was one of the speakers. Trustee delegates were present from the Campobello, Saint John, and Sussex Public Libraries, along with the City Librarian.

The Boys' and Girls' Department of the Saint John Free Public Library, held a series of films during the month of April, dealing with children with handicaps. In most instances, children with the same "disabilities" as those shown in the films, were present to talk to the audience and answer any questions.

This department's May programs were based on the theme "High In The Sky". They started off with over 100 children making kites, followed by a sky diver who showed films on sky diving and answered many questions while he exhibited his suit and parachute. During the school holiday marking Loyalist Day, the Department ran the movie "The Great Balloon Adventure". May's activities in the Boys' and Girls' Department were marked with an antique car on display with the driver present to answer both the adult and children's questions.

Entries are continually being received for the subsequent editions of the department's newspaper, "The Library Times" and the winning book reviews from the April "Best Book Review Contest" have been sent to Toronto as entries in the National Contest.

The Information Center is pleased with the daily interest being shown by the borrowing public towards the joint N.B. Tel and Saint John Regional Library field trial of Videotex with the Telidon terminal that is located in the information center.

The increased use of the department is also noted in the year end statistics. Even though the number of questions handled last year increased by 43.3 per cent, this year's report shows a further 3.9 per cent increase.

A most recent acquisition to the department has been the gift from the New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources, Geological Surveys Branch, of a microfiche reader and over 2,500 microfiche copies of their mineral exploration reports. The purpose of the gift is to "stimulate prospecting by the public sector".

Along with the regular and much needed complement of summer student help, the region welcomed Judith LeBlanc to the staff for the period May-August 31st. A Dalhousie Library School student, Judith will be working on preparation of a position paper and inventory of retrospective newspapers from our Region which have not as yet been microfilmed. This is preparatory work for the intended provincial bicentennial filming project.

We wish Mrs. Joyce Brooks, staff member from the East Branch, a happy and healthy retirement which commences on June 1st. Mrs. Ruth Jackson will be coming on staff to replace Mrs. Brooks and Miss Pearl Hazen has been appointed Head of East and West Branch Libraries, replacing Mrs. Janet Currie.

The Adult Services Department of the Saint John Free Public Library will be saying farewell to Deborah Sherrard who leaves the Library the end of May. Once again the Saint John Regional Library System was pleased to accept the offer of Montreal Trust for prime display window space in their city-centre location on King Street. We promptly accepted and Terry Woodruff of the Boys' and Girls' Department, along with William McCann of the Wm. F. Roberts Hospital, prepared an "eye-catching" display of actual photographs of both young and older citizens actively involved in life's activities. The main theme is "Help Us Explode the Myth of Disability and Stress Capability."

Adult Services Department in cooperation with the N.B. Museum sponsored a Book Contest "World of Wonders" during National Book Festival Week. Hidden clues to the titles of Canadian books were placed in some of the displays at the New Brunswick Museum—the contestant then had to choose the book title which best applied to the marked displays from the list available with the entry form.

Saint John officially opened their new Correctional Centre this spring, and Barbara Cowan, Adult Services Librarian, and Ian Wilson, City Librarian, received a tour and met with Mark Palmer-Director of Programmes. The Centre has a room in the same area as the classrooms which will be their library. The Regional Library volunteered to collect donations of books and paperbacks with the ad placed in the newspaper announcing same, placed by the Correctional Centre authorities.

In early June the Main Library will commence book deposits (300 books) plus a permanent loan of *Encyclopedia Americana* and a large type dictionary.

Miss Barbara Cowan, Adult Services will be moderating the C.L.A. Workshop "Keepers of the Key" on local history resources and management, during the annual convention in Hamilton in June.

Have a good summer everyone—is the wish to all from the Board and Staff of the Saint John Regional Library.

NEWFOUNDLAND

WESTERN REGION LIBRARIES

Pasadena Branch of Western Region Libraries has received a reading stimulation grant of \$800 from Canadian

Federation of University Women for the purchase of children's books.

As part of the Newfoundland Public Libraries, we are about to introduce the first edition of our new UTLAS catalog in all local branches.

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

The Centre for Newfoundland Studies has received a grant of \$10,000.00 from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council for the purchase of Newfoundland historical maps.

