This is a useful tool for both the novice researcher and the more experienced researcher requiring that specialized knowledge about archival sources.

Trish Maracle
National Archives of Canada


Commissioned by the Hannah Institute for the History of Medicine, this booklet, Medical Archives, admirably fulfils its purpose of providing an introduction to archival practice for medical researchers and practitioners, as well as institutions and organizations involved in the delivery of health care services. Addressing its message to potential donors, the author explains the role of medical archives in promoting Canadian medical history, and encourages them to preserve valuable documents. Craig adapts her message to her audience by using jargon-free language and by stressing the benefits, particularly to institutions such as hospitals, of preserving the past through good records management and archival practice. To assist the health care worker-turned-archivist, Craig explains such fundamentals of archival practice as appraisal, access, conservation, and so on. In explaining how to identify documents which have archival value, Craig not only provides valuable advice but accompanies it with some interesting illustrations, such as photographs, medical casebooks, and diaries. Medical Archives also includes a number of resources for advice and assistance to would-be medical archivists, with a list of both provincial and national archives, a short list of recommended readings, and a glossary of terms.

Addressing a plea for the preservation of archival documents to potential creators of medical records, and accompanying it with useful advice, Craig's book promotes cooperation between archivists and the medical profession. This can only serve to enhance the writing of Canadian medical history.

Dianne Dodd
National Archives of Canada


This bibliographical work is part of a two-volume collection that provides listings of published Canadian works that are written in English and relate to Canadian childhood. The companion volume is entitled Contemporary Canadian Childhood and Youth: a Bibliography. While the first volume contains listing of works that provide an historical perspective of Canadian children, the second consists of a compilation of sources pertaining to contemporary childhood.

History of Canadian Childhood and Youth includes references to books, monographs, reports of government commissions, scholarly and professional articles, and theses. In addition to references for historical studies, this work also includes references to publications written by a broad amalgam of scholarly and professional groups such as sociologists, anthropologists, political scientists, criminologists, health workers, lawyers, and doctors. The articles were drawn from 170 Canadian and international journals. Although the majority of the sources included in this volume date from the 1960s to the 1980s, there are some references to articles that were written as early as the mid-nineteenth century.