

The main section of the guide provides very general information on the eighty-seven series of records which make up the CSN archives, including outside dates, type of document, main subjects in the series, and a brief historical note on the creator of the series. Where more detailed guides exist, these are also noted. The CSN archives includes records from the CSN documentation service, organization service, political action service, offices of the president and vice-president, regional offices, and executive committee, as well as other series from the CSN organization and its predecessor, la Confédération des travailleurs catholiques du Canada. In addition, the archives of a number of CSN affiliates and local labour councils, and personal papers of some of their officers are included in this guide.

Describing over five hundred metres of records, the CSN archives guide demonstrates the rich source which is available for the study of Quebec labour history. As one of the few labour federations in the country to preserve and maintain their own records, the CSN should take some pride in its accomplishment.

Peter DeLottinville
National Archives of Canada

Inventory of Primary and Archival Sources: Guelph and Wellington County to 1940. ELIZABETH BLOOMFIELD with JANE TURNER, PATRICIA ABBOTT, and JOE GABRIEL, compilers. Guelph, Ontario: Guelph Regional Project, 1989. 629 p. ISBN 0-88955-172-3.

The creation of primary source inventories has entered a new era during the past decade as a result of two major factors. First, the changing nature of historical inquiry (largely associated with the growth of socio-historical research) has led to an increasing pursuit of various routinely-generated sources held in disparate settings. While few historians have ever limited themselves to a particular record group in one archive, researchers are now making a much more concerted attempt to integrate a wide range of sources including those held outside major repositories. Second, computerization has transformed the creation of inventories. The increased ability to facilitate centralized access to information about decentralized sources is slowly redefining the character of historical research, and is necessitating an unprecedented collaboration of researchers, archivists, information scientists, and other specialists.

This *Inventory of Primary and Archival Sources* is a fine contribution to the new era of research tools. This volume provides a listing of the entries in a computerized relational database now available on CD-ROM. The 3,672 entries describe material related to the regional history of Guelph and Wellington County. The compilers systematically surveyed local archives as well as other selected repositories, including the Archives of Ontario. Some entries include qualitative annotations, while all entries offer the basic descriptive fields proposed by the MARC format. The volume groups the entries according to a series of categories (government records, business records, church records), offers a series of indexes (by provenance, place, and subject), and provides discussions (with bibliographic references) to introduce researchers to each type of source.

In conceptualizing and undertaking this research tool, Elizabeth Bloomfield and her colleagues drew inspiration from the Vancouver Island Project particularly in striving to

create an integrated research process based on computerized information systems. The successful completion of the Guelph project will not end the all-too-often acrimonious and territorial character of debate about such systems. Nonetheless, the project makes a substantial contribution which deserves the attention, not only of those interested in the region's history, but also of all those interested in the changing theory and method of historical research.

Chad Gaffield
University of Ottawa