

ment of the post-Depression era is relatively thin, especially when contrasted against what precedes it. Moreover, as with any survey history, there are aspects of the province's past that receive short shrift. The experience of the Knights of Labor, for example, is reduced to a single passage (p. 144), as is that of the Patrons of Industry (p. 180). Granted, the lack of attention paid to these groups is a judgment call on Baskerville's part, but given that both organizations presented a significant challenge to established power structures in Ontario, it is curious that they receive so little space in the text. In addition, some descriptions needed to be put into better context. For example, there is no doubt that conditions for the poor in Toronto in the late 1800s and early 1900s were dreadful, but they paled in comparison with Montreal that had, for example, a significantly higher infant mortality rate.

On a more basic level, there are other concerns. For instance, there are points in the text where the prose is a bit dense. A dictionary needed to be consulted when Baskerville discussed British "suzerainty" over the Five Nations (p. 33). (By the way, the word means overlordship for those of you who do not use it in everyday conversation.) Moreover, there are a number of typographical errors, such as placing Pontiac's attacks upon British forts in 1863 rather than 1763 (pp. 37–8). As well, in any subsequent editions, Baskerville should be clear that he is referring to the Legislative Council in the middle of page 50, so as to not further confuse students of Upper Canada about the complex legislative system that was in place at that time for such a small population. Finally, William Meredith did *not* remain premier until 1914 (p. 159): James P. Whitney did (in fact, Meredith was never premier). With respect to images, the woodcut showing aspects of Iroquois warfare on page 22 is clearly reversed, and should be turned around in any subsequent re-printings.

Overall, this is a competent, thoughtful, and reasonably comprehensive general history of Ontario, and it comes at a time when such a book is needed by those teaching the province's history at the post-secondary level. There is no doubt that *Sites of Power* will be on the reading lists of many Ontario history courses (and on the reference shelves for archival institutions that deal with Ontario themes), and so it should.

**Kerry Badgley**

**Canadian Food Inspection Agency/Library and Archives Canada**

**Archival Information: How to Find It, How to Use It.** STEVEN FISHER, ed. Westport: Greenwood Press, 2004. 177 p. ISBN 1-57356-389-7.

The world is woefully short on publications dedicated to introducing potential users to archives and archival research. While institutions may publish thematic guides, bibliographies, and finding aids, these tools are not generally

distributed outside of places where research is being conducted, such as archives and libraries. Widely-accessible, multi-institutional guides that provide potential researchers with advice not only on where to find information related to their interests, but also on what to expect once they have found it, are difficult to locate. For the uninitiated, a search on amazon.com yields only one such book, and that is *Archival Information: How to Find It, How to Use It*. The book consists of eleven chapters, each written by an expert in archives and archival resources relating to a specific subject area, media, or type of records creator: American Governmental Archives, Genealogical Archives, Science Archives, Religious Archives, Women's History Archives, Moving Image and Sound Archives, Fine Arts Archives, Performing Arts Archives, Sports Archives, Business Archives, and Military Archives. The chapters typically begin with an introduction that may include the history of a certain area (for example, the evolution of genealogical research or of women's history) and the special problems or issues in researching those areas (technology and moving image and sound archives, or the tendency for a scientist's records to be scattered among several institutions, for instance). Each chapter then addresses the question of how and where to find archival information. The "how" might include a listing of the most useful print sources, such as bibliographies and catalogues, as well as relevant on-line resources such as Web sites, finding aids, and digitized collections. The "where" is a guide to actual places that hold archival information, whether these are "archives proper," or other organizations such as businesses, religious institutions, or even sports halls of fame.

*Archival Information* is a reference book and not intended to be read from cover to cover. One does not expect the book to be particularly engrossing or engaging since its purpose is to inform about the peculiarities of archival research in the various areas, and to provide researchers with a place to start. The value of the book lies in the authors' knowledge of their specific areas and the comprehensiveness and accuracy of the information they provide. However since the authors are incredibly knowledgeable of, if not passionate about, their areas of expertise, the introductory sections of the chapters are sometimes illuminating and unexpectedly entertaining. Brief narratives providing the evolution of specific types of archives serve to frame the chapters in a social and historical context. Russell P. Baker's discussion in the chapter on genealogical archives reminds us of the tremendous impact of Alex Haley's *Roots* on American family history research, helping to transform it from the quaint hobby of a few into a phenomenon spanning across class and race. Wendy Chmielewski provides some background on early efforts to establish archives devoted to women's contributions to American history, including the World Center for Women's Archives (WCWA) that was spear-headed by historian Mary Beard in the mid 1930s, and the National Council of Negro Women's founding of its archives in 1940.

