PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear colleagues,

The theme of this edition of the AABC Newsletter addresses technology and training. Fittingly, the first item I have to report relates to a new undertaking by the AABC executive that will utilize web 2.0 technology. The executive is in the process of creating an online wiki to help gather our scattered digital records relating to our development of policies, procedures and programs over the years. Look for the wiki address in the spring. We hope everyone with AABC digital files will participate and help to bring them all together. If anyone is interested, our organizational records are currently being arranged and described and I understand this has become a bit of a social event. Anyone who would like to lend a hand can contact Jane Morrison for more information.

There have also been several other developments at AABC to convey to you here. Firstly, after many years of promising a review of institutional memberships, our membership committee is ready for the undertaking. They will be working region by region evaluating memberships and gathering information. Don't be surprised to hear from them sometime over the next two years. We suspect that it will take time to get through everyone.

The executive was sad this past month to receive a resignation from the executive of Anthea Seles. This leaves the position of Institutional Member at Large open. If anyone is interested in the position the portfolio includes membership committee and the conference committee. In the meantime, if anyone has issues regarding conference and membership, they can direct concerns to any other member of the executive committee or myself directly.

On this note, please consider donating some of your time to the AABC. The more people who help out the less overwhelming it is for any one person. The old adage that many hands makes light work holds true into modern times. We sometimes get isolated at our desk and our work task list is so overwhelming that to consider taking on more work seems unfathomable. However, a couple hours a month can make a really meaningful difference in your provincial organization. Geographic location does not matter as much of our work is done via teleconference or by email.

As we prepare ourselves to enter yet another new year, I would like to remind everyone that donations made to the AABC are tax deductible and your would receive your tax receipt before tax season for donations made prior to December 31, 2009.

Seasons Greetings to everyone and here's hoping 2010 is a rewarding year for everyone both institutionally and individually!

Jordana Kerry
AABC President

WHAT HAPPENED TO CaNWAN?

by Janet McMaster, Archival Network Coordinator

The Canadian North West Archival Network (CaNWAN) was a regional network that consisted of descriptions from the British Columbia Archival Union List (BCAUL), the Archives Network of Alberta, the Yukon Archival Union List, and the Northwest Territories Archival Network. From inception, CaNWAN was hosted on servers owned by the AABC. With the recent migration of BCAUL to MemoryBC and move to a new server, the AABC was unfortunately no longer in a position to host CaNWAN. However, the Archives Society of Alberta stepped in to provide hosting services for both the Yukon Archival Union List and the Northwest Territories Archival Network. So although CaNWAN no longer exists, all of the databases that made up CaNWAN are still available.

- MemoryBC can be accessed at http://memorybc.ca/

- The Archives Network of Alberta (ANA) database is available from the ASA's web site at http://www.archivesalberta.org/default.asp?V_ITEM_ID=66

- The Yukon Archival Union list (YAUL) can be accessed from the Yukon Council of Archives' web site at http://www.yukoncouncilofarchives.ca/sections/yaul/yaul.html, as well as from the ASA's Other Databases page at http://www.archivesalberta.org/default.asp?V_ITEM_ID=67

- The Northwest Territories Archival Network (NWTAN) can be accessed from the ASA's Other Databases page at http://www.archivesalberta.org/default.asp?V_ITEM_ID=67

In addition, please note that all of the fonds level descriptions from the above networks are available in the Canadian Archival Information Network, ArchivesCanada.ca, at http://www.archivescanada.ca/.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

This edition of the AABC newsletter is devoted to the issues of technology and training, two major concerns in the archival world. Technology and training often go hand in hand: as new technology becomes a part of our archival work, training must surely follow so that we can harness the potential that the innovation offers. A recent example is MemoryBC, an exciting new addition to the archival community which requires archivists to brush up on the latest Rules for Archival Description (RAD) and to train on ICA AtoM. Conveniently, AABC offers training on these two items in paired training workshops!

In fact, MemoryBC is the most discussed item in this issue, garnering mention in at least five articles, including two full length features. Several other articles address technology with subjects ranging from a new web guide at SFU, to digital preservation projects at UBC, to a featured archives website.

A huge thank you to all the contributors to this issue, both those who sent in articles early and those who took advantage of the deadline extension. Be sure to watch the listserv for the announcement of the Winter Newsletter theme and a happy holidays to all!

Editor - Leah Pearse

Editorial Committee Member - Sonia Nicholson

As always, we'd love to hear from you! Send archival news, newsletter suggestions and any questions to the editor, Leah Pearse (leah.pearse@gmail.com).

