tribution of Norse settlements in Greenland. A plan of the Norse village of L’Anse aux Meadows in northern Newfoundland provides an even closer, more detailed look at one of the settlements. Its simplicity suggests that the Norse foothold on this continent was very tenuous at best. A graph showing the radiocarbon dates from the archaeological excavations of the site clearly underlines this suggestion. It indicates that the Norse settlement at L’Anse aux Meadows was just a single phase in the long-term human history of the site.

The atlas is a masterpiece of design that provides its readers with a unique spatial dimension to Canadian history. Despite the proliferation of atlases over the last decade, both in Canada and elsewhere, there has been nothing like it produced anywhere in the world. From an artistic point of view, it is difficult to imagine how the volume might be improved. Even in terms of its coverage of Canada’s history, it would be hard to find alternative topics or themes or even to find ones that may have been overlooked.

However, there is admittedly some disappointment with the citations. Both the primary and secondary sources for each plate are listed separately at the end of the atlas. In some cases, a short bibliographic essay explains some of the sources consulted. However, the essays and citations focus on key references and are not very comprehensive. This restriction is unfortunate since it limits the usefulness of the atlas as a reference tool. For example, Plate 62, on the trading posts of northwestern Ontario, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan, offers a detailed and thought-provoking account of the fur trade from 1774 to 1821. The references to primary sources for this plate merely mention “miscellaneous letters, accounts, survey books” in the Hudson’s Bay Company Archives, and “published journals and accounts by Montréal traders.” No doubt the plate will stimulate other investigations into the spatial distribution of trading posts, but because there is no indication of the exact sources used to compile the map, other researchers will find it extremely difficult to reconstruct the database or use the atlas as a reference source in their own research.

Such criticisms pale in light of the atlas’ potential for teaching the history of Canada. But perhaps its greatest contribution will be the more subtle changes it will effect on the discipline of history itself. No doubt the history students of today, after being raised on such nontextual teaching aids, will turn to similar analytical tools in the research of tomorrow. Clearly, the Historical Atlas of Canada is a magnificent achievement that will have a profound influence on the interpretation of Canada’s history for years to come.

Jeffrey S. Murray
National Archives of Canada


The best basic reference book for map librarians and archivists just became better. Since the publication of Map Librarianship in 1978, Mary Larsgaard has obviously been doing her homework, and the result is the second edition of her magnum opus.
Every aspect of map librarianship has evolved in the last decade, as have the author’s attitudes and knowledge. As a result, all chapters have undergone at least some measure of revision, and several of the changes are major ones. The first chapter, on selection and acquisition, is considerably expanded, partly because of the inclusion of more classes of cartographic materials. These now include such cartographic ephemera as remotely sensed images, profiles, diagrams, and slides. Another new addition to this chapter is the use of illustrations. The principal changes in the second chapter, on classification, include minor updates and expansion of citations. The third chapter, on cataloguing and computer applications, replaces the first edition’s text on automated map cataloguing prior to the 1980s with a wealth of information on state-of-the-art AACR II, MARC format, and OCLC. One small complaint is that the discussion of MARC format for maps is very general. For beginners, many questions are not answered here. More detailed discussion of the fields and elements for cartographic materials, as well as some mention of Canadian MARC format, would be appreciated. Chapter four, storage, care and repair, has minor updates, including a section on deacidification. Unfortunately, no mention is made of microforms or machine-readable disks and tapes. Chapter five, on reference services, is expanded to include such fundamentals as projection, grids, graticules, geodesy, north, and cartographic subject matter, all of which may not be so basic to librarians without a strong cartographic background. The sixth chapter, public relations and marketing, replaces the former chapter on administration and borrows a bit from the original chapter five. Larsgaard contends that “the only adequate preparation for managing a map collection is beginning-level MBA [Master of Business Administration] courses with management, accounting, marketing, macroeconomics and microeconomics being of most immediate use.” Chapter six contains solid, if highly ambitious, advice on how to make your library high-profile and therefore indispensable. “[People are] usually not even aware of what maps can do for them; how can they demand something about which they know little or nothing?” Libraries are commodities requiring marketing, the author contends. The last chapter, on education, shows a change in the author’s attitude towards map librarianship, with less emphasis on history and philosophy, and a bit more on basic education and professional associations.

There are major revisions in the bibliography and the appendices. Besides being updated, the bibliography is now divided into the following subjects: general and twentieth-century cartographic materials, pre-1900 materials, remote sensing, projections, cataloguing, serials, and atlases. Some of the appendices were dropped from the first edition, an example being map sources. Some were improved, such as “Policies for Collection Development.” Others were added, such as a suggested syllabus for a cartographic materials librarianship course. One wonders why the appendix on cartographic terms was dropped; better glossaries may be available elsewhere, but it was handy and will be missed.

This edition is somewhat larger than the first, containing fifty-two more pages and slightly larger typeface. Larsgaard has retained the witty, chatty style of the first edition, and has added to its stockpile of trenchant quotations.

Much literature on map librarianship has appeared since the publication of the first edition of this volume, such as Farrell and Desbarats’ excellent Guide for a Small Map Collection. Many other sourcebooks and articles have also appeared, all
of which help to make a map librarian's life a little easier. Still, Larsgaard's book remains the best introduction and summary. The second edition is absolutely required in all map libraries experiencing the not-so-gentle nudges of progress.

Kathryn Harding
Map and Air Photo Library
Queen's University


The world of documentary publishing — that is, the compiling, editing, annotating, and printing of historical records such as letters, journals, diaries, or public records — is a world without standards, guidelines, or much of a literature. A Guide to Documentary Editing, produced for the American Association for Documentary Editing (ADE), consists of the first booklength discussion of the subject in North America. The ADE is to be applauded for initiating and maintaining this project, and the author, Dr. Mary-Jo Kline, deserves praise for braving these uncharted waters.

In ten chapters, A Guide to Documentary Editing follows the work of the documentary editor from the development of an editorial project to the printing of the book. Chapter one deals with the history of documentary editing in America, examining the difference between "historical" and "literary" editing and tracing the editorial efforts of various American associations, including the Modern Language Association, the Center for Editions of American Authors, and the Center for Scholarly Editions. Chapters two and three focus on the work of initiating an editorial project and physically organizing the documents in question. In Chapter two, particular attention is paid to the location and acquisition of source documents; chapter three includes a discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of comprehensive and selective documentary editions and the value of microform editions and supplements.

An examination of the problems of transcribing and editing historical documents follows. The author looks at how editors decide which version of a document will become the source for an edition and at the different methods available for transcribing original records. Chapter five describes some of the methods used by modern American editors to produce final texts and discusses problems such as the consistency of spelling and punctuation and the standardization of physical format. Chapter six investigates different editorial conventions, surveying the use of textual symbols and examining the evolution of editorial notes. Chapter seven explores some exceptions to the editorial norm, discussing the problems inherent in documents created by multiple authors and those drawn from oral testimony.

Chapters eight and nine offer specific comments about the editorial process. The former focusses on the mechanics of documentary editing, such as the act of transcription and the importance of proofreading. The latter looks at the role of annotation and the value of a detailed index. The final chapter introduces the editor to the world of the publisher, discussing practical matters such as the layout of the book, the location of notes, and the actual printing process.