

AABC Newsletter

Honorary Patron:

The Honourable Iona Campagnolo, PC, CM, OBC, Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia

Volume 17 No.1

Winter 2007

ISSN 1193-3165

Newsletter homepage

aabc.bc.ca/aabc/newsletter

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The AABC Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Archives Association of British Columbia. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the AABC.

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Editorial Board:

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[Greg Kozak](mailto:greg@aabc.bc.ca)

[Jennifer Mohan](mailto:jensan@aabc.bc.ca)

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Next Issue:

March 1, 2007

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Last updated

December 10, 2006

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Preservation and the Digital Divide

By Rosaleen Hill, AABC Conservation Coordinator

The following paper is a modified version of my paper given at the 2006 Association of Canadian Archivists Annual Conference in St. John's.

This session, Preservation and the Digital Divide, will discuss some of the opportunities as well as considerable challenges faced by archives with the advent of the digital age. Most archives in Canada are currently struggling to provide basic preservation care for their analog records let alone for the upcoming tidal wave of born digital records and digital records created as part of a digital preservation strategy.

As a preservation consultant I have had the opportunity over the last seven years of working with over 100 archives, museums and art galleries from across Western Canada – all of which have archival records. During this time I have also had the privilege of being a member of the Canadian Council of Archives Preservation Committee and have had the opportunity to review preservation grants from across Canada as part of the adjudication process. While undertaking these activities it has become apparent that many archives are ill prepared to take advantage of the opportunities that digital preservation/ migration can offer.

In 2003, the Canadian Council of Archives Preservation Committee contracted Cynthia Ball to review 95 Global Preservation Assessments completed between 1999 – 2004.[\[1\]](#) The purpose of the Ball report was to develop a picture of the current state of preservation in Canada during this period. It is not a rosy picture.

The Ball Report identified that of the 95 archives that had had a global preservation assessment in that five-year period:

- * 60% no environmental control – which equates to no relative humidity control
- * 67% no preservation policy – 100% no digital preservation policy
- * 76% no written emergency plan
- * 97% no cold storage

It is interesting to note that at the same time the Ball report was being compiled the Heritage Health Index (the first comprehensive survey ever conducted of the condition and preservation needs of all American collections held in the public institutions) was undertaken.[\[2\]](#) Additionally, in the United Kingdom, the National Preservation Office in February 2006 published “Knowing the Need – A Report on the emerging picture of preservation needs in libraries and archives in the UK”. What is intriguing to note when you read these survey reports is that only the Heritage Health Index includes digital records in their data sets.

The Heritage Health Index Summary

- * 26% no environmental control
- * 80% no emergency plan
- * 68% budgeted less than \$3000 year for preservation – which is also similar to Canadian archives

The UK National Preservation Office report focuses almost exclusively on analog records and notes “ the great majority of reformatting has been by microfilming, and this remains an economical and reliable long-term form of surrogate. Digitisation has significant access benefits but a greater cost in both creation and maintenance of the digital object”.^[3] The report’s summary of preservation needs does not identify any key issues relating to digital preservation.

I should note here that the Global Preservation Assessments reviewed in the Ball Report are almost exclusively completed by using either the full or an abridged version of the Conservation Assessment Guide for Archives by Jane Dalley and published by the Canadian Council of Archives in 1995. At the time this assessment tool was compiled digital records were not a significant part of an archival collection. To address this shift in records the work plan of the CCA Preservation committee for the upcoming year includes updating the Conservation Assessment Guide to include both born digital and migrated digital record sections.

So when we take the American and UK surveys into account we can confidently state that Canadian archives are not alone in the challenges they face. We are, however, truly at a cross roads in terms of how we collect, preserve and make archival records accessible – AND in how we choose to reallocate fiscal and staff resources to improve the preservation of our archival heritage.