NEW WEB GUIDE AT SFU ARCHIVES
HOW DID WOMEN'S RIGHTS EVOLVE AT SFU? FINDING ANSWERS IN THE ARCHIVES

by Richard Dancy, Archivist, SFU Archives

Can you use technology to create outreach tools that will appeal to both inexperienced and experienced users of archives? That was the idea behind an NADP-funded project the Simon Fraser University Archives completed earlier this year to produce an online, interactive guide to our holdings relating to the women's movement in British Columbia, one of the strengths of our collection. We wanted something geared to today's web-savvy user that would communicate the depth of our holdings, tell interesting stories from the history of the university, and explain the nature of archival materials and how to use them effectively in research -- a product that would be both informative to seasoned researchers, while tempting novices to delve further into the documents behind the pictures.

The results can be seen on our web page, How did women's rights evolve at SFU? Finding the answers in the Archives [http://www.sfu.ca/archives2/Brochure/brochureWomenArchives.html]. We took a jpg file of a poster that we had previously created as part of a series commemorating SFU's 40th anniversary in 2005. The jpg is tagged as an image map in which different parts of the poster (images and paragraphs) are links. When the user scrolls over an area, a pop-up appears which reproduces the selected image or paragraph text in a larger (more legible) size and includes a tag line that poses a question. The question may relate to the source of the image, the subject of the photo or text, or a research tip for using archives. To get the answer, the user clicks and is routed to another page containing a brief narrative that provides more context to the image or subject; indicates its source in a fonds, series, and file; identifies relevant records in various fonds that tell the story from different points of view; explains how to effectively conduct archival research; and provides links to the online finding aids (links to over 40 finding aids in total).

MEMORYBC.CA: GATEWAY TO BC'S PAST

by Sharon Larade

MemoryBC.ca is a searchable database and portal providing access to more than 11,500 descriptions of the archival material preserved in 180 repositories throughout BC. Archival repositories preserve documents, photographs, audio-visual recordings and many other historical records created by people and organizations over time. These materials are available to the public to access, research and enjoy.

The AABC acknowledges the support of the MemoryBC pilot project partners: Simon Fraser University Archives, University of Victoria Archives, the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre (UBC), Artefactual Systems, and the National Archival Development Program administered by Library and Archives Canada and the Canadian Council of Archives.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How is MemoryBC different from BCAUL?
MemoryBC is a new database of multi-level descriptions from archival institutions in BC. All records are described at the fonds or collection level first, with links to series or items where applicable. The BC Archival Union List (BCAUL) is an older database designed with descriptions at the fonds or collection level only. MemoryBC includes all of the BCAUL data as well as new multi-level archival descriptions.

What happened to BCAUL?
All of the descriptions previously in BCAUL have been migrated to MemoryBC.

What can I use MemoryBC.ca for?
MemoryBC can be used to identify archival holdings that may be of interest to you, whether for serious research or simply to take a glimpse into our province's fascinating and exciting past. Digitized archival material may be available online and can be accessed by following links from MemoryBC to each archival repository's own website. Other material can be accessed by visiting the archival repository during its public access hours. This information, along with address, contact information, etc. is available at MemoryBC.ca.

Who runs MemoryBC.ca?
MemoryBC.ca is managed by the Archives Association of British Columbia (AABC) as part of its Network Service. In 2009, the AABC migrated the BCAUL database to the open-source software ICA-AtoM, and took the opportunity to re-brand the site as 'MemoryBC.ca'.

What's the difference between MemoryBC and ICA-AtoM?
MemoryBC is the portal; ICA-AtoM is what's powering MemoryBC. ICA-AtoM is a free, open-source, web-based archival description software that is based on International Council on Archives (ICA) standards. 'AtoM' is an acronym for 'Access to Memory'. ICA-AtoM is multi-lingual and supports multi-repository collections.

Can I add more descriptions or detail to my MemoryBC holdings?
There is currently a technical delay in adding new archival descriptions directly into MemoryBC; however, the database is expected to be ready for direct submissions in November 2009. In the meantime, institutions can continue to send new or revised descriptions to Janet McMaster, AABC's Archival Network Services Coordinator, at jmcmast@shaw.ca.

Where can I get MemoryBC workshops and training?
Direct submissions of new content to MemoryBC will be limited to those who have taken a MemoryBC workshop. In this hands-on three-hour workshop you will learn how to enter your institution's multi-level descriptions into ICA-AtoM for uploading to MemoryBC. Participants should have an understanding of the most recent version of the Rules for Archival Description (RAD). If your description skills are rusty, a three-hour RAD Refresher is also offered in conjunction with the ICA-AtoM workshop.

