

book, to thank, as well as the many others whose industry and foresight resulted in the gathering and preservation of the material that this book describes. I look forward to future versions of this project.

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A Guide to the Fonds d'Archives and Collections in the Holdings of the York University Archives. BARBARA L. CRAIG and PETER D. JAMES. Toronto: ECW Press, 1995. 636 pages. Index. ISBN 1-55022-229-5 9 (hard-cover).

A Guide to the Fonds d'Archives and Collections in the Holdings of the York University Archives is a guide to the corporate archives of York University as well as the private archives deposited there as of 31 December 1993. It is arranged in four parts: the introduction, which explains how to read the entries, how to access the material, and how access might be restricted; listings of the archives of York University including the records of faculties, departments, and administrative offices; listings of the private *fonds d'archives* and collections that comprise the archives of organizations and of individuals not directly associated with York, which were acquired to support research and teaching programmes; and ten appendices which provide additional information about standards, procedures, and information systems at York.

The 452 entries on 567 pages are described using the *Rules for Archival Description (RAD)* of the Bureau of Canadian Archivists. The fonds entries are broken down, where necessary, into separate entries for fonds groups and fonds record series. As these are listed in alphabetical order according to the title of the fonds, I found the table of contents difficult to read. The hierarchical order of the records would be more readable if the titles of the fonds groups and fonds record series were indented from the primary fonds entry and if a bold font was used on the surname or key alphabetized word. An index by name and an index by subject at the back of the guide do aid the user in searching the material. It is explained that new fonds and accruals to existing fonds acquired after 1993 can be found at York University on the Archives database, which is regularly updated, and further details can be found in the finding aids available in the Archives and Special Collections reading room.

The entries are informative, giving a brief history or biography of the creator of the fonds, scope and content notes, and references to related records in the York University Archives. Private records include the fonds of Robert Borden, George Brown, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Margaret Laurence, Ben Wicks, and several Canadian historians. A drawing and quotation from the bill bissett fonds have been used to introduce the guide.

Two concerns sent me off to search for other guides to archival holdings in Canadian universities for comparison: the bound, hard cover format and the date of publication (1995). Much has happened to the concept of publishing in three years. Most archival repositories have a web site now and some have quite detailed guides to their holdings. The University of British Columbia Archives and Special Collections, Simon Fraser University Archives, and the University of Victoria Archives and Special Collections all have home pages which link to detailed guides of their records. A little more searching easily leads to similar sites for McGill University Archives, University of Saskatchewan Archives, University of Alberta Archives, and York University Archives and Special Collections. Since the publication of the Guide, York University Archives has further developed its draft Information Resource Management Policy to produce an Archives Information Management Standard based on similar record-keeping systems developed by the federal government and several provincial governments. I found that information plus a directory to its records on the York University Libraries web site (<http://www.library.yorku.ca>).

A catalogue of an active collection or a guide to the fonds of a university archives is a dynamic record, always in a state of process, but, because of an operative collections policy, never complete. That brings me to my question of why this guide was published in a bound, hardcover format. A three-ring binder format (or some equivalent) would have allowed regular updates and a less expensive means of a complete update every few years. It may be that the only viable means for producing these guides, as we all get closer to that possibility with our RAD databases slowly accumulating the bulk of our collections descriptions, will be on the Internet.

The guide is an attractive and durable snapshot of the York University Archives up to the end of 1993. Five years later, those interested in finding out what is available at York, or in any other archives, will probably be browsing on their computers to decide if further inquiry is useful.

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De la diplomatie médiévale à la diplomatie contemporaine. Actes du colloque organisé par l'École nationale des chartes et la Bentley Historical Library de l'Université de Ann Arbor, Paris, 6-10 juillet 1992 et Ann Arbor, 5-9 juillet 1993. Paris: *La Gazette des Archives* 172, 1996, 144 p.

Le numéro spécial de *La Gazette des Archives* contient sept articles issus d'un séminaire conjoint organisé par les archivistes français et américains au cours de deux rencontres : la première à l'École des chartes, à Paris, en juillet 1992 et la seconde à Ann Arbor, aux États Unis, en juillet 1993.