Archives that do not have specialist media archivists or access to conservators are facing considerable challenges in the preservation of “at risk media”. “At risk” or modern media includes:

- * Magnetic media (audio and videotape)
- * Colour photographic media (not in cold storage)
- * Cellulose nitrate and cellulose acetate (still and motion picture)

The vast majority of these records are housed in environments that are less than ideal and suffer from what can be generously termed “benign neglect”.

It is with “at risk’ media that the opportunities of digital reformatting and the creation of preservation master copies can be realized. If the current strategy of benign neglect continues these records will be lost. A digital preservation strategy is not without peril and cannot be entered into without considerable forethought and, in many cases, a hefty investment.

Steven Puglia in his 1999 RLG Diginews article “The Costs of Digital Imaging Projects” identified the following production figure breakdown:

- * 1/3 the cost is digital conversion (32%)
- * 1/3 the cost is in metadata creation (includes cataloguing, description and indexing (29%)
- * 1/3 the cost in other activities, such as administration and quality control (39%)^[4]

These ratios are daunting. Suppose a province wanted to approach the preservation of ‘at risk’ modern media strategically and, for example, identified early ¾” Umatic tape as the preservation media of choice for a particular grant cycle. Let’s suppose that that province allocated \$50,000 of their grant allocation to this province-wide preservation project. In Vancouver, the cost of migration for a one-hour ¾” Umatic tape to an MPEG2 digital file is between \$200 - \$400 per tape depending on the condition of the tape and how much time it takes to prepare the tape for a safe transfer. So, if we average the costs at \$300 per tape ONLY 165 – 170 tapes could be transferred for the \$50,000. If the total NADP grant program (approximately \$1.2 million) was devoted to a nation-wide preservation project the archival community could only transfer 4000 one-hour Umatic tapes!

Before a digital preservation project can be initiated, such as the province-wide Umatic project I just mentioned - numerous issues arise. For example, in many archives videotapes are acquired as part of a larger fond but they are never appraised as the archives did not have appropriate play back equipment at the time of acquisition. This becomes a Catch-22 as an archive is not going to invest \$200-\$400 for a tape migration unless they are sure that it will be a useful expenditure. In an attempt to assist archives in BC the AABC Preservation Service has developed a registry of institutions with a range of play back equipment that could be used by association members for appraisal or reappraisal

if needed. The AABC Preservation Tool Kit is being redeveloped to focus on “at risk” media with a new page going up shortly on Videotape Preservation: Format Identification and Condition Assessment. Because again, if the tapes have not been appraised or the tape format has not been identified during acquisition how will the archivist know what type of playback equipment will be needed for appraisal?

To this point I have focused a few challenges – and it has been a bit depressing – but there are success stories! Kim Lawson at the Union of BC Indian Chiefs Resource Centre in Vancouver has developed an in-house program for the migration of videotapes and audiotapes to digital format.

The City of Vancouver Archives has identified cellulose acetate still and motion picture film as a high preservation priority. To that end, the City of Vancouver Archives has installed a walk-in cold storage vault for the cellulose acetates. A scanning project was also undertaken to provide access to the cellulose acetate negatives in cold storage. Sue Bigelow, Conservator, at the City of Vancouver Archives, has written a case study of the cold storage project and it can be downloaded from the Canadian Council of Archives website.[\[5\]](#) This project is an exceptional example of improving researcher access, improving preservation by reducing handling and dramatically increasing life expectancy through cold storage.

Some archives that I have visited are quite candid in that they hope/plan to preserve their analog photographic images by the creation of digital preservation copies. I should note that none of these archives have a digital preservation policy nor do they appear to have a coherent digital preservation strategy nor funds, I suspect, for the ongoing maintenance of this digital asset. To those archives I draw their attention to the IPI Preservation Calculator[\[6\]](#).