The MemoryBC Training workshops include:
- searching and browsing the database;
- creating, editing and deleting archival descriptions and authority records;
- editing institutional records; and
- adding and editing location access points.

Over the next 8 months, several workshops will be held in Victoria, Vancouver, Kelowna and Prince George. Look for further announcements about MemoryBC training on the AABC's website at www.aabc.ca.

I've looked at MemoryBC and noted errors in my institution's archival descriptions. What can I do?
Institutions can send revised descriptions to Janet McMaster, AABC's Archival Network Service Coordinator, at jmcmast@shaw.ca.

ARCHIVES ONLINE ADD-ON
FROM ANDORNOT CONSULTING

by Kathy Bryce, Andornot Consulting

Andornot Consulting is currently working on an Encoded Archival Description (EAD) XML export from our Archives Online Inmagic DB/TextWorks add-on product, which can be found at www.andornot. com/Products/Addons/ArchivesOnline. Our EAD export module will allow Archives Online users to contribute their descriptive records to portals such as MemoryBC.ca, which is powered by ICA-AtoM software. Batch importing of EAD XML is scheduled for implementation in the ICA-AtoM software next spring and Andornot will be participating in the testing of this feature.

Archives Online clients may continue to use the Inmagic DB/TextWorks software to describe their holdings and to add any extra non-RAD information specific to their archives. They will be able to select records to be uploaded with just the fields required for Memory BC.

Archives Online allows quick and easy creation of databases for archival descriptions and accessions and is specially suited to small- and medium-sized archives where archivists and volunteers, rather than full-time computer experts, are responsible for automation. Archives Online is designed to comply with the Canadian Rules for Archival Description (RAD) and International Standard for Archival Description (ISAD) archival standards. Descriptions of non-archival material (e.g. reference files, pamphlet files, etc.) are also easily managed. The underlying DB/TextWorks software can be used to create other databases for artifacts, council meeting minutes and reports, newsletter indexes, genealogical information etc. etc.

Please contact us at info@andornot.com to receive notice when the EAD export is available, or for more information about Archives Online and Inmagic DB/TextWorks. You can also visit our website at www.andornot.com.

TECHNOLOGY, TRAINING AND AABC's EDUCATION & ADVISORY ARCHIVIST

by Leah Pearse, Newsletter Committee, AABC

"What scanner should I buy?," says Kelly Stewart. According to Kelly, this is the number one question that people ask when they phone her for archival advice, a service she offers as part of her work as the AABC's Education and Advisory Archivist. Other common questions pertain to copyright restrictions, arrangement issues, accessioning procedures and grant writing.

But giving advice is only one aspect of the work that Kelly does for the AABC. She also conducts site visits, where she observes and makes recommendations related to the intellectual policy work of archives. This may include how the reference room is run or an archives' technical infrastructure.

Kelly received her Masters of Archival Studies in 1994 and since then, she has worked in a variety of records management and archival settings in the province, from ICBC to the Sto:lo First Nation, New Westminster and beyond. She has been with the AABC since 2007 and since then has been running workshops, conducting site visits, advising on scanner purchases and more. If you were at the last AABC conference at UBC, you would have seen Kelly running the ICA AtoM workshop and performing other duties related the conference coordination as a whole.

So what does Kelly recommend to learners attending her training sessions? A good night's sleep is key, but so is the willingness to ask intelligent questions. Kelly emphasizes that we are a community and workshops offer an opportunity to interact, connect, build partnerships and otherwise to be a part of that community and to help make it stronger.

Kelly Stewart is the Coordinator of the AABC's Education and Advisory Services and can be reached via email at kstewart@aabc.ca. One of her favorite resources is AABC's Archivist's Toolkit, accessible at http://aabc.ca/toolkit.

CELEBRATING ARCHIVES WEEK 2009!
MEMORYBC.CA UPGRADED TO ICA-AtoM RELEASE 1.0.8

by Janine Johnston, AABC Vice President

In honour of Archives Week 2009, the Archives Association of British Columbia is pleased to announce the upgrade of MemoryBC.ca with the release of ICA-AtoM software version 1.0.8.

With release 1.0.8, the MemoryBC.ca / ICA-AtoM pilot and implementation project has reached a key milestone on the road to achieving the goals of

- improving access to BC's documentary heritage by the public via the internet;
- providing AABC member institutions with the opportunity to participate in a new multilevel, RAD-compliant provincial catalogue of archival descriptions; and
- helping to address the lack of technical, human resource and financial capacity within the archival community by participating in the development of free, open source archival software.

