
The Public Archives of Canada has produced a welcome up-dated list of its publications available to the public. Since out-of-print publications are not included, it is not a comprehensive bibliography of that institution’s publications.

The introduction makes it clear that the closing of Information Canada bookstores has complicated the distribution of PAC books and pamphlets. To facilitate mail orders, the list gives a complete bibliographical description and cost of each publication. Those who ruefully observe ‘‘one of the great bargains of our time’’ going the way of the dodo as Bell telephone rates steadily rise will find these prices a truly heartening surprise. Many, including the PAC’s annual reports from 1970 to 1976, exhibition catalogues, brochures and leaflets, are free—gifts in search of beneficiaries, and ideal sustenance for archives existing on low-calorie budgets.

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The Ad Hoc Committee on the Status of Women in the Archival Profession was established by the Society of American Archivists in the fall of 1972. To obtain information on the issue, the Committee prepared and distributed two questionnaires—one to be answered by individuals (SAA members and others), and one directed to heads of archival institutions. Included among the 147 institutions surveyed were the Public Archives of Canada and one unidentified provincial archives.

The report, submitted in August 1974, exhaustively analyzes the data obtained from the responses, using numerous tables to back up a written summary of each issue examined. The bulk of the report is devoted to an analysis of the responses from 672 individuals. The results indicate conclusively that there is indeed discrimination within the archival profession at every level, particularly in such areas as salaries and opportunities for administrative responsibility. Because individual respondents were not required to give their names, many commented freely on specific instances of discrimination, and a good sample of such comments is included.

The analysis of the responses from institutions is much briefer but clearly supports the conclusion derived from the individual responses that women have fewer opportunities to occupy administrative positions. In fact the response from the institutions indicates that twice as many men as women spend a major part of their time on administrative duties.

The report concludes that discrimination against women in the archival profession is a reflection of the values of society in general, and that it is essential that both men and women become aware of the problem. To increase this awareness, the Committee is attempting to distribute its report widely, and strongly recommends that the SAA establish a standing committee on the status of women to improve the situation described in this report.

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