The screenshot shows the IPI Preservation Calculator interface. On the left, there are two vertical sliders. The first slider is for Temperature (Temp °C), with a red bar and a slider handle positioned at 20, labeled 'ROOM'. The second slider is for Relative Humidity (% RH), with a blue bar and a slider handle positioned at 50, labeled 'MODERATE'. To the right of these sliders, there are three rectangular boxes. The top box is labeled 'Preservation Index (PI)' and contains the number '44' followed by 'Years'. The middle box is labeled 'Natural Aging Rate' and contains the word 'MODERATE'. The bottom box is labeled 'Days to Mold Germination' and contains the text 'No Risk' in green. At the bottom right of the interface is an 'Exit' button. At the bottom left, there is a small box with '°F/°C' and a larger box with the text 'Use arrow keys or mouse to move sliders'. At the bottom center, there is a blue button labeled 'Visit the IPI Web Site'.

Note that at average room storage conditions there will be noticeable loss in less than 50 years. If the digital project is not undertaken to current best practice and if these archives are not able to maintain the digital preservation copies then both may be lost. For still images NARA’s Technical Guidelines for Digitizing Archival Materials for Electronic Access: Creation of Production Master Files – Raster Images – is considered by most to be best practice.[\[7\]](#)

What can we do to bridge the digital divide between have and have not archives? As a community, if we identify ‘at risk’ media as a high priority we must redirect resources toward:

- * Identify education needs and the development of workshops or other training opportunities in areas such as – media/format identification and digital project management
- * Develop acquisition questionnaires for modern media and/ or link to other groups such as the Variable Media Group
- * Develop web resources focusing on migration best practice and include case studies where possible
- * Encourage ‘cooperative grant applications’ for ‘at risk’ media so that a lower cost per tape/records transfer could be negotiated

And once this utopian or dystopian world of digital preservation masters is created we have to have a way of storing vast amounts of digital information. To deal effectively with these vast quantities of digital data the Canadian archival community should explore the idea of a regional system of trusted digital repositories – or “digital deep freezes”. This approach will be of particular value to archives that cannot make the ongoing investment in the maintenance of a digital asset.

So as a conservator am I pessimistic about the digital onslaught – not at all! I have great hope for the future – we are still in the very early days of this digital world and that the potential for increased researcher access and preservation

has never been greater.

1 Ball, Cynthia. 2004. The Ball Report. Internal CCA Report.

2 Heritage Health Index. www.heritagepreservation.org/hhi/index.html

3 Walker, Alison and Julia Foster. 2006. Knowing the Need. National Preservation Office, British Library. www.bl.uk/services/npo/publicationsnpo.html accessed 26 June 2006.

4 Puglia, Steven. 1999. The Costs of digital Imaging Projects, RLG Diginews, Volume 3, No. 5, October 15, 1999. accessed 26 June 2006. www.rlg.org/legacy/preserv/diginews/diginews3-5.html#feature

5 Bigelow, Sue. 2003. Cold Storage of Photographs at the City of Vancouver Archives. Ottawa: Canadian Council of Archives. www.cdncouncilarchives.ca

6 Image Permanence Institute Preservation Calculator.
www.imagepermanenceinstitute.org/shtml_sub/dl_prescalc.shtml

7 Puglia, Steven. Et al. 2004. Technical Guidelines for Digitizing Archival Materials for Electronic Access: Creation of Production Master Files – Raster Images. www.archives.gov/research/arc/techguide-raster-june2004.pdf

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A New Publication from the PAA



P10369 - Road to Banff, 1927

The Provincial Archives of Alberta is pleased to announce the publication of **An Administrative History of the Government of Alberta, 1905-2005**. Due for release in November 2006, this reference handbook outlines the establishment or dissolution of hundreds of ministries, departments, boards and commissions, and details the transfer of responsibilities within the Government of Alberta from its inception to the present day.

The Provincial Archives of Alberta serves as the permanent repository of records of enduring value of the Government of Alberta. This book is the result of years of research using the holdings of the Provincial Archives, and it serves as a fitting reminder of the importance of government records to the history of the province.



Pa40(1).9 - Repairs to the Dome of the Legislature Building, 1954, Edmonton

The foundations for the text are the descriptive finding aids developed by archivists at the Provincial Archives over the past number of years. There is information in the book not found elsewhere, including a fold-out time line that provides a graphical reference to the establishment and dissolution of the bodies of government detailed in the book. Each organization presented in this hardcover book is accompanied by a list of chief officers and their years of service. There are over seventy photographs, an index, and a detailed table of contents for ready reference.