The highlight of ICA-AtoM release 1.0.8. is the enabling of direct data entry by AABC member institutions. AABC member institutions that receive their institutional logon and password following MemoryBC.ca training will be able to submit new and revised multilevel descriptions and repository information via the MemoryBC portal.

Information on upcoming training sessions is available on aabc.ca and announced via the archives-bc listserv. MemoryBC.ca training is paired with RAD-refresher workshops.

Other improvements added with this release include

- full-text search for persons/organizations and repositories;
- addition of 30 subject access points;
- improved access control, including the ability to set user and group permissions for viewing, editing & deleting archival descriptions, globally or on a per repository basis;
- "Draft" and "Published" status for archival descriptions, including integration with the access control module to restrict who can view and publish drafts.

In terms of future developments, a second phase of implementation is planned that will include development of policies, processes and training for uploading digitized archival records, and EAD / XML import testing for institutions working with existing in-house databases.

BEST OF THE WEB: ARCHIVES EDITION

by Sonia Nicholson, Newsletter Committee, AABC

The buzz of social networking has made its way into the archival world. While archives-related blogs have floated around the web for some time now, a number of archival institutions and organizations have expanded their reach by publishing posts and links on social networking sites such as Twitter. This edition of Best of the Web highlights Archives*Open, a blog and Twitter author that is "all about archivists, archives, access, community, and the Web". In keeping with our current theme of Training and Technology, the Archives*Open site was chosen for its aim "to report on the ways archivists and other professionals in the archival field are using technology, specifically Web 2.0 and other emerging technologies, to give the community […] improved access to archival collections." Though much of the content relates to the American archival community, the blog and Twitter posts also feature relevant articles to all interested in current debates and developments in the field. Visit the blog at http://archivesopen.blogspot.com/, or search for "archivesopen" on www.twitter.com.

Do you know an interesting, useful and/or unique archives-related website that you would like to share with other Archives Association members? Send your suggestions of must-browse sites to the Newsletter Editor at leah.pearse@gmail.com, and be sure to include the URL and a brief summary.

ARCHIVES CAN HEAL OLD WOUNDS

by Blair Galston, BC Conference Archivist, The United Church of Canada

"The loss of their building at Powell Street, their place of belonging, created a scarring effect on the Japanese people of the United Church." Approximately 500 people sat in absolute silence as the minister of the Vancouver Japanese United Church spoke these words at the general meeting of The United Church of Canada, BC Conference, in May 2009. The Conference had just delivered its Statement of Recognition and Apology (http://www.bc.united-church.ca/AGM2009/apology.htm) to the Japanese United Church for its unjust sale of the beautiful 1908 Methodist building that the Japanese congregation had once called home.

HISTORY OF THE CONGREGATION

Prior to the Second World War, there had been a thriving United Church congregation at the corner of Powell Street and Jackson Avenue in Vancouver. The church had been established as a Japanese Methodist Mission in 1896 and fell within the purview of the wider church's Board of Home Missions. As with other Methodist congregations, it joined the United Church of Canada in 1925. By 1936, the congregation had become self-supporting.

When the Government of Canada forced Japanese Canadians to leave the coast for internment camps in 1942, members of the congregation left most of their furnishings, supplies and many of their treasured personal belongings in storage in the church. When Japanese Canadians were finally permitted to return to the coast in 1949, the Powell Street congregation found their church building no longer adequately maintained for worship or congregational life. Many of their treasured belongings were "missing". The building was being used for storage by First United Church. The Japanese congregation did not feel welcome in their own building.

The United Church Board of Home Missions sold the building in 1953 to Welfare Industries, a service society of First United Church. Within a couple of years, it was sold again to the Japanese Buddhist Society. In neither of these sales did the Japanese congregation have any decision-making power, nor did they benefit in any direct way.

APOLOGY: THE ROLE OF THE ARCHIVES

Although the members of the congregation lived with the fallout of these events for many decades and spent years without a church building to call their own, the United Church lost memory of the events. Were it not for repeated efforts to raise this past injustice, and an era more receptive to addressing the wrongs of our past, the story would have been forgotten. As with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) dealing with the consequences of the residential schools system, records were an important part of truth-telling, particularly after so many years had passed. Thanks to the rich holdings of the Conference Archives, the church was able to fill in the facts and context of what had led to the sale of the building, and corroborate the story. The records gave the church the confidence to respond by admitting that its former actions and attitudes were "deeply flawed and . . . tainted by the prejudices and fears of that era."

RECONCILIATION: HOW ARCHIVES CONTRIBUTED

Unlike the work of the TRC, the magnitude of the issue was relatively contained and reconciliation has been readily accomplished. A month after BC Conference issued its apology, a service of reconciliation between the Vancouver Japanese United Church and BC Conference took place at the current church building on Victoria Drive. As a symbol of its apology, the Conference presented a framed copy of a hand-tinted photograph from the Archives. This act of recognition, confession and apology can now heal the underlying effect of those scars," the congregation responded.

