

## Notices

**The School Record: A Guide to Government Archives Relating to Public Education in British Columbia 1852-1946.** PATRICK A. DUNAE. Victoria: Province of British Columbia, Ministry of Government Services, British Columbia Archives and Records Service, 1992. 154 p. ISBN 0-7718-9154-7.

Make no mistake about it: this is a lavish production. Dr. Patrick Dunae, a former archivist with the British Columbia Archives and Records Service, and a professional historian who has published in the area of public education in British Columbia, is perhaps uniquely suited to produce this guide to provincial government records relating to schools and public education in the province of British Columbia. This publication is able to wed the considerable resources and expertise of a provincial archives to the work of a knowledgeable, professional researcher/archivist with a demonstrated commitment to both this general area of intellectual inquiry and to the use of this type of record.

As Patrick Dunae notes, in "order to appreciate the scope and the significance of these records, it is essential to have an historical understanding of the public school system and the bureaucracy that regulated it" (p. 2). To this end, an historical synopsis, a chronology of important events affecting public education, and organizational charts preface the guide. The guide itself is organized by subject. Short one- or two-page historical analyses introduce each type of administrative or operational record. For example, the introduction to the section "School Inspectors" provides researchers with a brief administrative history of the provincial school inspectorate, some information on pertinent pieces of provincial legislation, and cross-references to other types of government and non-government records. There are, to highlight just a few subjects, similar descriptions for operational records relating to school buildings, curriculum development, physical education and schools for the deaf.

At the specific guide entry level, each record series contains uniform information on the series title and number, an indication of the format of the material — be it textual, microfilm or audio tape — an inclusive date range and a brief description of both the finding aids that provide access to the material as well as the records contained in the series. Appendices provide a consolidated list of the textual and non-textual government records listed in the guide, a list of school districts in British Columbia and a rather useful reference to school and school district records and to related records held in other

archival repositories. Regrettably, the guide is not indexed, relying solely on broad subject descriptions to allow researchers access to the provincial government holdings.

Much is made of the fact that this thematic guide represents the first of an anticipated series of such efforts; having seen this early, first result — a guide that offers the broadly based research community a variety of points of access into a large and growing collection of provincial government records — we can only look forward in anticipation to many more such useful publications.

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**Past Forward: A Guide to the Archival Collections, University of Guelph Library.**  
NANCY SADEK, comp. Guelph: University of Guelph Library, 1990. ISBN 0-88955-229-0.

A guide to the holdings of an archives is always interesting not only for the picture it gives of the scope of the collection, but also as a glimpse into the archives itself. *Past Forward* is no exception, providing a valuable preliminary research tool to the archival collections of the University of Guelph Library. It will also be of interest to archivists as an example of the treatment of archival collections as part of a library.

The guide is divided into fourteen sections of approximately 800 entries, each apparently representing one accession. The first five sections are records of the university fonds: Ontario Agricultural College, Macdonald Institute, Ontario Veterinary College, Federated Colleges and University of Guelph. The other sections consist of other archival collections organized into nine subject areas. Interestingly, student papers are assigned a corporate name heading and described as part of the corporate records.

Entries in *Past Forward* are organized by main entry heading within each section. Each entry includes the following elements: main entry heading, CODARCH call number, scope and content, extent, and indication of other finding aids. *Past Forward* is interesting as an illustration of CODARCH in use. CODARCH is a classification system for archival records adapted from CODOC, which is used in libraries for classifying government publications. CODARCH was developed at the University of Guelph but never really caught on elsewhere.

The volume itself is attractively presented in a three-ring binder, with pertinent illustrations at the beginning of each section. An index to corporate and personal names facilitates access to the entries. "See" references are included, but are not particularly useful, as they refer to call numbers.

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