Reference

1. Statistics are estimated using a mathematical model developed by Perseus Development Corp. and reported in "Perseus Blog Survey: The Blogging Iceberg," 2004 (www.perseus.com/blogsurvey/thebloggingiceberg.html).

News from the North
Preservation of Born-Digital Government Publications in Canadian Jurisdictions

Lindsay Johnston

In fall 2004, the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) contracted with the Andrew Hubbertz, former government publications librarian at the University of Saskatchewan, to determine what was being done to collect and preserve web-based information published by provincial and territorial governments. Hubbertz distributed a survey to CARL member libraries and to provincial and territorial legislative libraries through the Association of Parliamentary Librarians in Canada (APLIC). After the survey, Hubbertz followed up on major projects by e-mail and telephone to obtain more complete information.

The data obtained from the survey and follow-up interviews were compiled in January 2005. The survey reveals that the situation is highly variable from one province or territory to the next. As well, Hubbertz discovered that most collections of significance are being created in legislative or government libraries. The most ambitious project is in Quebec, where the Bibliothèque nationale du Québec has a legal mandate to collect provincial web-based publications.

This summary covers Quebec, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia, and updates the situation in the provinces that were discussed in *DttP*'s summer 2004 issue: Ontario, Manitoba, and Alberta. Provinces with preservation projects are listed geographically from east to west. Currently there are no preservation projects in Atlantic Canada: New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Labrador; nor in the three Territories: Nunavut, Yukon, and the Northwest Territories.

Existing collections are limited to print-like material—serials, monographs, leaflets, and so on—in PDF, HTML, and other electronic formats. Data files, databases, online services, and material from the "dark web" are not collected. The collections are organized so as to maintain continuity with print collections—serials, monographs, and so on—stored on a server, and cataloged with an 856 tag link to the material itself in library catalog MARC records. The collections are not organized in such a way as to preserve the contemporary context of the documents. For example, the government web sites that host the captured publications are not themselves being preserved.

Quebec

The Bibliothèque nationale du Québec (Quebec's National Assembly Library) has been a legal depository for Quebec publications, including government publications, since 1968. In 1992, legal deposit was extended to electronic documents, which at the time meant documents on physical media such as CD-ROM and diskette. The 2003-2004 annual report of the Bibliothèque nationale indicates that some thirty departments and agencies now deposit electronic publications and some fourteen have made retrospective deposits.

The undertaking has been characterized by close collaboration between the Bibliothèque nationale and the network of Quebec government web site managers. The Bibliothèque nationale provides an online form for electronic deposit, a component in an impressive infrastructure for managing the collection. Unfortunately, these materials are not available to the public directly, over the internet. Quebec university libraries have access to free publications and they are currently negotiating access to priced publications and services.

Ontario

Staff at the Legislative Library of Ontario estimate that the library acquires more than 75 percent of Ontario government web-based publications. The Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL) is in discussion with the Legislative Library with a view to supporting their work and perhaps extending it to local and regional governments in Ontario. The Legislative Library is also collaborating with the University of Toronto Library in an experiment using D-Space (called "T-Space" in this application) for management of the collection. (D-Space is digital archiving software developed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.)

Manitoba

Since 2002, the Manitoba Legislative Library has been collecting two to three thousand web-based publications per year from the Government of Manitoba, including monographs and serials. Unfortunately, the library is obliged at present to mount these materials on a network server that is protected by a firewall and hence unavailable to the public. The library continues to explore means to make the collection publicly available. In Manitoba, house documents, such as legislative records, are archived by the Clerk's Office of the

Legislative Assembly. Statutes and regulations are archived by the Department of Justice.

Saskatchewan

Since 2002, the University of Saskatchewan Library has been attempting to build a comprehensive collection of Saskatchewan government web-based publications, including monographs and serials. At present, the collection numbers about two thousand bibliographic items. The collection to date is fully accessible through the University of Saskatchewan Library catalog. Growth of the collection slowed in 2004, and the sustainability of the preservation project may be in question. However, a positive development occurred earlier this year when legislation was passed requiring the deposit of Saskatchewan government web-based publications in the Legislature Library.

Alberta

The Alberta Legislature Library has a collection of provincial web-based information, limited, due to lack of resources, to materials that are available *solely* in electronic format. The library estimates that it collects fewer than 25 percent of material published. The collection is accessible through the catalog of the Legislature Library.

The *Alberta Hansard* and other legislative records are being archived by the Public Information Branch of the Alberta Legislative Assembly Office. Statutes and regulations are archived by the Queen's Printer through *QP Source*, which is only available by paid subscription. The Alberta Heritage Digitization Project *Our Future Our Past* collection includes a law collection with digitized copies of historical Alberta bills, debates, journals, ordinances, and statutes that are openly available to the public.

British Columbia

Staff members at the Legislative Library of British Columbia are building a fairly comprehensive collection. It is a large collection of web-based publications from the Government of British Columbia, comprising more than five thousand items, including monographs and serials. The BC Legislative Library estimates that it is acquiring about 75 percent of such material. The collection has been developed to serve the primary clientele—members of the Legislative Assembly. For this reason, and due to limited resources, the collection excludes some types of publications, in particular curriculum material, scientific publications, and posters. Some ministries have mounted older publications, so the collection includes limited material from the 1990s. The collection is accessible via the library catalog (itself accessible through the Legislative Assembly site, www.legis.gov.bc.ca).