This publication allows those interested in the history of the province to have, in one helpful resource, a concise, yet comprehensive description of the changes to legislated functions and responsibilities within government administration.

Please visit our website at www.cd.gov.ab.ca/paa or contact Justin McLeod at 780-415-4867 for purchasing information.

Tom Anderson
Government Records Archivist
Provincial Archives of Alberta

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Catholic Archivist Group (CAG) Annual Meeting

The theme of “Bridging the Sacred and the Profane” proved to be timely and relevant for the Catholic Archivist Group (CAG) Annual Meeting held in Orleans, Ontario in September 2006. Fifty-five Archivists mostly from religious communities but with growing representation from Diocesan archives, met to learn, discuss, and share ways for promoting archival resources as a gateway to our shared history.

Archives allow for and encourage conversations with the past because archival resources bring bygone eras to life. What looks like a mound of old paper is actually the key to discovering what happened long ago. Archivists make the journey into the past possible by ensuring that historical resources are protected and preserved and by accepting the responsibility for making sure that the gift of the past is accessible. This is a tall order and one that is enriched by our special call as Catholic Archivists.

Catholic Archivists are responsible for keeping Christ’s memory alive in the secular world. This duty flows from canon law, professional principles, and from our baptism into a sacred community. Catholic Archivists are part of both secular and sacred communities and our special role as Archivists is to connect those worlds. We bridge the sacred and the profane so that our religious heritage can be known, acclaimed, and cherished. This is our legacy but it is also our challenge. Insights into how to accomplish this goal and strategies for energizing weary spirits were in abundance at the CAG meeting.

The Catholic Archivist Group (CAG) is made up of Archivists committed to maintaining and promoting the archives of Catholic institutions, Diocese, and religious communities. The Group, formerly known as the Canadian Religious Conference (Ontario) Archivist Group, has recently taken on a national mandate. The Group includes members of religious communities, professional Archivists and dedicated volunteers. The Group now has over 50 members, nine of which work in Diocese or Archdiocese across Canada. The Archives of the Diocese of Prince George joined CAG in 2006.

The meeting consisted of formal presentations and informal talks, which provided food for thought about how to tell our stories and how to communicate with those who are searching for connections to their church communities. Workshops on accessibility issues, the care and handling of photo albums, a tour of the Canadian Conservation Institute and a moving address on the value of religious archives by Ian Wilson, Librarian and Archivist of Canada all served to inform and inspire.

In his talk, Mr. Wilson harkened back to the words of Sir Arthur Doughty, National Archivist from 1860-1936 who said that archives are a gift from one generation to another. Mr. Wilson acknowledged that church records belong to the church. However, he also stressed that religious archival materials provide an authentic record of events and therefore have an invaluable role to play in documenting the social history of Canada. He also addressed some thorny issues, which directly affect our goals and more importantly which tightly constrain what we as Archivists hope to accomplish. Budgets are small, litigation is on going, and religious communities are declining in numbers. The reality of managing archives in the face of these day-to-day challenges formed the basis for many quiet conversations over

the course of the 3-day conference. The sense of kinship that grew between the participants spread optimism and purpose like a soothing balm.

Archivists don't need to be convinced that historical records are priceless. However, at the CAG meeting I learned that my responsibilities as a Catholic Archivist go beyond the doors of my own institution and that each of us has a role to play in the landscape of collective memory that shapes our church, our country and ultimately ourselves.

