

Brief of the Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives for the Consultations on the Future Role of the National Archives of Canada and the National Library of Canada

Submitted to Dr. John English (Chair of the Review) by James Boxall, President of the ACMLA, September 15th, 1998

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The following is a consultative brief provided on behalf of the Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives (ACMLA), relating to the National Archives and National Library of Canada. This follows up on the May 8, 1998, letter from the then President, Alberta Auringer Wood (Appendix A), and is provided as a representation of the general views and concerns of the membership as expressed previously through a variety of channels and communications. While the ACMLA was unable to conduct a complete survey of the membership as it relates to this consultation process, those present at the Annual General Meeting supported our positions. These positions are based upon discussions ongoing since the founding of the association.

Throughout this document the terms 'cartographic materials' and 'cartographic information' are used extensively and interchangeably. For the purposes of this brief a working definition of cartographic materials entails: geospatial data in digital formats (on disc or stored/retrieved via the Internet); remotely sensed imagery; maps of all types and descriptions; atlases, and reference materials related to cartographic or geographic information (i.e., bibliographies as opposed to textbooks).

Introduction

Have you ever been lost? When was the last time you checked the World map to see the current status of a particular country? Did you ever wonder about the proper spelling for Musquodoboit, Nova Scotia? Did you ever get a chance to see a copy of the map thought to have been used by Samuel du Champlain to record his journey, or perhaps the maps used by Canadian soldiers and military planners during the Battle of Ypres? Are you a sailor or pilot in need of a chart; a city planner in need of detailed images of all the infrastructure of a city from its founding to the present day? Or maybe you are a researcher wanting to map out the distribution of poverty in relation to toxic waste. These are a few examples of the uses for cartographic information - these are a few questions map librarians, curators and archivists face every day. And yet these do not begin to include the myriad of technical and professional tasks that need to be accomplished to begin to provide the answers, materials and assistance such questions demand.

Canada is, as we have all been taught, a "nation of too much geography, and yet too little history". It is a nation that, due to its size, developed a technology to manage the lands and protect the environment. That technology, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), is today a leading edge technology in areas such as law, medicine, emergency services, city planning, marketing, forestry, farming, transportation, and utilities. Almost 80% of the information we use today has some connection to a place or location - a "whereness". It is that element of 'where' which gives rise to the world of cartography and the need for cartographic information. However,

as a nation that developed such vital tools (the fastest growth in the IT sector is GIS related), we are quickly losing our status as leaders in cartographic and geographic information.

The Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives (ACMLA) actively serves as the representative professional group for Canadian map librarians, cartographic archivists and others interested in geographic information in all formats. Since its inception in 1967, the achievements of the Association have been notable, including a vigorous publishing program, development of professional standards and international cataloguing rules, and efforts to increase national awareness of issues concerning spatial information and recognition of the contribution of map libraries and cartographic archives.

As the name of our Association suggests, we represent both elements of librarianship and archiving - the best of both worlds. The membership of the ACMLA is primarily drawn from those individuals and institutions in Canada who manage the map collections, libraries and archives that house the cartographic heritage of Canada. We are the individuals and institutions who provide reference, instruction, and public awareness programs relating to cartographic information in all its forms. We feel especially concerned about impacts upon those whom we serve in our libraries, collections and archives. We represent all those who use libraries and cartographic collections. Collectively, our user group is heavily reliant upon the information and services of both the National Library and National Archives.

ACMLA objectives include:

- * to promote high standards in the preservation and management of, and access to cartographic collections in Canada;
- * to engage in activities which further the Canadian research community's and public's awareness, use and understanding of cartographic materials;
- * to represent and promote the collective interests of Canadian cartographic users by establishing contacts with government agencies and by striving to influence policy decisions;
- * to create and maintain an active communication network for the exchange of information among members and the cartographic community; and
- * to support the research and professional development activities of members through publications, conferences and seminars.