Equally useful, if not quite so entertaining, the authors also provide insight into the types of archival resources available and the potential vagaries of conducting research in a specific area. For example, records created by individual women are often difficult to locate because they were buried within the collections of their families or husbands. In his chapter on moving image and sound archives, Dwight Swanson cautions researchers that access to collections may be limited due to copyright restrictions or technical problems such as the lack of equipment required to play a particular film or sound format. In writing about the records of scientists, Elisabeth Buhlman provides one of the more in-depth analyses of the particular nature and usefulness of documents by this specific type of records creator. In fact, she provides a table on the "Typology of Scientific Archives," that outlines the types of formal and informal documents, their content, and comments and observations such as whether the document is extremely technical, or if it provides contextual information. The other authors also provide the types of documents to be found in particular archives, albeit not to Buhlman's level of detail.

The bulk of each chapter typically provides specific resources and institutions for researchers. The format in which this information is provided depends on the area of research in question. For example, religious archives are organized by denomination, whereas sports archives are arranged by college and university, and by hall of fame. Many of the chapters focus strictly on American sources and institutions. Exceptions include the chapter on military archives that includes international Web sites from Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, and Poland among others, and fine arts archives that has a comprehensive international section. Oddly enough, this effort to be inclusive reveals a weakness: the only Canadian institution included in the fine arts chapter is the British Columbia Archives. The exclusion of all other Canadian archives with significant fine arts holdings reveals a problem that is probable in any reference publication: there are likely to be inadvertent oversights, omissions, and gaps in the information provided in every chapter. The authors do not claim to provide the ultimate guide to all archival institutions, publications, and Web sites relevant to their area; however, it might have been useful if the editor had cautioned the reader that, while the book attempts to be as comprehensive as possible, the authors cannot possibly identify all available resources.

In addition, constant changes to these resources will mean that *Archival Information* requires frequent new editions to keep up with developments. On-line references are particularly likely to become outdated very quickly as Web sites are redesigned, new features are added, URLs are changed, and new resources are developed. Steven Fisher's introduction to the book cites a URL to the National Archives of Canada's (NAC) introduction to archival procedures but, as we all know, between the writing and publishing of the volume, NAC became Library and Archives Canada and the citation is no longer current. Of course, the constant need to update information is inherent within this type of reference

book but certainly the rapid change on the World Wide Web complicates efforts to provide accurate information to both print and Web resources.

As mentioned earlier, an obvious limitation for Canadian researchers is that this book is American, and most of the sources provided are specific to the United States. Occasionally, a Canadian institution or Web site is mentioned; for example, the Hudson Bay Company Records Management and Heritage Services in the chapter on business archives, and the section on military archives, includes the Armed Forces of the World Web site compiled by the Information Centre of the Canadian Forces. The concentration on American sources is certainly not a fault for a publication intended for researchers interested in American history; therefore, the question is, would a similar publication with a Canadian focus be advantageous?

Books such as *Archival Information* are useful in providing resources that educate the public and in arming researchers with tools that facilitate and enrich their archival experience. For the beginner researcher, this book helps demystify archives and archival processes, and provides a place to start their research. A Canadian version might include a short section on the evolution of the Canadian archival system, in particular the “total archives” approach and the likelihood that the national, provincial, and territorial archives will hold relevant records on all subjects, from genealogy to business and sports. The approach taken by *Archival Information* may also be transferred to existing on-line research tools. Some archival sites, such as Library and Archives Canada and the Archives of Ontario, already provide sections to their researchers familiarizing them with archival processes and providing them with guides to certain types of holdings such as military or land records. What makes *Archival Information* different is its comprehensive scope that includes as many American archival resources and institutions as possible. “Archives Canada,” the Canadian Archival Information Network, is certainly an excellent tool that allows Canadians to access holdings across the country. Still, a Canadian version of *Archival Information* would be useful for providing new users with an introduction to researching in the Canadian archival system.

**Heather LeDuc**  
**Yukon Archives**

**Arranging & Describing Archives & Manuscripts (SAA Archival Fundamentals Series II).** KATHLEEN D. ROE. Chicago: Society of American Archivists, 2005. 180 p. ISBN 1-931666-13-X.

Many North American archivists in the 1980s and 1990s were weaned on the Society of American Archivists’ “Archival Fundamentals” series and the appearance of Series II bears eloquent testimony to its enduring popularity