Richard Ellis, former Head, Collections-Acquisitions Division has been promoted to the position of Associate Librarian of Memorial University of Newfoundland effective April 1, 1981. He succeeds Margaret Williams who was appointed University Librarian last fall.

Anne Alexander, a graduate of the University of London and the Northwestern Polytechnic (London), has been appointed Librarian in the Centre for Newfoundland Studies effective January 12, 1981. She had worked on a part-time basis for two years assisting Agnes O'Dea on the *Bibliography of Newfoundland*. Anne will continue to devote part of her time to the *Bibliography* until it is published.

George Beckett, a recent graduate of McGill University School of Library Science, was appointed Assistant Government Documents Librarian effective May 11, 1981. George has held experience in the Government Documents Division at the McLennan Library, McGill and the University of Calgary Library.

NOVA SCOTIA

DARTMOUTH REGIONAL LIBRARY

Provincial Employment Plan (P.E.P.) literacy worker Terry Eyland has been assessing the high-low, easy read materials in the Dartmouth Regional Library collection using the Fry Graph Technique. After assessing the collection Mr. Eyland will prepare several annotated booklists of easy read materials.

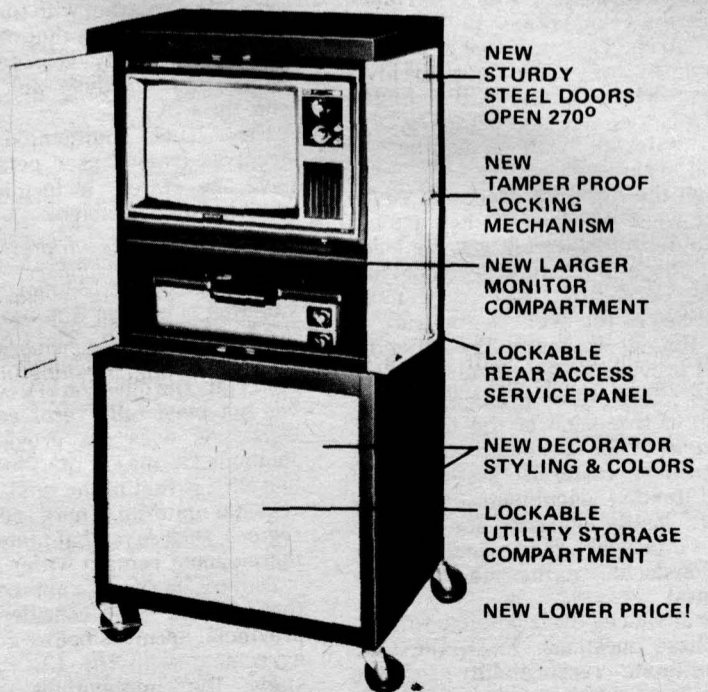
Lynn Murphy, Community Services Librarian at Dartmouth Regional Library has left the library. During her four years as Community Services Librarian she was responsible for programming and community outreach and in 1978 won the John Cotton Dana award for Dartmouth Regional Library.

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From Page 11

HALIFAX CITY REGIONAL LIBRARY

At its annual meeting on February 19, the Halifax City Regional Library Board elected Ms. Nita Graham as Chairman for 1981 and Alderman Doris Maley as Vice-Chairman. In March, Deborah Nicholson, Coordinator, Technical Services spent a week in Ontario visiting the Technical Services Departments of Hamilton, Kitchener and Mississauga Public Libraries talking to staff about their automated systems. Ms. Nicholson also attended Management's Role in Computer-Based Systems, a seminar offered by Data Logic Canada. Mr. Harold Gaudet, the Library's Executive Assistant attended a seminar on word processing presented by the Atlantic Management Institute.

The Library Board was delighted to receive a gift of \$1,000 from Mr. and Mrs. Abram W. Garson of Halifax for purchase of a film projector for the new Heinisch Audio-Visual Room being created at the North Branch Library.

On March 10, in celebration of International Women's Day, a panel discussion *Women and Work—an International Focus* was held involving women from Chile, China, Nova Scotia, Guyana, and Quebec and drawing an

audience of about 100. The programme was co-sponsored by the International Education Centre and featured interesting displays with slide shows and music.