Jo-Anne Allison, MLS, MA
Archivist
Diocese of Prince George
Box 7000
Prince George, British Columbia V2N 3Z2 Canada
(250) 964-4424 ext 246

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NADP Recipients for 2006

File number	Institution	Title of project
6237-B1-0601	Archives Association of British Columbia	British Columbia Education and Advisory Service
6237-B1-0602	Archives Association of British Columbia	British Columbia Archival Preservation Service
6237-B1-0603	Archives Association of British Columbia	British Columbia Archival Network Service
6237-B1-0604	Simon Fraser University Archives & Records Management Department	SFU Archives Global Preservation Assessment
6237-B1-0605	Simon Fraser University Archives & Records Management Department	Simon Fraser Letters Conservation Treatment
6237-B1-0606	City of Vancouver Archives	Audio Digitization Module
6237-B1-0607	New Westminster Museum & Archives	Chinese Benevolent Association Records Access & Awareness Project
6237-B1-0608	City of Vancouver Archives	LD Taylor family fonds arrangement and description project - phase 1
6237-B1-0609	British Columbia Medical Association Archives	Records of Physicians & other Health Care Professionals in BC
6237-B1-0610	City of Richmond Archives	Community Records 20th Anniversary Project
6237-B1-0611	Kelowna Archives	The National Catalogue Re-description Project for the Kelowna Museum Archives
6237-B1-0612	West Vancouver Archives	Hollyburn Ridge Digital Preservation Project
6237-B1-0613	UBC Library, Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, Rare Books and Special Collections	Rosemary Brown Finding Aid Project

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AABC Newsletter

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Editor's Message

As we come to the end of another year, I would like to take a moment to thank everyone who has helped out with the newsletter since I took over as editor this past spring. There have definitely been challenges along the way, but it's been fun too. First, I would like to thank all those who were able to contribute their articles and columns this year, for taking the time to share some of your knowledge and passion with the rest of us. I would also like to thank the members of the editorial board for their assistance, and other members of the AABC executive who helped me along the way while I tried to figure out this gig. And finally, a big thank-you to our Technical Editor Leslie Field, and to Bill Purver for his role in maintaining the AABC website. Both were a great help in answering my many questions over the past few months, and without their efforts the newsletter would not be possible.

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AABC Education and Advisory Service

Site visits and getting out to the regions

One of the purposes of the Education and Advisory Service is to provide advising site visits, free of charge, to archival repositories in British Columbia and to organizations and groups interested in developing an archival program. These site visits take place throughout the year, but in 2006-2007 they will be focused on the Central and North Vancouver Island area. As the Advisory Archivist, I will be travelling to Comox and heading north during the week of February 18th, 2007. If you are an AABC member, or prospective member, and you are interested in connecting with me when I am in your region, please contact me.

What happens at a site visit?

Site visits are an opportunity for an Advisory Archivist find out what is happening in repositories across the province. Approximately 10 institutions are visited each year. The knowledge gained by the advisor helps build awareness about what resources are needed and what common issues and concerns exist across the province. Site visits also provide an opportunity for the people working in these archives to ask specific questions about collections management, archival description, digitization, or any other policies or procedures. For many smaller institutions, run with few staff members and volunteers, it is a chance to talk one-on-one with a professional who shares your passion for records and documentary heritage.

Site visits generally take one half to one full day and they are not intended to be a critique of what your archives is doing right or wrong. An Advisory Archivist will talk with you about your policies and take a look at all aspects of your operation: accessioning, arrangement and description, storage, reference, reproduction, outreach, etc. Site visits result in a report from the advisor that can help your institution to focus its priorities and make plans to improve. These reports have been used by archives to support requests for financial assistance or as supporting documentation when applying for grants.

What about regional meetings?

Since, as Advisory Archivist, I am presently located in the Lower Mainland, I try to pair site visit trips with regional meetings. The position of Regional Representative for Central and North Vancouver Island is currently vacant. Are there any archivists in the area who would be interested in taking on this position? As explained on the AABC website, the Regional Representatives are the liaison with the Association's Executive for archives and archivists in the various regions of the province. They assist in the organization of regional meetings and help coordinate special projects of a regional nature.

