

grammes to contain and correct the damage which neglect has caused, is causing, and could cause.

Each report serves its constituents well. Local government officials whose activities are now governed by new records legislation have a document to enable them to understand the significance of the records under their control. Issues and recommendations in *The Quiet Revolution* reveal the management side of archives, dealing with outreach to sponsors. *Our Memory at Risk* offers the general public relatively brief but deep insight into the needs of a vanishing resource of immeasurable importance. Each publication also works with an allied group in articulating an archival mission, describing the impediments which block the development, and stating recommendations which will lead to their resolution and to the ultimate realization of New York's archival potential.

Recalling Terry Eastwood's comments on state archival surveys made at the 1985 SAA meeting in Washington, Keith Stotyn wrote: "Eastwood contended that such studies have not been properly used. They have been treated as discussion papers within the profession rather than the action documents they were intended to be." Given the fact that the Advisory Councils which produced the reports included so many members from outside the archival profession, and given audiences which are so obviously outside the archival community, *The Quiet Revolution* and *Our Memory at Risk* show the progress which American archivists have made in developing compelling calls to action for all those associated with archives. In Canada, where so many provincial surveys have appeared and where the national compilation of archival needs is just around the corner, we would do well to learn from New York and prepare to convey to the public the message of archives. The Advisory Councils are to be congratulated for these important publications.

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Optical Media: Their Implications for Archives and Museums. DAVID BEARMAN. Pittsburgh: Archival Informatics Technical Report, Vol. 1, No. 1, Spring 1987. 73 p. \$45.00 (Cdn).

Optical Media: Their Implications for Archives and Museums is the Technical Report part of the Spring 1987 issue of *Archival Informatics Newsletter and Technical Report*. This is the first issue of this publication. Future issues will cover software archives, requirements for archival information systems, automated techniques in collections management, and the implications of artificial intelligence for archives and museums.

The basic structure of the publication is useful in that it guides the reader through the types of applications that should be considered for optical disc, describes the various forms of optical disc, and identifies types of applications for each of the various forms. The report also gives a very useful list of other institutions involved in optical disc and of vendors offering optical disc services.

Publishing a book about optical discs is exceedingly difficult. The technology changes so quickly that by the time a reader obtains the book it is usually out-of-date. Bearman's work is better than most in being current as it reports on events that occurred as late as March 1987. However, in producing a book which was up-to-date, all forms of proper editing were sacrificed. *Optical Media* is fraught with spelling mistakes (e.g., the City of Ottowa), grammatical errors, and confused writing. The inserts that are placed with the text tend to be confusing and should have been placed in an appendix. Even the printing has not been done properly; for example, my copy has two page 14s and two page 49s.

Bearman appears to have more practical experience in using videodisc than the other forms of optical media he describes. His tips on using videodisc are helpful. It appears that he has little practical experience with digital optical disc and digitization of images. For example, he states on p. 12 that OROM (optical read only memory) is a "locally recorded disc" (i.e., you can write on the disc using in-house equipment). This is not correct. He also states, "In order to use the picture [stored on an optical disc] for research purposes as a surrogate would require at least 400 pixels per inch and eight degrees of grey scale (400 x 400 x 4 bits per inch x 8" x 5" photograph compressed = 320 KB)." (p. 13) This would never be acceptable as a surrogate to a researcher who intends to publish the image.

I would recommend this book to archivists who already have some general knowledge about optical disc and are willing to wade through confusing, unedited writing. For "hairy-knuckled" technical types such as I, writing niceties are worth sacrificing for current information. Nonetheless, there is valuable information contained in Bearman's *Optical Media: Their Implications for Archives and Museums* for the archivist contemplating an optical disc project.

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L'expertise québécoise en gestion des documents administratifs : Bibliographie thématique et chronologique 1962-1987. MICHEL ROBERGE. Saint-Augustin, Qué. : Les éditions GESTAR, 1987, n.p. ISBN 2-9800920-0-2 29,95 \$.

Nous ne connaissons d'auteur plus prolifique, dans le domaine de la gestion des documents administratifs (GDA), que Michel Roberge. Et nous savions qu'une telle pléthore productrice supposait une connaissance et une maîtrise parfaite de la littérature professionnelle. Il était donc logique que M. Roberge nous livre, un jour ou l'autre, le fruit de son travail heuristique sous la forme d'une bibliographie rétrospective. Ce jour est arrivé, et nous saluons bien bas un ouvrage exemplaire en son genre.

Ce faisant, Michel Roberge a voulu cependant rendre un hommage particulier aux nombreux Québécois et Québécoises qui, au cours des vingt-cinq dernières années, nous ont fait part des résultats de leurs recherches ou ont témoigné des réalisations particulières que le Québec a connu dans le domaine de la GDA. Il a donc limité sa recension aux documents publiés par des spécialistes du Québec ou à ceux