The report focuses on the National Archives of Canada, which has been responsible for cartographic materials for over 125 years and services as the de facto National Map Collection. However, considering recent changes at the Archives, our members are extremely concerned that not only is this 'traditional' status being eroded, but also there is a clear de-emphasis of cartographic materials.

Service

As librarians, curators and archivists, we are the very people most sensitive to the need for information providers and institutions, like the National Library and National Archives, to be responsive and pro-active with respect to public services. The mandates and service policies of both institutions make definitive statements about 'quality service' and 'respect for the public rights to access information'. However, our members, as well as the researchers served, have been noticing a measurable negative impact on reference service with relation to cartographic and geographic information. Again, this is not a comment directed towards individual service providers, but towards the organization as a whole.

In Issue 113 of *The Archivist* (p.44), discussion is made of the move towards more "self-service and researcher autonomy" whereby "clients can obtain the information they need with minimum intervention from staff". We consider this an example of the erosion of the more traditional high level of expert service which has been available within the National Archives. Recent retirements of staff with expertise and experience in specialist areas of cartography and Canadian cartographic history exacerbate such problems and highlight the need to review human resources. Also, the ability of researchers to find out what information or material is at the Archives is hampered by the lack of primary research tools: guides, finding aids, indexes, web based search engines, online catalogues and the like.

Again, this is not to say that staff are acting in a irresponsible manner with regard to the cartographic material heritage of Canada, or that they view their reference duties as unimportant. On the contrary, our colleagues and members at the National Archives of Canada are concerned individuals with a high degree of professionalism and personal concern and expertise. However, even the internal Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada (PIPSC) Historical Research Group survey indicated that the National Archives of Canada staff have serious concerns about a variety of issues related to reorganization and a deterioration in the level of reference service (see <http://www.fis.utoronto.ca/na-role/>). It is most disconcerting to the people who require the services of the Archives to have requests for assistance dealt with by persons who are not experienced with cartographic information.

This particular concern about the elements related to public services is based upon too frequent comments about delays in reference service, and the overall difficulty in obtaining use of cartographic materials within the Archives. There have been accounts of poor reference services - our Association continues to receive feedback regularly. We feel that the most significant contributing factor to such service issues is the decreasing availability of cartographic material specialists, compounded by the lack of access to the materials for both researchers AND reference staff. Add to this situation the fact that even the Archives, in its 1998-1999 Estimates Report (p.11) indicates there is a "gap between required expertise and knowledge to operate in an electronic work environment".

To highlight some of our concerns related to services, one need only compare the service policies of the National Archives with those of the National Archives and Records Administration

(NARA) of the United States. For example, in Canada a reference inquiry with the Archives, for those unable to visit Ottawa, will be dealt with "within 30 days of receipt". Also, if one wishes to view the original records or materials, this is "done by appointment from Monday to Friday between 8:30 to 17:00 (except statutory holidays)" and "Clients should contact Archives staff well in advance to schedule appointments." There is no Internet reference; no fax service; no 'special fast lane for other librarians or archivists calling from other collections'.

However, at the NARA offices (see: <http://www.nara.gov/nara/vision/custplan.html>):

*You will receive the records you request for use in our research rooms within one hour of your request or, in research rooms that have pull schedules, within one hour of the next pull time. If a delay is encountered, you will be notified of the problem and given an indication of when the records will be available.

*You will receive the information or assistance you need on how to use our self-service holdings within 15 minutes of signing into a research room.

*You will be sent a response to your written request about our holdings within 10 workdays after we receive your letter. If we cannot provide a full response within that time, we will tell you that we have received your request and tell you how long we expect it will take before we can provide a full reply.

Most importantly, from our perspective as librarians and intermediaries at other institutions requiring and dependant upon the Archives for most information, we find the following very instructive:

*If a Federal Agency Requests Records on Your Behalf -- Their request will be processed within 24 hours of receipt in the regional records services facility.

