

conversion into MARC format. The index allows researchers to locate material by geographic area, corporate and personal names, or by subject. The inclusion of an alternate index, which lists variant forms of the index terms with reference to the correct index terms listed in the index, provides an innovative solution to the problem of authority control. The addresses and other pertinent information on all the custodians surveyed are provided in a section separate from the description of the records. While this separation of intellectual and administrative control is understandable from a theoretical perspective, it is not very practical and is confusing for users attempting to physically locate the described records. Nonetheless, this valuable research tool will effectively serve those interested in the Central Okanagan.

Diane Beattie

National Archives of Canada

Records of the Department of Labour. RG 27/Archives de Travail Canada, RG 27. JOHN SMART. Government Archives Division General Inventory Series. Ottawa: National Archives of Canada, 1988, xii, 76 p. ISBN 0-662-56111-2 Free.

As a recent addition to the National Archives of Canada's series of record group descriptions, this volume will prove an indispensable guide to researchers interested in the involvement of the federal government in labour relations during the twentieth century. The volume consists of a forty-page administrative history of the Department of Labour, which notes its evolving legislative responsibilities and internal departmental organization, and ties these developments to the larger events affecting labour relations in the country as a whole from 1816 to 1987. The second part of the guide contains a thirty-two page description of the various series and sub-series which make up the department's archives. The descriptions give the normal vital statistics on records series; they also give an assessment of the value and thoroughness of each major series of records. The task of describing 1,647 metres of departmental records in this fashion was a considerable undertaking.

A major department with a wide range of responsibilities over the years, the Department of Labour created records which will also serve topics of research other than labour relations, including Japanese Canadians, German prisoners of war, government annuities, social support programmes like unemployment insurance or technical education, the changing role of women in Canadian society, and international organizations like the International Labour Office.

Peter DeLottinville

National Archives of Canada

A Guide to Fishing, Forestry and Mining Records in the Special Collections Division, The University of British Columbia. CHRISTOPHER L. HIVES and GEORGE BRANDAK, compilers. Vancouver, British Columbia: University of British Columbia Library, 1988. iii, 117 p. ISBN 0-88865-187-2.

This particular guide reaffirms the notion that the Special Collections Division of the University of British Columbia Library represents a motherlode of historical information that ought to be consulted by researchers studying a variety of provin-