

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.

Patrick H. Burden
National Archives of Canada

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.

Alex Thomson
United Church of Canada/
Victoria University Archives