The reception following the service included an exhibit of archival materials, giving glimpses into the congregation's story. The display elicited many comments and memories from the congregation. It also provided the opportunity to have photographs identified and descriptions corrected so that the congregation, past and present, is now rightly honoured and its dignity is preserved.

UNIVERSITY INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORIES: COPYRIGHT AND LONG-TERM PRESERVATION

by Harrison W. Inefuku, MAS & MLIS Candidate, School of Library, Archival Information Studies, UBC

University Institutional Repositories: Copyright and Long-Term Preservation is a new collaborative research project between the University of British Columbia's Faculty of Law and School of Library, Archival and Information Studies. Led by principal investigator Mira Sundara Rajan (Faculty of Law) and co-investigator Luciana Duranti (School of Library, Archival and Information Studies), the project utilizes cIRcle (UBC's institutional repository) as a test bed to research and analyze issues of copyright and long-term preservation for university institutional repositories.

Institutional repositories (IRs) have been developed by universities across North America and Western Europe as a method of providing access to scholarly materials produced by the university community, while preserving them over the long-term. However, the nature of IRs carries significant challenges for long-term preservation and copyright considerations. The mix of types of material (including published and unpublished works of faculty and students, and records, such as the official born digital "original" of theses and texts of exams) and digital formats present in IRs requires a preservation plan that covers everything that is housed in the IR, as well as any materials and formats the IR anticipates to acquire. Part of this preservation plan will inevitably include migration to ensure that materials remain readable and accessible even after the native file formats become obsolete. This need to migrate materials, while important for long-term preservation, raises serious issues regarding authenticity and intellectual rights, particularly moral rights.

Despite these challenges, a recent census of IRs found that 70.8% of IRs in the United States do not have a policy for licensing content. Moreover, issues of preservation and maintaining authenticity through time have not been discussed in the literature. Through investigation of copyright legislation and case law, a review of the literature and a case study with cIRcle, this research project seeks to understand the issues at the intersection between the needs of long-term preservation for multiple formats and the implications of copyright law for published and unpublished materials. It also seeks to provide solutions.

For up-to-date information on the project, visit the website at http://www.uir-preservation.org. In addition to background information about the scope, purpose and methodology of the project, the website will provide a wealth of information to archivists, librarians, lawyers and others interested in issues of copyright and long-term preservation. The Resources section of the website will include Bibliographic, Case Law and Legislative Databases. As the research progresses and results are presented through publications and presentations, materials produced by the project for dissemination will be included on the Web site, as well.

Did we succeed in our aims? We haven't really had enough feedback yet to know. We probably underestimated the technical demands of the project; not having the budget for a professional web designer, we relied on our own (sometimes dubious) html skills. The result was fun to produce and it gets the job done, but a more polished presentation could be imagined. In the guide, one of the answers to which users are linked is a kind of "annotated bibliography" to our finding aids in relation to women's movement archives. Our future efforts will probably move more in this direction, with "annotated bibliographies" on a number of themes (e.g. student activism on campus, BC politics and politicians, SFU architecture). Rather than embed these into "how to" interactive displays, they will be planned as more traditional, text-based documents which users can directly access on their own, as well as from links in more interactive guides.

REPORT ON THE CCA ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

by Janine Johnston, AABC Vice President

Every fall, the Canadian Council of Archives (CCA) invites representatives from the national, provincial and territorial archival councils, the CCA committees, representatives from Library and Archives Canada (LAC) and the CCA's Board of Directors and Secretariate together for an annual general assembly in Ottawa. This meeting allows the CCA Board of Directors to report on the CCA's activities and funding programs and for each council to report on their CCA funded activities.

Janine Johnston, the AABC Vice President, represented the AABC at this year's assembly; however, several members of BC's archival community participated in the meeting. Rosaleen Hill, the AABC's Coordinator of the BC Archival Preservation Services represented the CCA's Preservation Committee in Ottawa.

Rosaleen Hill, BC Archival Preservation Services (left), and Lara Wilson, past President of AABC

One of the highlights of the meeting was the presentation on AABC's MemoryBC project, the initiative to upgrade the BC Archival Union List (BCAUL) to a portal providing access to multi-level archival descriptions and digitized materials housed in the repositories throughout British Columbia. MemoryBC is piloting the use of ICA-AtoM software, a free open-source multi-level archival description software product developed on behalf of the International Council on Archives by Artefactual Systems of New Westminster, BC. Lara Wilson (AABC, UVIC), Peter Van Garderen (Artefactual Systems) and Jane Morrison (UVIC) led the presentation.