Recommendations:

* That appropriate subject specialists be assigned for public service responsibilities;

* That appropriate public service standards be defined in consultation with the user community;

* That improvements be made to make the collection more accessible to both researchers and the subject specialists providing service on the collection;

* That finding aids, guides, catalogues and digital surrogates be developed to improve access to cartographic materials and promote researcher self-sufficiency, both on and off-site and that such essential tools be made available through the Internet.

Access

The National Archives mission is to preserve the collective memory of the nation and the

government of Canada, and to contribute to the protection of rights and the enhancement of a sense of national identity "by acquiring, conserving and facilitating access to private and public records of national significance, and serving as the permanent repository of records of federal government institutions and ministerial records". This section will focus on the Archives role with respect to facilitating access.

Specifically related to cartographic materials, there is an enormous need for high quality, online/print guides and indexes. The National Archives has been a world leader in the development of standards for describing cartographic materials. They were instrumental in producing *Cartographic materials: a manual of interpretation for AACR2*; RAD chapter 5 for cartographic materials, and the rules for geomatic records. They were one of the first map collections in Canada to catalogue their cartographic items. Yet, the public and most map libraries have not had access to these descriptions of the Archives cartographic holdings as a source of derived cataloguing or to locate an item in their collection.

We are pleased to note, however, that this situation is finally changing. Cartographic materials were included in the new National Library CD-ROM: *Canadiana*. As well, later this year the map records of the Visual and Sound Archives will be loaded into AMICUS, the union catalogue of the National Library. This will improve access to the cartographic heritage of our country, although it will not address the problem of the lack of resources within the Archives to describe newly received material or catalogue older important cartographic collections.

The lack of an accessible catalogue during the past two decades has been compounded in the 1990's by the virtual elimination of any active publication program in the Archives for cartographic materials. Despite the availability of desktop publishing and word processing software, and most recently web publishing tools, there are no printed or online sources of finding aids for paper or digital cartographic materials held in the Archives. The development of these tools, which promote the collections and facilitate access, requires that the human resources available be directed towards these activities.

As professionals providing cartographic reference and information management service, we rely heavily upon our ability to access information quickly. We also need to be assured that our researchers (and ourselves - as we are researchers and authors too) will be able to locate and use the information with a fair amount of ease. Much of the difficulty we face, which has also been previously documented in comments and suggestions to the National Archives, is due to fewer people working in the reference service area who have a background in the field - that is not the fault or problem of those staff members, but more so of the overall organization which allows such a poor service situation to develop.

Some may argue that Internet access is so new and fast changing that an organization cannot adapt to its demands. And yet, by way of comparison between the Internet access points of the National Archives of Canada and NARA in the United States one is struck by several noticeable differences. The U.S. site includes the term "cartographic materials" on their front page . They also provide links to access tools and information regarding cartographic information and projects other agencies are carrying out in the same field. Of particular note are the efforts to

promote the access to and use of cartographic and geographic information via the Library of Congress Internet sites. No similar effort is being made on the part of the National Library or National Archives of Canada - not because of a lack of raw information, but more so due to a lack of emphasis on the part of the organization.

Furthermore, the collection is presently separated from researchers. Cartographic materials are by their definition visual in nature and no catalogue record or finding aid can ever substitute for the real item. Projects such as colour microfilming help, but it is time to use newer technology (scanning) so that the items can be viewed through the Internet. This would serve several purposes: a scanned image might be a reasonable substitute for the public to view as opposed to the real thing, thus decreasing the need for use of the physical item (preservation); it increases self sufficiency (remote or on-site); and in some cases, a scanned image increases the level of analysis not possible with a paper map.

As mentioned above, the examples and experiences within other nations in these initiatives seem to require more support and resources. This is the case, but what should also be considered is that such access has proven, in the long term, to reduce onsite demand. Most significantly, for the Canadian context, is that it also creates more equitable access to the collections across the country.