With the co-sponsorship of the National Book Festival and the Canada Council the library was able to invite Dr. Edith Fowke to present two programmes of Canadian folksongs and folklore to groups of enthusiastic children and interested adults during National Book Festival Week, May 11-17.

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY KELLOGG HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY

Ann Nevill has been elected president of the Canadian Health Libraries Assoc. for 1981-1983 and vice-president, president-elect of CACUL.

SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY

Robyn Zuck became Head of Cataloguing at the Patrick Power Library, Saint Mary's University on May 1, 1981. Ms. Zuck graduated from the School of Library Service at Dalhousie University in 1981 and was awarded the Special Libraries Association Eastern Canada Chapter Prize for the best graduating student in the area of special library services.

CBC Records Session

By DONALD P. LEMON

At the recent Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA) meeting (Halifax, June 3-6), a session was held on CBC archival records. Participants included Edwin Frost, Public Archives of Canada (PAC); Robin Woods, CBC; Derek Reimer, Provincial Archives of British Columbia (PABC); Ernie Dick, PAC. They discussed the CBC Archives Programme and the question of deposit agreements with Provincial Archives.

Robin Woods reviewed the development of CBC's archive programme since its inception in 1959. He feels it has gradually developed to the point where it is now an important feature at the CBC. In the beginning the archives focused on the radio division and was service oriented. Beginning in 1975, influenced by the Twomey Report on broadcast resources and the formation of the Association for the Study of Canadian Radio and Television, the Corporation initiated several programmes to improve and better utilize the archives. A deposit agreement, for TV-Radio programming, was signed with the PAC, a CBC-supported script collection project was undertaken by Concordia University and a CBC Corporate Archives Committee was set up to formulate and coordinate archival practises. Finally, the CBC began negotiating deposit agreements, for regional material, with a number of provincial archives.

Although the Archives processes 90-120 items per week Woods feels they are not utilized to the fullest extent yet. He holds out great hope that future developments within the Corporation will see a more extensive use of the archive material.

Derek Reimer reviewed the potential pitfalls of provincial agreements with the CBC. He cited four problem areas: alienation of a portion of the total CBC collection if PABC accepted deposit of CBC-Vancouver material; separation of film and textual documents; should a provincial institution pay for archive records of a federal agency; and the lack of selection-documentation standards for the material.

Reimer advanced three possible ways to resolve these questions. First, the CBC accept ultimate responsibility for the material. They could best judge what to preserve; they have the technical expertise necessary to properly conserve the material and they would have ready access to it and could establish documentation standards. This solution could however, he says, see the collection transferred from the region and as well the

CBC also has a poor record on public access.

Secondly, the PAC could assume responsibility for the regional CBC offices. By this alternative, public access could be assured as only one archive would be involved. There is a precedent for transferring Crown Corporation records to the PAC who could establish documentation standards. This might, however, also see the collection transferred from the region and result in a decline in copy quality.

Finally, Reimer suggested a CBC-PABC cost-sharing agreement. The collection would remain in the region, public access could be assured and the PABC could combine all moving image archives. Negative factors to this solution, Reimer stated, would be the fragmenting of the total CBC collection, failure to develop standard documentation, high storage and equipment costs and a problem with copy quality.

The difficulty of satisfactorily resolving these questions, the fact that ownership of the material remains with the CBC, and the fact that the agreement could be cancelled at any time to the detriment of the PABC means they will probably not enter into a contract with the CBC. Reimer concluded by asking that other provincial archives seriously consider the above before they conclude any arrangement with the CBC.

Ernie Dick commented on the CBC Archives from a user perspective. They have, he stated, a formidable records management problem. A considerable quantity of the Corporation's records today are very ephemeral—tape and video tape is reusable. Although the archive situation is chaotic it is not a worrisome, insolvable problem. The CBC is, he feels, making efforts to identify and conserve material. The question of access, however, has not been fully resolved and current legislation does not provide any quick solutions. A major question facing CBC and PAC is that of the final repository for regional material. There is a feeling in the regions, Dick says, that material produced there should remain within that region.