Lara Wison discussed the overall MemoryBC project and Jane Morrison reported on the University of Victoria's experience beta-testing ICA-AtoM software. Peter Van Garderen outlined the developments made to the software, noting the release of the 1.0.8 beta version in early November, which will upgrade the overall usability and allow for direct data entry by AABC member institutions. Upgrades to the software are scheduled every six months until April 2011. Peter also discussed what Artefactual Systems is anticipating for ICA-AtoM in the future. This includes the ability for ICA-AtoM to import and export MARC records and, eventually, the ability to link descriptions to accession and research records.

Peter Van Garderen of ICA AtoM (left) and Paul Banfield, ACA

Ian Forsyth (CCA, SFU) discussed the importance of this project to the CCA and the implications it has for the archival system in Canada. The AABC's MemoryBC project is providing the CCA and LAC with a successful working example of the software and portal. The results of the ICA-AtoM project will be used to calculate the technical, human and financial resources needed to implement this system across Canada, while providing necessary data for the CCA to prepare a business case and funding request to the federal government.

The CCA has been a strong supporter of AABC's MemoryBC project and provided the funding to develop the beta module of the software.

CCA Board of Directors, Ian Forsyth speaking (All photos on this page are credited to CCA)

Continued from page 9 - CCA AGA

CCA GRANTS

An important function of the CCA annual general assembly is to report on its granting programs. Below are updates on the CCA grants. More information on these funding programs is available on the AABC website at http://www.aabc.ca/grants.html.

NADP

The National Archival Development Program just completed year three of five. In 2009/10, the program adjudicated, reviewed, disbursed and administered the delivery of 102 archival projects across Canada. 2010/11 NADP applications are available online now at http://www.cdncouncilarchives.ca/NADP.html.

YCW

The Young Canada Works Program funded 74 positions for summer students in 2009/09 and five internships for new graduates throughout the country. YCW has been renewed with the same funding as last year; however, due to inflation and higher necessary wages, this will mean fewer projects will be approved this year.

ACDP

The Archival Community Digitization Program is in its final year. Sixteen projects were approved in 2008/09 and are in progress. This program is not accepting any new applications for funding. There will be community consultation around renewal of this program.

REPATRIATION OF BEACON HILL PARK PLAN

by Trevor Livelton, Archivist, City of Victoria

A ceremony was recently held at the City of Victoria Archives to commemorate the repatriation of the original Beacon Hill Park Plan, which was accepted by Mayor Dean Fortin from Pauline Rafferty, Chief Executive Director of the Royal BC Museum, as shown in the photograph below.

In accepting the plan, Mayor Fortin noted that "For quite a few years now BC Archives has taken a leadership role in transferring parts of its holdings to local archives around the province, so local artifacts can be closer to the people who can appreciate them most. The City of Victoria appreciates and commends this generous and public-spirited program, and the thoughtfulness and dedication of the Royal BC Museum in continuing to support it."

The 1889 plan, a beautiful watercolour rendering, was housed at the City's Parks Department for many years. In 1934, at a suggestion from the BC Historical Society and before the City had its own archives, the plan was turned over to the Provincial Archives for safekeeping. It remained there for 75 years, receiving the benefit of expert conservation by Provincial Archives staff.

Further information on this event can be found in the official press release, available at: http://www.victoria.ca/contentmanager/press/091029a.pdf

IMPARTING INTERPARES PROJECT KNOWLEDGE
THROUGH THE USE OF AWARENESS, EDUCATION & TRAINING MODULES: PART 1

by Randy Preston, Project Coordinator, InterPARES Project

This article is the first in a two part series reporting on activities at the InterPARES Project, which stands for International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems, based at the University of British Columbia. This section of the series gives an overview of the project before discussing module goals and audience.

INTRODUCTION
Having begun its research in September 2007, the InterPARES 3 Project is rapidly approaching the midway point in its 5-year mandate. As outlined in the original grant proposal , the Project's activities are articulated in three equally-weighted components: (1) a research component, which is dedicated to the development of new knowledge through short-term and long-term research activities, including general studies and case studies, which focus on the development of policy, the maintenance and preservation of existing bodies of digital records and/or the design, implementation or evaluation of recordkeeping and permanent preservation systems; (2) an education and training component, to be developed in the context of the Project's short and long-term research activities, and consisting of student research assistantships, activities credited as part of coursework, etc., and, with regard to the new knowledge developed, of the production of curricula, syllabi, course modules and teaching materials; and (3) a knowledge-mobilization component, which includes conference presentations, workshops, seminars, colloquia, policy manuals and other publications, public lectures, etc., with the aim to meet the needs of both academic and community partners.

