

Information Holdings is the first appendix. The author refers to this example as a comprehensive statement covering the principles of information and records management. The appendixes are “live” examples which may provide readers with inspiration and food for thought for developing similar standards for their own jurisdictions. Once again, the practicality of this work is evident through the appendixes.

In conclusion, Dearstyne’s book is recommended reading for records managers and others in the information management field. The strategies employed to manage government records and information have to be relevant and integrated with the business of government if the needs of the client are to be met. Records management professionals today must step up to the plate and take a swing at this newer and faster pitch if they hope to remain part of the team. This book provides strategies and methodologies which will definitely assist you in getting up to the plate!

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Here be Dragons! Navigating the Hazards Found in Canadian Family Research. ALTHEA DOUGLAS. Toronto: The Ontario Genealogical Society, 1996. 74 p. ISBN 0-7779-0196-X.

Here be Dragons, Too! More Navigational Hazards for the Canadian Family Researcher. ALTHEA DOUGLAS. Toronto: The Ontario Genealogical Society, 2000. 88 p. ISBN 0-7779-0224-9.

Guide to Family History Research in the Archival Repositories of The United Church of Canada. COMMITTEE ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY, THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA. Toronto: The Ontario Genealogical Society, 1996. 84 p. ISBN 0-7779-0200-1.

Genealogy in Ontario: Searching the Records, 3d ed. BRENDA DOUGALL MERRIMAN. Toronto: The Ontario Genealogical Society, 1996. 278 p. ISBN 0-7779-0197-8.

Genealogical and family history research is one of the most popular pastimes in North America, if not in the entire English-speaking world, and no one is more aware of this phenomenon than archivists and librarians. As more and more people embrace their past and search for some personal connection to those who preceded them, the impact on archives and archivists is very real – increased use of facilities and collections, demands for easier access to information, and calls for more technology and on-line services. Research interests are changing, too. In the past ten to fifteen years, there has been a decided shift from genealogy “pure and simple” to a much broader, fully documented family history. Not many years ago, a researcher was happy to confirm that Uncle

George, his wife Sarah, and their four children settled in Carberry, Manitoba, in 1888 where George had a small hardware business: census and church records, cemetery listings, newspapers, and perhaps a local history could be used to draw a portrait of the family and their lives in the late nineteenth century. That same researcher today now wants to know more about Carberry and the social, political, economic, and cultural milieu in which his or her family set down their roots. This, in turn, has led to greater interest in and use of different kinds of archival resources.

While the popularity of genealogy and family history in North America has increased steadily since the 1970s, the arrival of the World Wide Web in the 1990s has drawn even more people into the search for their past. John Seabrook reported in a recent issue of the *New Yorker* (26 March 2001) that some 120 million Americans are either interested or actively involved in their family history. I suspect that in Canada the search for a personal past is just as strong. The Government of Canada Web site (<www.canada.gc.ca>) offers visitors a “gateway” for on-line access to information and services on a variety of topics under its “frequently asked questions,” including taxes, passports, and, now, family history.

Fueled by Web-based resources and nurtured by a desire for “connectedness,” family history researchers may very well constitute a majority of users in Canadian archives. The resurgence of family history in recent years has led to the reprinting of numerous local histories and has inspired a vast array of indexing projects and on-line databases; personal visits to archives and libraries are on the rise as well. Web-based technology is transforming the way people do research, it is changing user expectations, and it is providing access to information, especially in the form of digitized products, that will alter forever the nature of research and public service in archives and libraries. Family history research leads people across broad expanses of time, from Loyalist research one day to First World War service the next and, in doing so, through a wide assortment of private papers, government records, and other information sources.

To meet the demands and the needs of researchers, guides and handbooks have proliferated in recent years. While nothing in Canada yet compares with Mark Herber’s monumental *Ancestral Trails: The Complete Guide to British Genealogy and Family History* (1997), researchers at all levels, novice and experienced alike, have been especially well served in recent years with the publication of guides to holdings, “how to” books and indexes to census returns, registration records, and newspaper obituaries. Web sites devoted exclusively to Canadian content and to genealogy in general are thriving, and no wonder – it has been suggested that genealogy is the most popular searched subject on the Web, second only to pornography.