Linking to the Collections

In Quebec and Ontario, CARL academic libraries are, generally, choosing to link through their catalogs to holdings in the Bibliothèque nationale and the Ontario Legislative Library respectively, rather than build collections of their own. Other CARL libraries may be likely to do the same if trustworthy, permanent collections are available to them.

For the most part, building collections of web-based government information has meant downloading, storing, and cataloguing material. This is exactly the right decision, given limited resources and the absence of recognized standards and tools. Nonetheless, it is only the beginning.

Access to the Collections: Summary

In his second report, Hubbertz includes the recommendation that all institutions that include archived URLs for provincial documents in their catalog records should contribute the catalog records to the AMICUS database at the Library and Archives Canada. As a result, AMICUS would serve as a single search tool for all electronically archived Canadian government publications. As this is *not* currently the case, I created the chart on the following page to assist the staff at the U. of Alberta Libraries to recognize and locate archived urls for Canadian jurisdictions. When "acquiring" government publications for our collection, we include archived urls in our library catalog when they are available. The information on provincial jurisdictions is based on Hubbertz's CARL reports.

Next Steps

In the First CARL Report, March 2005, Hubbertz concludes that the immediate challenge is to encourage and assist in the building of comprehensive collections for those jurisdictions currently without preservation projects. Looking beyond the immediate future, the library community will need to consider issues relating to long-term access, such as migration, emulation, and archival standards. We also have to begin collecting digital objects without clear print equivalents, such as numerical data files, online directories, and material from the "dark web," or material accessed from a database via a search engine.

Hubbertz also points out that legislative libraries and CARL members need to raise awareness of preservation issues and seek out natural allies outside of the library world, including law societies, journalists, public interest groups, and scholars. For example, the Canadian Newspaper Association has recently released an article on Canadian freedom of information legislation and how it is being implemented in jurisdictions across the country.[1] Their report has clear implications for current and long-term access to government publications.

For more detail on provincial archiving projects, including the report, survey instrument and response rates, please consult Hubbertz's first CARL report: Hubbertz, Andrew. *Collection and Preservation of Web-Based Provincial/Territorial Government Publications: Report on a Survey of CARL and APLIC Libraries.* Ottawa: Canadian Association of Research Libraries, Mar. 2005, www.carl-abrc.ca/projects/preservation/pdf/provincial_web-pubs_report.pdf.

For recommendations on future electronic preservation activities, including goals, strategies, priorities, and preserva-

Government Institution	Source(s) of archived URLs Search for archived URLs in . . .	Root of archived URL The document's archived URL will begin with . . .
Government of Canada	AMICUS http://amicus.nlc-bnc.ca/aaweb/amilogine.htm —not just gov pubs. Includes archived urls for Canadian content Federal Publication Locator www.collectionscanada.ca/7/5/index-e.html Depository Services Program catalogue http://publications.gc.ca/control/simplePublicSearchCriteria (NOTE: not very many "anchor" pages are available for serial publications. Best for monographs.)	http://epe.lac-bac.gc.ca/ http://epe.lac-bac.gc.ca/ http://dsp-psd.pwgsc.gc.ca/Collection/
Government of Alberta	Alberta Legislature Library Catalogue http://ipac2.assembly.ab.ca/ipac20/ipac.jsp?profile=public2#focusfocus —monographs only Legislative Assembly of Alberta www.assembly.ab.ca/ —*Alberta Hansard* and other legislative records Our Future, Our Past: Alberta Heritage Digitization Project Law Collection http://136.159.239.228//law/ —bills, Hansard, journals, colonial government ordinances, and Alberta Statutes	www.assembly.ab.ca/lao/library/egovdocs/ Already catalogued Already catalogued
Government of Ontario	Legislative Library of Ontario Catalogue www.ontla.on.ca/library/catalogue/ecatlogin.asp —in "Command search", limit to "catalogued web resources". In Catalogue record, to get correct url, click on link that says "Archived by Library…"	www.ontla.on.ca/library/repository
Government of British Columbia	Legislative Library of British Columbia catalogue www.webpac.leg.bc.ca/	www.llbc.leg.bc.ca/
Government of Saskatchewan	University of Saskatchewan Library Catalogue http://library.usask.ca/ —selective e-archiving underway at the University of Saskatchewan	http://library.usask.ca/gp/sk/
Quebec—comprehensive e-archiving underway (e-documents legally deposited by departments), but e-archived documents not directly available to the public over the Internet. Manitoba—selective e-archiving underway at Legislative Library, but e-archived versions of documents not available to the public over the Internet. New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nunavut, Yukon, Northwest Territories—no e-archiving projects for their government documents.		

tion practices, please see Hubbertz's second CARL report: Hubbertz, Andrew. *DRAFT: Collection and Preservation of Web-Based Provincial/Territorial Government Publications: An Action Plan for CARL.* Ottawa: Canadian Association of Research Libraries, June 2005, www.carl-abrc.ca/projects/preservation/pdf/e-docs_report2.pdf. ▌

Reference

1. *Public's Right to Know in Failing Health in Canada.* Toronto, Canadian Newspaper Association, May 28, 2005. www.cna-acj.ca/client/CNA/cna.nsf/web/Public's+right+to+know+in+failing+health.