As it regards the education and training component, one of the Project's stated objectives is to develop awareness and educational materials that can: (a) enable the staff of small archival organizations and programs to plan for and carry out digital preservation, (b) assist professional associations in promoting career development of their members, and (c) provide university programs with content and structure for university courses on digital preservation; and to identify effective delivery methods.

More specifically, guided in large part by what is learned from the case and general studies, the Project is committed, in the second half of its 5-year mandate, to developing education modules that will help facilitate dissemination of the Project's findings by enabling those findings to be: (1) incorporated into existing graduate degrees programs; (2) taught as part of workshops by professional associations (e.g., Association of Canadian Archivists); (3) developed into context-specific training kits for organizations to train their own staff; and (4) used to support the continuing education activities of universities and organizations by allowing them to incorporate the findings into their education and outreach activities in their own ways within their own organizational cultures and contexts. Collectively, these activities will form professionals who are competent not only to preserve over the long term society's documentary heritage in digital form, but also to ensure the accountability of the organizations and institutions they work for through the protection of the accuracy and authenticity of the digital information that they produce.

Ideally, the intention is to create a series of education modules that can be used and combined in different ways depending on the needs and knowledge levels of the users. This will allow users to choose which modules they want to use and where along the spectrum, from basic, introductory-level to advanced-level modules, they wish to start.

It is anticipated that the most effective and important education modules will be those for in-house training within archives, those for training practitioners via continuing education courses offered by records management and archival associations, and those for non-archivists who, despite typically having little or no formal training in records or archives management, nevertheless have to deal with records—often in the context of establishing, controlling or overseeing regulations for records creators—and who must, therefore, have some basic understanding of records management and preservation (i.e., lawyers, auditors, IT personnel, etc.).

MODULE GOALS

The basic goal of the Project's education modules will be to sensitize the key stakeholders, throughout the chain of preservation, to the issues that they need to consider when issuing policies, guidelines and regulations related to the management of digital records, as well as helping them identify what sorts of digital record-making, recordkeeping and preservation policies, guidelines and regulations are needed.

This approach is in keeping with the findings of InterPARES 1 and 2, where it was discovered that the most effective records management environments were those in which there was some sort of overarching regulation, obligation or requirement to do things in a certain way, and an underlying framework of policies, guidelines and procedures for supporting and enforcing those regulations.

In addition to sensitizing individuals and organizations about what needs to be done, to maximize their impact and effectiveness, the modules also will need to provide clear guidance on how to go about implementing the most appropriate solutions for addressing situation-specific needs. In particular, this should include guidance on how to promote organization-wide buy-in for proposed records management and preservation solutions. This is critical because the most appropriate solutions may not necessarily coincide with what InterPARES researchers would consider to be ideal, but rather what each organization is willing to buy into and is able to implement.

MODULE AUDIENCES

One of the first tasks involved in developing the education modules will be to identify exactly to which groups of individuals, practitioners, organizations, associations and university departments the modules should be targeted. It is important to understand at the outset of this process that, for those modules that are intended to target particular types of practitioner groups, organizations and professional associations, many, if not most, of these groups already provide their members with various types of continuing education resources. Consequently, a critical step in the process of identifying the most relevant audiences to which the InterPARES education modules should be targeted will involve surveying what sorts of continuing education courses and programs, in relation to digital records preservation, already are being offered by the targeted practitioner groups, associations, organizations and university departments. The main goal of this activity will be twofold: to avoid unnecessary duplication of educational resources and to efficiently leverage existing external resources. With respect to

the latter goal, the Project, for example, intends to make use of the Digital Curation Curriculum and the International Records Management Trust's (IRMT) recently developed suite of education and training materials. Although originally designed to strengthen the records management capacity of developing nations, various components of the IRMT's training materials can readily be adapted for use in other records management and preservation contexts.

As it regards the modules targeted to specific types of organizations, it may also be necessary or desirable to identify specific groups of individuals within those organizations to whom the modules, or perhaps certain components of the modules, should be targeted. For example, with respect to the awareness and training modules targeted at business organizations, it will be important to consider whether those modules will need to be able to meet the needs of members of every functional unit within an organization or whether they will be most effective if designed to focus only on certain specific individuals and/or functional units within an organization.

Join us in the next edition of the AABC Newsletter to read more about how InterPARES imparts its knowledge. The second part of this series will include information on module 'buy-in' strategies, themes, delivery and evolution, as well as next steps for the InterPARES project and more.

