
This impressive publication, the result of several years of labour by archivists and project staff in the Anglican Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario, outlines the official records and personal papers held in seven diocesan repositories, along with some related collections in the archives of the Anglican General Synod, Trinity College, and Wycliffe College in Toronto. Produced under the leadership of Mary-Anne Nicholls (Archivist, Diocese of Toronto), it is the second volume in a series that originated in 1986 with the compilation by Wilma MacDonald of the Guide to the Holdings of the Archives of Rupert's Land (Winnipeg: St. John's College Press).

The Guide was produced through the support both of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario. In addition to brief descriptions of archival documents created by parishes, clergy members, diocesan offices, native missions, women's groups, and other related organizations, it contains glossaries, maps of diocesan boundaries, selected biographical sketches, and indexes of place names, clergy members, and church staff. Reflecting records spanning two centuries, it will be a convenient reference work for historians, sociologists, church staff, genealogists, and other researchers; and, with the Rupert's Land guide, it sets a high standard for the two remaining Canadian ecclesiastical provinces to meet.

Debra Barr
University of Toronto Archives


Published in June 1989, this study was undertaken to "examine the need and the potential market for a mass deacidification centre in Metropolitan Toronto." Funding

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was provided by the Libraries and Community Information Branch, Ontario Ministry of Culture and Communications, and the City of Toronto. The terms of reference for the study were developed by a steering committee comprised of representatives from Toronto area library and archival institutions and the Ministry of Culture and Communications.

The 153-page document, which represents the information gathering process and analysis carried out by the consultants, covers a wide range of subjects and issues. Issues such as needs assessment and market projections, operational and facility requirements, site selection, financial planning, and implementation are addressed, together with a detailed comparative assessment of current or soon-to-be available mass deacidification technologies. Unfortunately, the results of the comparative assessment are not conclusive enough to provide answers to many of the questions raised by the steering committee.

This study is an excellent source of information and a foundation upon which decisions can be made regarding the supporting activities and resources required for the establishment of a facility of this nature. For example, part four, “analysis of Operational Requirements,” covers many of the issues related to operational strategies, impact on service delivery, and human resource requirements, issues which have not always been identified or fully assessed by others in the past.

Copies may be purchased for $25.00 from: Karen Turko, Department of Preservation Services, University of Toronto Library, 130 George Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 1A5.

John Holmes
National Archives of Canada


This engaging video, recently nominated for the Society of American Archivists’ Hamer Kegan Award, is an ideal tool to bring archives into the consciousness of the diverse public we serve.

Thoughtful planning by project coordinator Judy Hohmann has targeted a general audience with a first-rate product. Clearly a valuable teaching aid, the video suggests ways in which municipal archivists in particular might better promote their facilities and programmes. True stories from both the reading room and the archives administrator serve to illustrate the breadth of value and use of archival records. Narrated theory clarifies the archivist’s responsibility to collect, administer, and care for the small percentage of records which have historical value. For working archivists, the video alludes to professional issues of documentation and conservation strategies.

Still photography conveys a surprisingly realistic sense of activity because of the quality of the images. Clever editing of the shots suggests dynamic research and discussions, making viewers feel that archives are very definitely on the move. Zippy soundtracks, including Joni Mitchell reporting on Saratoga Springs, help to bring local history to life. The video supports the use of real archivists and real users to convey