The session raised a number of questions that should be considered by any provincial archives before concluding any agreement with the CBC. They should study the implications of such an agreement and determine whether or not it is in their institution's long-term interests to archive CBC broadcast material. The financial commitment required is high but the research and historical value of the material is also great. The latter, in the end, should outweigh the former.

Contributors

Flora Dell was formerly on the River-view Library Board. She is now with the N.B. Dept. of Youth, Recreation and Cultural Resources.

Elizabeth Hamilton is a government publications librarian, and is another victim of Swanick's Smooth Persuasion.

Don Lemon is with the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick. He is doing a survey of CBC material in N.B.

Elizabeth MacDonald is coordinator of Public Library Services, Nova Scotia Provincial Library.

Debbie Nicholson is head of Technical Services at the Halifax City Regional Library.

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Margo Schenk is head of Public Services at St. Mary's. She blows a tuba. With this issue, she begins a regular column for the *Bulletin*.

Karen Smith is a reference librarian at Killam Library, Dalhousie University.

Rashid Tayyeb is head of Technical Services at St. Mary's. He is an inveterate course taker.

Lilias F. Toward is chairperson of the Status of Women and Human Rights Committee of the Canadian Federation of University Women. She practices law in Halifax.

Ian Wilson is city librarian at the Saint John Free Public Library. He was last seen with his shirt in a printing press.

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Library Service to the Disabled in N.S.

By ELIZABETH MacDONALD

During this International Year of Disabled Persons society is becoming more aware of the needs of the disabled. One of these many needs is library service. Disabled persons have the same basic information needs as non-disabled persons. However, their access to this information may be limited by their inability to gain entrance to the library or by the difficulties encountered in using conventional library materials.

Over the past few years the eleven regional public libraries in Nova Scotia (serving all 66 municipal units in the province) have been developing their services to the handicapped in their 57 branches and 21 bookmobiles. All eleven regions have good collections of large print books and are rapidly increasing their holdings in the area of disabilities. One region has several films dealing with disabilities and disabled persons.

Most of the regions operate a shut-in service ranging from a very informal or ad hoc service to the very organized service run by the Halifax City Regional Library. Within the City of Halifax 170 housebound individuals are visited regularly every three weeks. One and a half members of the library staff do the selection and keep a very detailed file of each person's reading tastes what they have read, and any requests they might have.

Most regions offer a service to nursing homes and a couple of regions have an informal Books-By-Mail Service.

Other special collections are Hi-low materials for reading disabilities, a collection of books on learning disabilities and a collection of materials for the hearing handicapped.

Few regions have regular programs for the disabled although one is presenting a course in sign language in cooperation with a local Disabled Consumers Society.

Access to public libraries is still a problem in some areas although great efforts are being made to provide wheelchair ramps wherever possible. Bookmobiles present a very difficult access problem to which no answers have yet

been found.

The main thrust of the service to the disabled in Nova Scotia is to the print handicapped. Since 1977 the Nova Scotia Provincial Library has operated a Talking Book service for the print handicapped through the regional public libraries. The collection now includes approximately 1600 titles. We have a standing order with the CNIB for one copy of everything they produce for sale to public libraries. We also buy as many titles as we can, within the allotted quota, from the B.C. Ministry of Culture, Library Services Branch. Because of the expense only a few commercially produced talking books are purchased.

We have produced an annotated catalogue with annual supplements. Between supplements the regional public libraries receive monthly accession lists and quarterly cumulated annotated lists.

Patrons make their selection from the catalogue and request the books from their local branch library or bookmobile. The requests are then processed as ILL requests and sent to the Provincial Library where the requests are filled. Several regions have deposit collections to supplement the request system so that there is always something available locally for the patron to read. Two university libraries participate in this service as well.

At the moment all of our Talking Book are on standard commercial cassette tapes and can be read with any commercial cassette player. However, we are in the process of ordering our first selection of "4 track" cassettes from the CNIB, hitherto unavailable to public libraries. These books need special playback units not available commercially. In order for their patron to use this new format of book the regional public libraries will have to provide the playback units.

Future plans for service to the disabled include production of Talking Books at the Provincial Library, province-wide publicity on the services that are available to the disabled, and better identification of the disabled community and their library needs.