"practical guide" for researchers providing details on such matters as the location of services, and access conditions. That there be some degree of consistency between the national entries speaks well for international cooperation among the European Community's archivists; the differences reflect continuing national autonomy. Yet, the annoying feature of permitting the misspelling of a word such as "practical" within the United Kingdom entry can only be attributed to the misplaced sense of responsibility on the part of the volume's editor. One hopes that such flaws will be eliminated in future editions which should be forthcoming, if the information is to be kept up-to-date and the publication to have continuing value.

North American researchers will find this guide useful, if for no other reason then they will know whether letters of introduction are required in order to use a particular archives before embarking on a European junket. For those working in archives, particularly archives administration, the guide provides in a convenient format comparative data on the archives involved, for example, the hours of operation (including the intriguing note that the archives of Italy, Greece, and Spain are closed for the entire month of August!); the cost of the reproduction of documents (from as low as 5 cents per page in Greece and Italy to a $4.50 minimum charge for copies sent by mail by the European Parliament); and the time period after which foreign affairs archives are available for public access. Keeping in mind that all twelve member states of the European Community participate in the International Council on Archives which in 1968 adopted the thirty-year rule as an international standard for researcher access, it is interesting to note, more than twenty years later, the wide variation that appears to continue to exist among the countries involved. While some of the national archives have adopted the thirty-year rule, unfortunately, several still retain periods of closure of fifty years and longer. One hopes that, as the dream of the single internal European market becomes a reality in 1992, there will be a corresponding freer flow of ideas, particularly those with an historical dimension.

Robert J. Hayward
Treasury Board Secretariat


One Hundred Years of Sci-Tech Libraries: A Brief History originally appeared as the Fall 1987 issue (Volume 8, Number 1) of the library journal Science & Technology Libraries. Ellis Mount, the book’s editor, is also the editor of Science & Technology Libraries and Senior Editor for the book’s publisher, The Haworth Press. In 1984, Mount received the Special Libraries Association’s John Cotton Dana Award in recognition of his service in the field of special librarianship.

Unfortunately, Mount has chosen a somewhat misleading title for this particular collection. The volume does not really provide a history — brief or otherwise — of science and technology ("sci-tech" according to current library jargon) libraries. Instead, it includes six short essays, comprising less than half the book, which deal unevenly with the development and future of such libraries in the United States,
as well as with information retrieval and education for sci-tech libraries in the United States and Canada for the 1984-1985 period, a bibliography of the literature concerning computer-aided design (CAD) and computer-aided manufacturing (CAM), a review section devoted to new science and technology reference books, and a brief listing of articles relating to the field of science and technology librarianship.

While most archivists would likely be struck by certain similarities between their situation and that of these librarians who, in the words of one author, confront a future in which “cooperation, on-line capabilities, networking, and document delivery” will become the watchwords, there is little of substance from an archival viewpoint to be gleaned from this reprinted journal. The historical information which we are given on science and technology departments within public libraries and on academic, corporate, and federal government science and technology libraries is, for the most part, sketchy, disjointed, and based on secondary sources. Probably the best article in the book is Jean Z. Piety and Evelyn M. Ward’s “Science and Technology Departments in Public Libraries: A Review of the Past Century.”

Although librarians and archivists clearly have a lot in common, and presumably much to learn from each other, this volume is of little value to readers outside the sci-tech library community.

John Bell
National Archives of Canada


This thirty-nine page guide provides a brief listing of the archival programmes and courses offered by various colleges and universities across Canada and is designed to provide information on those courses “which may lead to a career in the archival profession.” The Directory does not deal with the issue of continuing education for those already in the field; archivists interested in information on such courses are advised to contact the Association of Canadian Archivists or the Association des Archivistes du Québec.

The Directory is divided into three main parts. The first section, devoted to the degree-granting programmes at the University of British Columbia, Université de Montréal, and Université Laval, gives broad overviews of the nature of the programmes and their courses, details admission requirements, remarks on the nature of the faculty, and lists the name and address of the person to contact for further information. Section two covers courses in archival studies offered by other universities and colleges, arranged by province and listed geographically from west to east. Descriptions consist of common fields listing the contact person, name of the course, level, type of credit given, responsible department, duration and frequency of the course, instructor, nature of student evaluation, entry requirements, and miscellaneous remarks; the latter generally points out unusual features of the course.