Recommendations:

- * That adequate resources be allocated for the description of the cartographic holdings of the National Archives and the development of other researcher guides and finding aids;
- * that the Archives work with the National Library and ACMLA to look at other cooperative models for describing and making known the cartographic heritage of the country;
- * that the Archives undertake an active digitizing project for their cartographic material and make the images readily available via the Internet.

Collections

On another matter, there have been ongoing discussions between our association and the National Library and National Archives relating to the important issue of the legal deposit of maps. We fully understand and appreciate the views of our colleagues at the National Archives who feel they provide adequate coverage and collection of Canadian produced mapping without the need to implement a legal deposit system. While we agree that such a legal deposit can be a strain on resources, we are uncertain if the present situation means gaps are developing in the collection of Canadian produced cartographic information. Another concern is that no legal deposit would be able to cover all material, and that gaps would still develop under such a deposit system. This is true. However, with legal deposit there is an enforceable mechanism to rectify any gaps; under the status quo such a legal route does not exist and gaps in collections go on unchecked.

However, an interesting possible solution exists to such a dilemma. It is within the power of the Minister responsible to request legal deposit of maps through the National Librarian under the definition of "book" in the National Library of Canada Act. The act clearly states that "a 'book' means library matter of every kind, nature and description and includes any document, paper, record, tape or other thing published by a publisher, on or in written, recorded, stored or reproduced". It is our contention that, with the proper legal consultation and action by the Minister responsible for the Act (and such action is allowed under the act), a legal deposit could be established for cartographic materials of all types and formats (electronic and paper). This would require a shift of some resources towards cartographic information and an extension of the cooperation between the National Library and National Archives. However, the opposite situation is, in our view, untenable - we cannot stand by and allow there to be no complete collection of cartographic materials produced in and about Canada, or at least a recognized system for establishing such a national collection as the "library of first and last resort" for researchers and the public at large. This would be too serious a gap in our heritage, and future generations will simply ask why we did not feel cartographic materials to be important or valuable enough to be included.

Recommendations:

- * investigate a legal mechanism for ensuring that the cartographic output of our country is collected and preserved, either through a centralized or decentralized model;
- * develop an active digitization program for cartographic materials to give access to all Canadians to our cartographic collection.

A Digital World

As stated at the outset of this brief, Canada was responsible for the development of Geographic Information Systems. We have a tradition of placing resources into the field of managing information about our land and people. Now there is a move amongst the geographic information providers and users to build a Global Geospatial Infrastructure that will in essence become an international cartographic and geographic information library. It is becoming the norm to read about and view digital library projects developed specifically for the use of geospatial and cartographic information. Sadly, in this country, there is less than a proportional amount of development related to integrating the work of libraries, archives and GIS developers within the context of a geospatial infrastructure. This does not mean work is not being carried out - it is and it is of high caliber. What is meant is that librarians and archivists are on the periphery, while in other nations they are at the core of these projects.

We were leaders; we are now followers; we may become buyers and beggars trying to recover our technology and skills. Our librarians and archivists are moving to take over jobs requiring highly skilled professionals to work in exciting map and geographic information environments. Additionally, the demographics indicate that we cannot keep pace with the current rate of loss of experts in the field of cartographic and geographic information.

Data archives, data libraries, and information infrastructures require major coordination and public input. Canadian information goes unused. We have gathered more information than a country our size would suggest we could. But we have failed to manage it properly so that the public at large (or researchers and students in particular) can fully utilize it.

As a nation we sign agreements for the protection of the environment; for military enforcement of UN resolutions; for the promotion of learning and the advancement of technology, health, human rights. Yet we fail to provide a basic element of the infrastructure needed to carry out these actions - the system to manage, preserve, protect, promote and provide access to geographic data and cartographic information. This demands a more co-ordinated effort to establish a National Map and Geographic Information Collection which includes services in preservation and archiving, equally with those of access, cataloguing, and reference.