The two books by Althea Douglas are designed to assist researchers with common (and not so common) research problems, the United Church guide is

a useful introduction to family history resources and to research in church records, while Brenda Dougall Merriman's book is an ambitious attempt to synthesize Ontario resources of research value for genealogists and family historians alike.

Althea Douglas is a certified genealogist with extensive research experience who has turned her attention to helping others with a series of booklets aimed primarily at those unfamiliar with Canadian history and research. *Here be Dragons!* and its companion volume, *Here be Dragons, Too!* are handbooks with what the author calls "some uncommon useful knowledge." Each contains about a dozen short chapters on subjects and themes that researchers should be aware of before and during their research. Topics include a definition of Canada, religions, coins and currencies, titles, namesakes, the judicial system, as well as short guides to military records, immigration sources, ships and seamen, and Quebec notaries. There is no attempt to be comprehensive; the author has chosen a number of "research problems" that reflect her own experience as a researcher. Written in a light and breezy style, these two books are useful reference guides for all family history researchers, and even experienced researchers will find that the author is knowledgeable and her suggestions helpful.

A very different publication is the United Church of Canada's *Guide to Family History Research in the Archival Repositories of The United Church of Canada*. This book, a guide in the truest sense, is less concerned with the sources for family history than it is with the organization of the church and its archival system, which is comprised of a central archives at Victoria University in Toronto, and seven conference archives across Canada. Rather than listing specific sources, since many United Church repositories already have published guides to their holdings, this guide offers practical advice for those using church records, particularly people unfamiliar with the history and organization of the United Church, or with any church at all. It provides a short history of the United Church, including a detailed chart illustrating how various churches have merged and amalgamated over time to form the present United Church. Even this rudimentary knowledge is helpful and is a prerequisite for understanding and accessing the records that have been created by the constituent churches and are now preserved by the church. The editors have also included a short history of the archival system within the church, the location of conference archives and a summary of services at each repository, and a select bibliography. All of this is very useful information for one trying to understand which records might be available for family history research and how to access them. Furthermore, in keeping with technological advances, the information contained in this book (and more) is now available online as "The United Church of Canada Network" (<<http://uccan.org.archives>>).

Like Althea Douglas, Brenda Dougall Merriman is a professional researcher who has long been associated with genealogical and family history

research, especially in the province of Ontario. She is a Certified Genealogical Records Specialist, and for over twenty years has been immersed in Ontario records. Her book, *Genealogy in Ontario: Searching the Records*, has enjoyed incredible success and is now in its third edition. Merriman describes the research value of the various kinds of records found in Ontario, and discusses in detail records relating to registration of births, deaths and marriages, census returns, land transactions, court proceedings, immigration and settlement, municipal administration, education and the professions, military service, and Loyalists. She offers sound, practical advice on the use of records with confidence that comes from long experience and a broad knowledge and understanding of family history research. The book also includes a series of very useful maps, a bibliography, and a contact list for archives and historical/genealogical associations throughout the province. This is an essential guide to the records for any genealogist or family history researcher with ancestors in Ontario.

Three of these books were published in the mid-1990s (the exception being Althea Douglas's *Here be Dragons, Too!*), a time when genealogical research on the Web was in its infancy. Much has changed in a few years, and it now seems that almost everyone involved in family history research is Web savvy. Guides and reference books of this nature obviously fill a need, and while sponsored by the Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS), they are not necessarily restricted to "Ontario" research – only Brenda Dougall Merriman's book is concerned exclusively with the province. The four books under review were all published by the society, one of the largest and most active organizations of this kind in North America. For the past forty years, the OGS has sponsored and encouraged family history research in the province with the promotion of history and preservation, its support of archives, and especially through its publication programme at the society and branch level. One of the stated objectives of the OGS is to champion the diversity and comprehensiveness of the genealogical and family history resources in the province and to share its expertise. While much of this is now done through its main Web site (<www.ogs.on.ca>) and the Web sites of its twenty-eight branches, traditional publications continue to play an important role in the society's activities. These four books are useful and will undoubtedly enjoy a long shelf life and wide use amongst those who turn to our archives and libraries in search of their own personal connections to the past.

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