NEWS FROM SLAIS

by Michelle Mallette, SLAIS Student Services Coordinator, michelle.mallette@ubc.ca

TERRY EASTWOOD RETURNS TO SLAIS

After serving as director of the School of Library, Archival & Information Studies for six years, Professor Edie Rasmussen has stepped down, effective July 1. She is currently on a sabbatical and will return to SLAIS as part of the faculty next year. Professor Terence "Terry" Eastwood has agreed to serve as Interim Director of SLAIS from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. Well known within the archival community in Canada and throughout the world, Professor Eastwood not only chaired the Master of Archival Studies Program from 1981 to 2000 but served as Acting Director of SLAIS on two prior occasions. Although Professor Eastwood took early retirement in June 2007, he has stayed active at SLAIS by teaching on a part-time basis over the last two years.

SLAIS launches its search for a new Director in the Fall of 2009

SLAISmatters NEWSLETTER NOW AVAILABLE

SLAIS has launched the inaugural edition of its SLAISmatters newsletter, available as PDF edition at http://www.slais.ubc.ca/NEWS/SLAISmatters2009Summer.pdf. The newsletter will be published twice a year – both print and electronically every summer, and electronically only every winter. Each issue will provide news and updates about our faculty, students, alumni and programs. This first issue features a farewell from outgoing director Professor Edie Rasmussen, and photos and articles about the outstanding new home for SLAIS which will also serve as a significant legacy of her leadership. There are profiles of three of our faculty members, and a short introduction to the faculty who are joining SLAIS this academic year. "We're quite proud of our newsletter, and I hope you will enjoy reading it as much as we enjoyed creating it," said SLAIS Interim Director Terry Eastwood.

Please feel free to share the electronic version, and if you would like a print version mailed to you, or to subscribe to either the print or electronic version, send a request to slais@interchange.ubc.ca.

MAS/MLIS STUDENT WINS ARMA SCHOLARSHIP

MAS/MLIS student Jennifer Borland has won a 2009 ARMA International Educational Foundation Graduate Scholarship. She is attending the ARMA Annual Conference in Orlando in October to accept the award, which is given to strengthen records and information management through development of the knowledge, skills, and abilities of practitioners in the field. The award was first presented in 2007. Only two or three winners are chosen each year, and SLAIS has been represented every year since the award was established.

GRADUATE WINS NATIONAL GALLERY OF CANADA INTERNSHIP

Shane McCord, who graduated from SLAIS in May with a joint MAS/MLIS degree, won one of five highly competitive internships with the National Gallery of Canada. Established through the support of the TD Bank Financial Group, the internship program allows the National Gallery to offer a paid 12-week study, training and work experience opportunity to five new professionals specializing in Art Museum Education, Museum Collections Management, and Art Librarianship and Archive Practice. Shane was named one of two interns for the Art Librarianship and Archives Practice program. During his internship Shane worked on the papers of a Canadian art historian, what he called a "single huge private fonds." He is currently working at the National Gallery on a short contract position for paid employment during the school year.

MAS/MLIS STUDENT WINS SAA MOSAIC SCHOLARSHIP

MAS/MLIS student Harrison W. Inefuku attended the Society of American Archivists annual meeting in August to accept the society's Mosaic Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to an applicant pursuing a graduate degree in archival studies who demonstrates excellent potential for scholastic and personal achievement and who manifests a commitment both to the archives profession and to advancing diversity concerns within it. Harrison also receives a one-year membership in the Society of American Archivists and registration for the Society's Annual Meeting.

SLAIS MAS/MLIS student Harrison Inefuku accepts the SAA Mosaic Award from Petrina Jackson, Head of Instruction and Outreach at the Special Collections of the University of Virginia, who chaired the Mosaic Scholarship committee.

NADP UPDATE

by Janine Johnston, AABC Vice President

The 2010/2011 National Archival Development Program (NADP) application package has been made available by the Canadian Council of Archives (CCA). The application deadline is December 4, 2009. The AABC website (http://aabc.ca/grants.html) provides information about eligibility and the application process in BC, and a link to the application and guidelines.

Please note that the AABC has identified no provincial priorities this year in order to streamline the process and simplify requirements for our members. Institutions are encouraged to start planning their projects early and to submit multiple applications under more than one of the five program objectives identified by the CCA in the NADP Guidelines. Minimal updates have been made to the Guidelines this year, all of which are highlighted in yellow throughout the document.

If you have any questions after reviewing the available documentation, please contact the AABC Education and Advisory archivist, Kelly Stewart at kstewart@aabc.ca or 604-931-1285.