Within our community of cartographic information experts there exists the human resources to carry out this development. We have proven our leadership in cataloguing cartographic materials; in providing reference services with historic collections; and in developing technologies to fully utilize the information within these uniquely valuable formats. Therefore, we would strongly urge that there be consideration given to the creation of a National Map and Geographic Information Collection (MAGIC) - the mandate of which would be determined based upon a review panel of experts from across Canada and abroad.

The ACMLA would be happy to assist in facilitating such a process of renewal. We feel that the skills, values, and service orientations of libraries could benefit from the expert level of care and professionalism with which the archivists view cartographic information, both focussed within a single National Map Collection. This concept is not without international example. Within the Library of Congress, there is a Geography and Map Division which also contains a Center for Geographic Information.

The Center is an industry group formed in 1995 and dedicated to the support of the Library of Congress's Geography and Map Division in its transition to the digital world. Through hardware, software, and expertise donated by member companies the Center helps develop effective methods for scanning and disseminating the Library's cartographic holdings. This support supplements the Geography and Map Division by the Library's National Digital Library Program for cartographic material. (Source: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/geogmap/gmhist.html>)

What should also be mentioned is that the above Center does not exist, nor was it developed, in a vacuum. Were it not for the concerted efforts of cartographic and geographic information specialists within the Library of Congress, the National Archives and Records Administration and the user and library community, such a centre would not have been possible. Within the current structure and administrative climate in Canada, such an initiative to benefit access and overall promotion of cartographic and geographic information could not take place. In short, the human and physical resources are scattered, and the vision and commitment (financial as well) are lacking. Such an initiative for a national collection would go far in alleviating many of the issues related to collections and services we have briefly related to this consultation.

The establishment of a national organization capable of dealing with issues related to the transition from paper to digital mediums is vital. There is a sense of apprehension about moving in this direction, but it is also an area where we, as an association and with the partnership of related societies and professional groups, are willing to provide direction and assistance. In our call for a data archive and cartographic information collection, we recognize that as funds decrease, cooperation will be more critical. This will also require much in the way of promotion and fund-raising which demands time, energy, and people committed to a vision - an improvement on the present, but rooted in the best traditions of a proud past.

Recommendations:

- * A National Map and Geographic Information Collection (MAGIC) be formed to regain the expertise, quality services and professional example once evident at the national level;
- * Partner with other federal agencies involved in the creation of geospatial data to ensure equitable access to geospatial information and ensure its preservation for future generations;
- * Provide leadership, coordination and training in the area of preserving cartographic information in digital form;
- * The concern indicated in the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada (PIPSC) Historical Research Group report be noted and looked at as an area of emphasis for the administration of the National Archives
- * The recommendations put forward by the Canadian Association of Public Data Users (CAPDU), especially the call for a more focussed effort regarding data, be supported;
- * An in-depth review of cartographic materials be undertaken, using national and international experts to provide a truly accurate analysis of the state of cartographic and geographic information management within the archival and library systems at the national level;
- * As it relates to this consultation and any potential changes relating to the management of and access to cartographic materials within either the National Library or National Archives, we would respectfully request that the ACMLA be provided an opportunity to extend consultations and input with regard to any proposals or recommendations;

Conclusion

Our members did not have an opportunity to meet with Dr. English during our annual conference in London, Ontario at the end of May, so we would enjoy an opportunity to add to our input in future planning or reviews. Furthermore, our Association and individual members are always ready to provide assistance to our colleagues in both the National Archives and National Library. The degree of expertise and experience that makes up the membership of the ACMLA is both wide and extensive - we consider ourselves a resource for the development and implementation

of improved collections and management of cartographic information and materials in Canada. Also, it should not be ignored that we have extensive connections and involvement with other associations and institutions on an international level which affords our Association the opportunity to be involved in some of the most significant leading edge programs and technologies.

