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News & Events

Canadian Council of Archives UPDATE

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Distributed to CCA members, councils, provincial and territorial associations and the Canadian archival community. For more information and late-breaking news please visit the CCA website at www.cdncouncilarchives.ca/.

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1. Message from the CCA Board of Directors

Members of the CCA Board recently met in Vancouver for the winter meeting. The agenda for the four-day meeting was comprehensive and included an assessment of the work accomplished during the present fiscal year, a review of the committees' current and proposed work plans, and planning activities and initiatives for 2008-2009. Colleagues from Library and Archives Canada (LAC) also joined the CCA Directors for a full day and a half of discussions on joint projects and collaboration. Invited guests Peter Van Garderen (Artefactual Systems Inc.) and Mark Jordan (Alouette Canada) gave a demonstration of a new multilevel archival description database system being designed for the International Council of Archives (ICA) called Access to Memory (ICA AtoM). The description capability was developed in collaboration with the Alouette Canada metadata toolkit project.

The CCA Board members also had the pleasure of meeting colleagues from the Vancouver area archival community at an evening reception on February 4th. Archives Association of British Columbia (AABC) Board members also attended. The CCA Board wishes to thank all those who joined them for the reception.

2. Standards Committee

The Standards Committee met in Ottawa on February 8. Karen Teeple was welcomed as chair, taking over from Marion Beyea, who will continue to give the committee advice and guidance. Other committee members include Marcel Caya, Wendy Duff, Paul Henry, Lucie Page, and Johanna Smith. The committee planned its next steps in two main initiatives. A web interface has been developed for the On-line Database of Standards. The committee will make any necessary changes to the interface and oversee the transfer of data for expected launch in the summer. The committee will also begin implementing recommendations from the Invitational Meeting of Experts on Arrangement, including a review of existing arrangement guidelines in archives and a more detailed arrangement survey later in the year.

3. Preservation Committee

Members of the Committee completed the first stage of the review of NADP applications containing preservation components on February 19th with the study of 4 applications received from provincial councils. The Committee will meet in Ottawa on March 18th and 19th to review 28 applications submitted by archival institutions. Members will also take the opportunity to work on projects and cover regular business.

4. Young Canada Works

We wish to remind members of the archival community that the application deadline has now passed for the YCW program. We are now preparing reports for the volunteer judges who will be studying the applications for both summer positions and internships. We take the opportunity to thank our colleagues who will be serving as volunteer judges; their assistance is much appreciated.

5. Canadian Committee on Archival Description

Don't forget to have a look at the revisions to RAD proposed by the committee based on the result of the analysis and interpretation of two community consultations regarding the draft standard RAD2. The documentation is available online at www.cdncouncilarchives.ca/archdesreport2.html.

As always, input from the community is valued. Please take this opportunity to review the new draft of the revised standard and forward any comments **before March 14, 2008** to Micheline Dupont, 130 Albert Street, Room 501, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5G4, Telephone: (613) 565-1222, mdupont@archivescanada.ca.

6. InterPARES 3

InterPARES 3 is a five-year research project based at The University of British Columbia School of Library, Archival and Information Studies (UBC SLAIS) that is being funded by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). The general goal of InterPARES 3 is to take the theory of InterPARES 1 and 2, and apply it in a practical way in small and medium-size archival organizations and programs with 1 to 3 staff. The specific purpose of the research project is to design and implement strategies, procedures, and tools that enable archives to preserve authentic records in electronic systems. CCA, along with the AABC, ACA, and LAC, are resource partners and in that role provide regular input and feedback, help disseminate products, and promote training. CCA attended the first workshop of all research and resource partners in late November 2007. Fourteen case studies are now underway at various archives within professional association, municipal, educational, and cultural parent bodies. These test-beds are exploring the problems and solutions connected with a diverse set of electronic records issues, including the need for: 1) policies to manage, acquire, and preserve various types of e-records (like email and digital art), 2) concrete strategies to preserve access to digitized and born digital records (like building permits, website content, and email messages), and 3) better recordkeeping systems (such as scheduling legacy systems, implementing electronic document and records management software, and processes to preserve police evidence). As the research results become available, CCA will: 1) communicate general information, 2) distribute approved products such as model policies, procedures, strategies, and guidelines; criteria to identify most-at-risk materials; evaluation, cost-benefit and ethical models; and 3) help support the delivery of training and education within the Canadian archival system. Over time, more information will be available from the InterPARES 3 website (www.interpares.org).

7. Article Published in the Bulletin of the Canadian Historical Association

The following article [www.cdncouncilarchives.ca/CHA2007.pdf] appeared in two parts in the Bulletin of the Canadian Historical Association, Volume 33-2&3. It was a paper presented at the 86th Annual Meeting of the CHA at the University of Saskatchewan in May 2007. The overarching theme of that annual meeting was Bridging Communities: Making Public Knowledge, Making Knowledge Public and this paper was presented in a session entitled Archives: Why You Should Care / Pourquoi se soucier des archives. The session

was designed to rekindle a dialogue between archivists and historians in an effort to raise awareness in both camps of important issues of mutual concern. In the session, Marianne MacLean, Cheryl Avery, and Fred Farrell presented papers outlining developments and challenges occurring in archives which would have an impact on the work of historians and their students.

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