

Another broad issue raised by the Landon Project is the disposition of the documentary material in machine readable format generated by researchers. The preservation of this information requires considerable capital and maintenance expenditures, not to mention the increasingly urgent need for the development of specialized archival expertise and appropriate techniques. The Public Archives of Canada is probably the most advanced repository in the country concerned with machine readable archival material, but faced with the prospect of stupendous growth in the quantity of computer-based information simply within the government,⁴ its provisions for privately created data will fall distressingly short of what is needed. Nevertheless, it will be a shame if a coordinated effort is not made to ensure permanent retention and up-to-date matrix access to machine readable material produced in the private sector, including the data bases developed by the increasing number of scholarly, computer-based studies.

Obviously, the archival issues surrounding the Landon Project are profound and more numerous than the few broached in this note. The demands on archives of computer-supported research will most certainly increase, and while not many of the ventures will be of the magnitude of the Landon Project, cumulatively they will overshadow this scheme at Western, overwhelming *archivistique* to the impoverishment of both research and archives.

The Landon Project should sound an alarm bell again for archivists. While none of the problems and issues are novel for the profession, the significant point is that we are still wanting the solutions. The Association of Canadian Archivists will be meeting at London in the spring of 1978; it is certain that the Project and its hardware will be a showpiece at Western, especially if the Canada Council underwrites the scheme. The Association could do worse than devote a session to examining in detail the implications for archives of the Landon Project, something which was not done in enough depth at the symposium.

Peter Bower
Public Archives of Canada

Association of British Columbia Archivists

The Association of British Columbia Archivists finds its origins in a meeting held in Victoria in 1973. The following year, a second meeting was held in Vancouver to discuss a draft constitution and in 1975, a constitution was adopted and the Association registered under the Societies Act of British Columbia.

The Association was set up to provide an organization through which archivists, and interested persons, could meet and exchange ideas. It was further dedicated to the promotion and advancement of the retention, preservation and use of records of historical significance, and to the advancement of standards of professional competence of archivists in British Columbia. The Association holds its annual meeting in April, and usually a meeting every fall. It has endeavoured to establish seminars and workshops on archival procedures, when possible, and through its regular newsletter attempts to distribute information about archival administration and practice.

Present membership stands at about fifty, the majority of whom do not work full time in an established archives. Much of the effort of the Association has been address-

4 A recent article by the director of Machine-Readable Archives Division of the National Archives and Records Service in the United States suggests that within the next decade "we can anticipate that 80 percent of the information created by the federal government will be processed, stored, or retrieved by computers." There seems little doubt that this situation will in due course exist in Canada. Charles M. Dollar, "Computers, the National Archives, and Researchers," *Prologue* 9, no. 4 (Spring 1976): 30

ed to the problems of small local institutions, frequently museums or libraries, which hold archival collections. From time to time, as in the case of Victoria City's archives and in approaches to the provincial government, the Association has acted as the voice of professional archivists in the community at large. The desire to extend the work of the Association has meant having to overcome the severe limitations of a small, professional membership, scanty resources and the always formidable British Columbia geography.

The annual membership fee is five dollars; applications should be sent to the Secretary-Treasurer, Miriam McTiernan, c/o BC Central Credit Union, P.O. Box 2038, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 3R9.

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History of Saskatchewan Project

Saskatchewan celebrates its Diamond Jubilee in 1980. In support of a two-volume illustrated history of the province, the Saskatchewan government has made available to the Saskatchewan Archives Board a special grant to administer the project and to commission John H. Archer to research and write it. A noted son of Saskatchewan with a varied career as teacher, archivist, librarian, historian and university president, Archer is being seconded for the period from his present teaching appointment with the University of Regina's Department of History and will take up a full-time position with the Provincial Archives in July 1978.

The Board anticipates that Archer's work will have general appeal, deriving from the wealth of documentation acquired by the Archives since 1945 and reflecting the quality of historical interpretation recognizable in the Board's thirty-year-old journal, *Saskatchewan History*, edited by Associate Provincial Archivist Douglas Bocking. Particular emphasis will be given to Saskatchewan following World War II and to those archival resources which reveal more of the cultural and social fabric of its people and institutions than traditional political history has so far done.

Gordon Dodds
Archives of Ontario

Seventeenth International Round Table Conference

Representing Canada at the Seventeenth Round Table meeting of the International Council on Archives (ICA) were Wilfred I. Smith and Bernard Weilbrenner of the Public Archives of Canada, and François Beaudin of the Archives nationales du Québec. In accordance with decisions made in 1976 at Washington (ICA General Assembly) and Nairobi (UNESCO General Conference), the theme of this Round Table was the "Constitution and Reconstitution of National Archival Heritages."

Four sessions were held to discuss the theme. Two examined the theoretical and legal aspects, including questions of common patrimony, right-of-ownership, territorial provenance, functional identification and respect for the integrity of archival groups. Another discussed practical concerns, especially the time and cost involved in the identification and preparation of records prior to transfer from one nation to another, and the provision of appropriate conservation and storage conditions in recipient coun-