Regional meetings help to create a sense of belonging in a profession which can sometimes be isolating. Knowing other archivists in your area helps foster a sense of community and encourages best practices among repositories. To develop a strong and effective archival network, we need to have involvement from archives in every area of the

province. The more professional networking that takes place, the stronger the archival community becomes. However, this networking does not happen on its own; it only occurs when individual members become involved. The Fraser Valley Region has been a model for regional groups over the last number of years. They have proven that regional meetings are a great place to share problems and gather solutions to them based on the experience of others. Kudos to current and past Fraser Valley Reps, Val Billesberger and Kelly Harms for a job well-done!

The AABC would like to see regional meetings take place at least once each year. I would be delighted to participate in a regional gathering this February in the North Island area. If anyone from this part of the province would like to help set a meeting up, please contact me soon.

Jenn Roberts
604-295-0299
jroberts@aabc.bc.ca

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British Columbia Archival Network News

My stint as Coordinator of the British Columbia Archival Network Service comes to an end in December 2006. My thanks to all of those who have contributed to the development of the first and most comprehensive network of its kind in Canada.

Bill Purver

British Columbia Archival Union List -- New Descriptions on the Database

For a listing of new and revised descriptions on the BC Archival Union List, people are asked to consult the "New Descriptions on the BCAUL" page at aabc.bc.ca/aabc/newbcaul.html.

Archives in the province are reminded that new and revised BCAUL descriptions should be submitted to the BC Archival Network Service Coordinator. For contact information, please consult the BC Archival Network Service homepage at aabc.bc.ca/aabc/bcans.html.

Guide to Archival Repositories in British Columbia -- Recent Updates

The following is information recently updated on the AABC's online directory, *A Guide to Archival Repositories in British Columbia* (aabc.bc.ca/aabc/bcguide.html):

1) Comox Archives and Museum

New web address: www.comoxmuseum.ca

2) Crofton House School Archives

New contact name: Erie Maestro , Archivist

3) North Vancouver Museum and Archives

New contact name: Janet Turner , Archivist

New email address: turnerj@dnv.org

4) Penticton Museum and Archives

New contact name: Peter Ord , Director/Curator

5) Fort Steele Heritage Town Archives

New web address: www.fortsteele.ca

6) City of Victoria Archives

New email address: careyp@victoria.ca

New web address: www.victoria.ca/archives/archives.shtml

7) British Columbia Institute of Technology Archives

New email address: BCIT-Archives@bcit.ca

New web site: www.bcit.ca/archives/

New hours of operation: Tuesday-Wednesday, 10:00-12:00, 1:00-3:00

New holdings information: Total Volume, 130 metres; Inclusive Dates, 1952-2006

8) Anglican Diocese of Caledonia Archives

New web address: caledoniaanglican.ca

9) Diocese of Kamloops Archives

New web site: www.rcdk.org/services/archive.htm

10) Diocese of Prince George Archives

New web site: www.pgdiocese.bc.ca

11) CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum

New email address: info@navalandmilitarymuseum.org

12) Chilliwack Archives

New contact name: Ron Denman

New email address: cm_chin@dowco.com

New web address: chilliwack.museum.bc.ca/archives/index.htm

13) Langley Centennial Museum

Contact name: Paul Thistle , Curator

14) Colombo Lodge Archives

New web site: www.colombolodge.ca

15) Fort St. John-North Peace Museum

New web site: www.explorenorth.com/library/communities/canada/bl-ftstjohnmuseum.htm

