

2005 ACMLA President Annual Report Marcel Fortin

This is my last Annual Report as President as I am stepping down after the Annual General Meeting in St. John's at the end of July 2005.

The **Joint Data Committee** with the Canadian Association of Public Data Users (CAPDU) is the committee that falls under the position of the president. Sharon Neary of CAPDU has been working all year on the terms of reference. There is no official membership to the committee yet and no annual report has been written. We hope to get going with the committee by the end of this year. Some of the issues the committee might tackle are those of metadata, data delivery and data sharing opportunities. Specific data acquisitions that have been difficult to broker we may set our sites on include possibly items such as Hydrographic Charts data and environmental data. See the separate draft document for a full description and further information on the committee. The draft terms of reference of the committee are as follows:

Joint Data Committee Purpose and Terms of Reference

There shall be a Consultative and Negotiating Committee that shall be a joint committee of the Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives and the Canadian Association of Public Data Users. The Committee shall:

- A. Actively participate in negotiating academic access to required numeric and geo-referenced data resources.
- B. Provide a forum to discuss issues and matters of mutual concern for the two Associations respecting access to publicly-funded data especially of a restricted or proprietary nature.
- C. Develop an electronic inventory of existing data custodians and access agreements already allowing facilitated access to publicly-funded federal and provincial numeric and spatial data resources for the academic community.
- D. Examine existing constraints on data access for purposes of academic research and learning including governmental and commercial custodianship, as well as copyright limitations and privacy legislation impediments.
- E. Develop for ACMLA/CAPDU advocacy positions on data sharing and dissemination with special attention to publicly-funded data for academic research and scholarship

Depository Services Program (DSP)

Many of us have expressed the importance of our arrangement with Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN) to the DSP. Christine Leduc has been in discussion with NRCAN and has relayed to them that we would like to continue with the program past its expiry date in 2006.

I have also requested usage statistics on the NRCAN data but NRCAN has not provided it to the DSP.

I have also requested that the ACMLA be made a participant in the new Library Advisory Committee of the DSP. Preliminary meetings to decide the format and the participants of the new committee will be held in August and a decision will be made on whether or not we will be able to sit on the committee.

Geoconnections

In June, the federal government announced the renewed funding of Geoconnections program at \$60 million for five years. This new phase of Geoconnections is intended to ensure that Canadians will be further able to actively adopt, use and benefit from the Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure. GeoConnections will aim to better understand the needs of users in the four areas of sustainable development and the environment, Aboriginal issues, public health, and public safety. As well, look for a more in-depth road network layer within the next year.

ACMLA Conference

Of course this year marks our return to the East coast for our annual conference. We are meeting in St. John's Newfoundland at Memorial University of Newfoundland at the end of July with the Canadian Cartographic Association. Thanks to Dan Duda for tremendous work so far for what I am sure will be a memorable conference.

ACMLA Name Change vote

The votes have been counted and the results in. An announcement on the results will be made at the Annual General Meeting at the conference in St. John's. An announcement will also be made on the CARTA listserv following the conference.

Respectfully submitted by
Marcel Fortin, ACMLA president
July 2005