The issues, concerns and ideas presented briefly above are not new discussions. We do not face a shortage of potential technological solutions or contributions. Nor do we lack the understanding and knowledge to deal with these situations - we have the people, the ideas and the tools. Unfortunately, these are not in one place. Yes, we do live in a period of networking whereby activities and actual work can be done electronically and without concern for distance or time (at least that's the theory). However, having one collection, with one mandate, and a staff with the tools to do the job, creates a critical mass that can be more innovative and forward looking. This synergy is vital for the potential of such an enterprise (like a National MAGIC); to extend our reach and be leaders; to gain support and raise awareness; to promote, educate and become active in life long learning; to leverage what is within that system to gain added private and public sector support and input.

Our cartographic heritage is being lost. It is not just due to the physical media being left uncollected, but due to the lack of public use and decreasing access. We still find Canadian students using U.S. data and U.S. information about our nation and the world. We still know of researchers and members of the public at large who cannot find the cartographic information they need, and have a right to, simply because we have not deemed it important enough. It is all well and good to have beautiful buildings and well crafted mission statements or strategic plans. However, without the knowledgeable and trained staff, and tools, these other resources are left half used. A heritage half known is a heritage unknown.

In the end, there is no overall plan or vision for geospatial data or cartographic materials, either by the National Archives or National Library - we don't even see mention of that media in as public a way as for other G-7 nations. We have a short window of opportunity to muster the collective expertise and energy to focus on this area. After all, this is an information age and an information economy. But while we see information all round us, we remain information poor.

We are given flags in the mail courtesy of our tax dollars, but we cannot see an image of our constitution or historical maps on the Internet. The United States has an American Memory Project which has placed all the draft versions of the U.S. Constitution on the Internet (among numerous other items such as railroad maps and civil war photos) and yet we cannot see even one original image of ours.

In 1999 Canada will host the Congress of the International Cartographic Association. The ACMLA is a co-sponsor of this important event. Although it is impossible to present to that group (most important and learned cartographic professionals) a final plan, it would certainly be the most opportune time to publicly announce a renewed commitment towards building a truly active, vibrant and visionary National Map and Geographic Information Collection. The time for such a revitalization has come.

Summary of Recommendations

- * That appropriate subject specialists be assigned for public service responsibilities;
- * Appropriate public service standards be defined in consultation with the user community;
- * Improvements be made to make the collection more accessible to both researchers and the subject specialists providing service on the collection;
- * Investigate a legal mechanism for ensuring that the cartographic output of our country is collected and preserved, either through a centralized or decentralized model;
- * Develop an active digitization program for cartographic materials to give access to all Canadians to our cartographic collection;
- * Finding aids, guides, catalogues and digital surrogates be developed to improve access to cartographic materials and promote researcher self-sufficiency, both on and off-site and that such essential tools be made available through the Internet;
- * That adequate resources be allocated for the description of the cartographic holdings of the National Archives and the development of other researcher guides and finding aids;
- * That the Archives work with the National Library and ACMLA to look at other cooperative models for describing and make known the cartographic heritage of the country;
- * That the Archives undertaken an active digitizing project for their cartographic material and make the images readily available via the Internet;
- * A National Map and Geographic Information Collection (MAGIC) be formed to regain the expertise, quality services and professional example once evident at the national level;
- * Partner with other federal agencies involved in the creation of geospatial data to ensure equitable access to geospatial information and ensure its preservation for future generations;
- * Provide leadership, coordination and training in the area of preserving cartographic information in digital form;
- * The concern indicated in the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada (PIPSC) Historical Research Group report be noted and looked at as an area of emphasis for the administration of the National Archives;
- * The recommendations put forward by the Canadian Association of Public Data Users (CAPDU), especially the call for a more focused effort regarding data, be supported;

* An in-depth review of cartographic materials be undertaken, using national and international experts to provide a truly accurate analysis of the state of cartographic and geographic information management within the archival and library systems at the national level; and

* As it relates to this consultation and any potential changes relating to the management of and access to cartographic materials within either the National Library or National Archives, we would respectfully request that the ACMLA be provided an opportunity to extend consultations and input with regard to any proposals or recommendations.

