

President's Report 2003-2004

The end of my first year as president of the Association was an exciting and educational one for me. I have had the benefit of a great executive to work with whose experience, dedication, and collegial attitude have made my tenure a truly enriching experience. I will continue as president for 2004-2005.

The end of my first year will also bring with it the possibility of considerable change for next year. At the conference in Winnipeg we may decide to change the name of our association. I do hope that if there is a name change, that those opposing the decision will understand and accept the reasoning and hopes behind such a change. Conversely, if we do keep our present name, I am confident those in favour of a change will also respect the wishes of the majority and realize that the name of our Association is a proud one and has been worthy of a tremendous amount of respect over the years.

Joint Conference:

Our conference this year is another exchange with a related group. We are meeting with the Canadian Association of Public Data Users (CAPDU) in Winnipeg as part of the Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities. When we met with them two years ago in Toronto, it was clear that we had many issues in common and further topics to discuss. Because of this, the organizing committees for both associations have made it a priority that members of both associations are able to attend all sessions.

The organizing committees made up of Hugh Larimer, Rosa Orlandini, Christine Cullingworth, and David Jones from the ACMLA and Gary Strike from CAPDU have done a wonderful job for what promises to be an inspiring conference.

Geoconnections:

We continue to monitor GeoConnections through participation on the Management Board and the Policy Node (see separate report).

Library and Archives Canada:

Parliamentary Bill C-36 in 2003 which became Bill C-8 in 2004 to merge the National and the National Library was passed in Parliament in February 2004 and the Senate this past March. The new institution is now called the Library and Archives Canada. The impact the new Act will have on maps, digital map data, and the Copyright Act is still unclear. The Act is available at:

http://www.parl.gc.ca/common/Bills_ls.asp?Parl=37&Ses=3&ls=C8#GMedia

ACMLA Web Pages:

The ACMLA is close to being able to unveil its new web pages from Dalhousie University. Please see James Boxall's Ad-hoc Web Page Redesign Committee report. Thanks go out to Nan Fern again this year for her help with the web page updates and in the transfer and transition to Dalhousie of the web pages.

CARTA & ACMLA Listserv:

The CARTA listserv, which is still the de facto communication tool for ACMLA members, will have a companion listserv in the coming weeks. A membership listserv will be established through the University of Toronto Libraries and will be host to only members of the ACMLA. The purpose of the list is to act as the vehicle for ACMLA-only messages.

ACMLA Objectives:

The new proposed ACMLA objectives were drafted again this year and are available for comment on the ACMLA web page. Thanks to Colleen Beard and Richard Pinnell for their dedication and hard work. We will discuss the objectives at the Annual General Meeting in Winnipeg.

Library Assistants Workshop:

The Association provided some start-up money to support a two day workshop for library assistants in Ontario on June 12th, 2003. The workshop was organized by Cathy Moulder at McMaster University. Judging from the number of articles in Bulletin and from talking to some of the attendees of the workshop, the workshop was a great success and can certainly be the model for future workshops across Canada.

Executive:

Ann Smith of Acadia University has decided not to continue in her role as the Secretary of the executive. Andrew Nicholson of the University of Toronto at Mississauga Library has been acclaimed as the new Secretary. We wish Ann good luck and thank her for her time on the executive.

Marcel Fortin
President
May 26, 2004