16) Historic Yale Museum

New web address: www.tsa.gov.bc.ca/heritage_branch/heritage_sites/yale.htm

17) Kelowna Museum

New web address: www.kelownamuseum.ca

18) North Thompson Museum

New email address: ntmuseum@telus.net

New web address: www.norththompsonmuseum.com

19) Port Clements Historical Society and Museum

New web site: www.portclementsmuseum.org

20) Quesnel and District Museum and Archives

New contact: Curator

New email address: ihollingshead@city.quesnel.bc.ca

21) St. Margaret's School Archives

New web address: www.stmarg.ca

22) Sooke Region Museum

New email address: info@sookeregionmuseum.com

New web address: www.sookeregionmuseum.com

23) U'Mista Cultural Centre

New web address: www.umista.ca

24) Sointula Museum

New address: P.O. Box 23, Sointula, B.C. V0N 3E0

New phone/fax number: (250) 973-6683

25) Revelstoke Museum and Archives

New email address: revelstokemuseum@telus.net

26) Armstrong-Spallumcheen Museum and Art Gallery

New web site: www.asmas.ca

27) City of Surrey Archives

New address: 17671-56 Avenue, Surrey, B.C. V3S 1C9

New hours of operation: Tuesday-Thursday, 10 am to 6 pm; Friday-Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm. Seasonal closure: mid-December to mid-February

28) Union of BC Indian Chiefs Resource Centre

New contact name: Alissa Cherry , Archivist/Librarian

British Columbia Archival Network Service - Contact Information

Archives or archivists wishing to submit new information for any of the AABC's web resources, including new or

revised descriptions for the *BC Archival Union List* and the online *Guide to Archival Repositories in BC*, should contact the BC Archival Network Service Coordinator by email at aabc@aabc.bc.ca.

For more information about the program, people are asked to consult the BC Archival Network Service homepage at aabc.bc.ca/aabc/bcans.html.

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Community News

Catherine Yasui, recent graduate of the M.A. program in Archival Studies at the University of British Columbia's (UBC) School of Library, Archival and Information Studies, was awarded the 2006 ARMA International Educational Foundation (AIEF) Graduate Level Scholarship.

The AIEF Graduate Level Scholarship was established to encourage the development of the international records and information management community, and is awarded annually to a full-time student of a graduate program that leads to a Masters degree or equivalent and that offers records and information management courses. The Award was presented last October in San Antonio, Texas, at the 2006 Association of Records Managers and Administrators (ARMA) International Annual Conference's Awards Event. Catherine's paper, entitled, "Now 'til Then: Adopting an IM Attitude" was selected from among a number of strong entries as being one of two winning papers that will be featured on the AIEF website (www.armaedfoundation.org).

Catherine graduated among the top students in the UBC archival studies program in 2006, and, for achieving first place standing in a course on the management of electronic records taught by Dr. Luciana Duranti, Director of the InterPARES Project, Catherine was awarded the Harold Naugler Memorial Prize in November 2006. A paper she wrote for the same course was nominated for the Society of American Archivist's 2006 Theodore Calvin Pease Award. Catherine was also a 2006 recipient of a Management of Electronic Records (MER) conference scholarship, which sponsors top scholars from across North America to attend the annual MER conference in Chicago.

Randy Preston
Project Coordinator, InterPARES Project
The University of British Columbia
Suite 301-6190 Agronomy Road
Vancouver, British Columbia V6T 1Z3 Canada
tel: +1(604) 822-2694 fax: +1(604) 822-1200
rpreston@interchange.ubc.ca
www.interpares.org

* * *

The Friends of the B.C. Archives are pleased to announce that the 2006 winner of the Terry Reksten Memorial Fund award is the Quesnel and District Museum and Archives. They will be using their grant of \$700 to purchase a digital recorder in order to collect aural histories within the community.

Founded in honour of the late Terry Reksten, well known British Columbia historian, the Fund annually offers an award of \$700 to a community archives in British Columbia to assist in the endeavour of acquiring, preserving, indexing or disseminating information on archival documentary heritage of British Columbia in the broadest sense of the word. The award is administered by the Friends of the British Columbia Archives.

Applications for the 2007 award will be received until June 30, 2007. For further details on how to apply, and the eligibility criteria, please see the Friends website at <http://www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca/friends/memorial.htm>

Ann ten Cate
Archivist and Outreach Coordinator
Access and Information Management Services
B.C. Archives
Royal British Columbia Museum Corp.
675 Belleville St.
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9W2
E-mail (new): ann.tenCate@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca
phone: 250-387-2970 fax: 250-387-2072
www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca
www.rbcm.gov.bc.ca

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