Appendix A

May 8, 1998

Dr. John English
HH 141
Department of History
University of Waterloo
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G1

Dear Dr. English:

I write on behalf of the Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives (ACMLA). Our association actively serves as the representative professional group for Canadian map librarians, cartographic archivists and others interested in geographic information in all formats. Since its formation in 1967, the achievements of the association have been notable, including a vigorous publishing program, development of professional standards and international cataloguing rules, and efforts to increase national awareness of issues concerning spatial information and recognition of the contribution of map libraries and cartographic archives.

We wish to express our opinions for your consultation process on the National Archives and National Library. The National Archives has had the responsibility of collecting maps, whether as part of an archival collection or not, for over 125 years, rather than the National Library. Our association, since its inception in 1967, has had a close cooperative relationship with the National Archives.

We are concerned, however, about the recent move to "self-service and researcher autonomy" in the public services of the National Archives with their "aim" of a "research environment in which clients can obtain the information they need with minimum intervention from staff," as noted in *The Archivist* no. 113, 1997, p. 44. At a meeting on April 17, 1997, with Lee McDonald, then Acting Assistant National Archivist; Elizabeth Hawkins, Special Projects Officer, Policy Branch; and Kathleen Owens, Policy Officer, Policy Branch of the National Archive; Grace Welch, ACMLA First Vice President, and I expressed this concern. We pointed out that they need to

have staff on hand who know the collection and have expertise in subject specialities, such as cartography and geography; this knowledge of the collection cannot be replaced by catalogues and computer finding aids. When we inquired as to how they determined the policy, we were told that it was through a survey of users of all their "media". However, this consultation did not include any members of our association. At the moment, there are only a few staff members who have experience with cartographic materials in the public service area. However, they are not the only staff who assist users and may not always be available. This situation has been exacerbated by the recent retirement of a senior staff member with expertise in the history of cartography and early Canadian cartography. He has not been replaced. In addition, all the maps, atlases and globes of which he was the curator were moved permanently to a building about 15 km away. Another storage area for maps is in Renfrew, about an hour away by car.

We have had ongoing discussions concerning legal deposit of maps. Unlike books, this is not mandated by law. Our association is cooperating with the National Archives to ensure that they are able to collect maps of Canada and Canadian produced maps on a regular basis. Discussions in this area continue with the Archives and National Library.

The National Library has met with our association on several occasions to explore the possibility of expanding their CIP program to include maps. This dialogue will be continued at our annual meeting later this month.

While there has been considerable activity in standards setting for the bibliographic control of cartographic materials by the National Archives, there has not been analogous output of catalogue records comparable to that available for books. We hope that this is about to change after more than 30 years of ACMLA trying to establish a national union catalogue for cartographic materials with the inclusion of map records in the National Library AMICUS database and on the *Canadiana* CD-ROM. This was begun by including information from the National Archives' Carto-Canadiana records. Members of ACMLA have participated in the beta testing of the new CD-ROM product.

Because cartography has begun to move into the digital realm, we also have concerns for the archiving of spatial data and related digital statistical data that can be used in conjunction with it. As a result, we support the efforts of the Canadian Association of Public Data Users and others to establish a national social science data archive. It is not clear to us what the National Archives is able to acquire and preserve in terms of electronic mapping. The National Library does not collect much in the area of electronic atlases, as current depository legislation does not cover electronic publications.

At our meeting last April, we asked about ways in which we could be incorporated into the consultative structure of the National Archives. The National Archives Advisory Board no longer exists. We were told of the Researchers Forum which meets regularly to discuss topics of concern. We thought that this might be an avenue for input from ACMLA and have indicated our interest in nominating a representative should a vacancy occur. However, it has not happened to date.

We would appreciate being included in the consultative process. I would welcome the opportunity to speak with you about how this consultation could best be accomplished.

Sincerely,

Alberta Auringer Wood
President

cc: ACMLA Board