

**Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives -
Association des carto-thèques et archives cartographiques du Canada**

**Publications Committee Report
May 2004**

Following a relatively inactive year, the Publications Committee is planning a more ambitious program for 2004-05. As you will read in the following report, there are numerous issues to be discussed and decisions to be made. To ensure that these and other goals are accomplished, the Committee needs new members; please consider joining us.

1) *Publications on the ACMLA Web Site:*

Discussions have been held as to which Association publications should be available on the Association's new web site. The Executive Officers have determined that the initial publications are to be the *Directory of Canadian Map Collections/Répertoire des collections canadiennes de cartes* (1999) and the *Guide for a Small Map Collection* (1984). Undeniably these are excellent publications but both require updating - the *Directory*, as soon as possible and perhaps annually to be most useful to members and the research public and the *Guide*, a new edition to reflect changes in small (in fact, all) map libraries and archives in the last two decades. Updates/new editions - by whom? Are there members who are willing to contribute their talents and their time? Or are there other options?

It has been suggested that all issues of the *Bulletin* and its predecessors - *Proceedings and Newsletters* - be made available on the site. Prior to such a major undertaking, a detailed study is required of the contents and the value of the information to the Association and to the profession. Are there certain categories of information which should be prioritized for automation? Are there others so dated that they should not be considered? A first step to be considered might be to make *Explorations in the History of Canadian Mapping* (1988), a selection of articles on the history of cartography which had appeared in issues of the *Proceedings* and the *Bulletin*, available on the Association web site and also to reproduce the various articles which have been awarded the ACMLA Papers Awards since 1986. Linked to this is whether future editions of the *Bulletin* should be published electronically, in print or both? For the latter, the Association would need to consider the impact on membership or if restricting access to "members only" for a determined time period would be possible.

2) *Traditional Publications:*

Undoubtedly, all future publication proposals must be examined as to which format is preferable - that is, print or electronic - or if both formats should be made available. Financial analysis of the potential market is a necessary prelude to final decisions.

With the decision noted above concerning the updated editions of the *Directory of Canadian Map Collections/Répertoire des collections canadiennes de cartes* and the *Guide for a Small Map Collection*, should there be small runs also published in paper format? Undoubtedly, there are those who prefer a paper edition of these useful publications on their desks or their bookshelves, and if this option is not possible, will print their own copies from those on the web site.

Throughout the years, the ACMLA has published a variety of monographic publications, the most recent being *Catalogue of Canadian Fire Insurance Plans 1875 - 1975* (2002). Do Association members have ideas or suggestions for other monographic publications (paper or electronic)? Do they have recommendations for authors or compilers - themselves or others?

3) *Partnerships:*

Joint publications with other organizations - institutions or other associations - should be seriously considered in the future. The recent trend of holding joint conferences with other associations, such as CCA and CAPDU, has ascertained the benefits of sharing information and experiences; the next step might well be partnerships in publication projects. Suggestions have included a publication (or perhaps a joint Bulletin and the counterpart(s) from another/other association(s)) on a specific topic with authors from the participating associations. Institutional assistance or partnerships in monographic publications would also allow a more active program.

4) *Official Languages Policy:*

Although the policy promised in the previous report was delayed, a first draft (with implications reaching beyond monographic publications) is now ready for circulation to the executive officers, who will provide further direction.

5) *Inventory Reduction:*

One of the recommendations in the 2002 report, *Review of Monographic Publication Program with Recommendations for the Future*, was to reduce current inventory levels to a maximum of a projected 10 year supply for each publication. This needs to be reviewed and in concert with the facsimile map program, a more active marketing/advertising program undertaken.

Thanks to Colleen Beard, the Second Vice-President, to whom the Publications Committee reports.

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