

La majorité croit la formation historique essentielle, mais voit l'utilité d'une formation d'appoint dans les domaines économiques ou social ou dans les techniques de la restauration, de la photographie ou de l'informatique. Les opinions étaient plus partagés pour ce qui a trait à la recherche personnelle; mais la majorité semblait d'opinion que l'archiviste devrait pouvoir disposer de dix pour cent de son temps pour ses propres recherches.

Les discussions et les rencontres furent très enrichissantes. Le cadre dans lequel la conférence fut tenue ajouta énormément d'intérêt à celle-ci.

Israël

L'accueil fut des plus chaleureux, la température idéale. Nous fûmes reçus par la fondation Van Leer, par le maire de Jérusalem, par le président de la Knesseth (Parlement). Il y eut visite, en groupe, du Kibbout Givat-Brenner, des ruines de Césarée, de Tel-Aviv et de Jaffa. La conférence fut suivie d'une excursion à Bethléem, à la Mer Morte et à Jéricho.

Israël est un pays de contraste, aride, montagneux, en Judée, débordant de végétation dans la plaine de Samarie. Peu de population, sauf dans quelques centres comme Tel-Aviv. D'anciennes ruines par tout le pays. Enfin, Jérusalem avec son humanité grouillante, bigarée, dans les rues étroites et moyen-âgeuses du vieux Jérusalem faisant violent contraste avec les édifices ultra modernes de la nouvelle Jérusalem laisse une impression très forte, très persistante. La menace de choléra qui pesait sur le pays de fut qu'un inconvénient mineur. Les détournements d'avions par les guérillas arabes la veille de notre départ ajouta une note dramatique à un séjour par ailleurs très détendu.

Bernard Weilbrenner
Archives publiques du Canada

ARMA SEMINAR IN THE PRINCIPLES OF MICROFILM

Montreal, February 8 - 9, 1971

This two-day workshop type seminar in the Principles of Microfilm was the first of its kind to be sponsored by the Montreal Chapter of the American Records Management Association, and was an outstanding success.

"Don't be too hasty in your eagerness to try out a new tool. Learn how to use it properly first. Nothing will discredit a new tool quicker than to use it the wrong way or under the wrong circumstances. However, properly used, microfilm systems will save you time, space and money," is the way William J. Gray, Records Consultant, Records Management Company, expressed it, as he in English, and Denis Deslongchamps in French, welcomed the participants. He went on to say that one of the prime purposes of the Association is to help people bridge the generation gap between the old and the new skills. This workshop is just another step in that direction.

John Andreassen, Archivist, McGill University, and keynote speaker, predicted that the use of microfilm will increase geometrically and costs will decrease accordingly during the next five years. Tracing the history of black and white film, he noted that the swing to colour will be more pronounced as new equipment and supplies come off the drawing board. He felt that the greatest challenge facing people will be their ability to keep up with the rapidly-expanding microfilm technology.

One of the highlights of the workshop was reached when 97 people crowded in to hear W. D. Wheeler, Head, Technical Division, Public Archives, Ottawa, develop the theme of the seminar, "Leaning or Learning". He pointed out that microfilming is not a new concept but, recent technological advances are making it more acceptable, and a powerful way to control and use the steady flow of new and valuable information. Furthermore, continuing developments will have a profound effect on future methods for organizing and disseminating data and information. He explained that microfilm is not an end unto itself, but a means to an end. Hopefully, an end to present inefficient and costly clerical operations. Nevertheless, to obtain optimum benefits, the selection of a particular system or piece of equipment must be preceded by good records management analysis. He summed up by stating that microfilming will be most productive when people stop leaning on others for technical assistance and learn how to integrate new techniques with their past skills.

A close rapport was reached as the workshop leaders got down to business. The participants really enjoyed using the new "Programmed Notebooks", especially designed and prepared for the workshop. They felt they made note-taking much easier and following the subject material simpler as it unfolded. This innovation will now be extended to future workshops since it has proved itself. Subject material covered in detail included among others fundamental modes of microfilm; their processing and related equipment; systems analysis and implementation; and, an introduction to "COM".

K. F. Foster, Chief, Microfilm Services, Federal Government, had little difficulty selling the benefits of microfilm which he described as high-speed retrieval of information; ease of information handling; simplified updating; inexpensive movement of large quantities of information over great distances and accuracy. An additional advantage of microfilm was the protection it afforded an original document from such normal hazards as document security, document loss, document wear, mutilation or alteration.

The workshop attracted people from as far east as Halifax, as far south as Syracuse, and as far west as Waterloo, Ontario. In addition to Montreal, Quebec City, Ottawa and Toronto sent the largest contingents. Universities and practically every agency of the Federal and two Provincial Governments were represented. The list of industrial companies looked like a page torn out of Who's Who in Industry.

People returned to their homes fully aware that microforms, micro-publishing and micrographics are going to make a profound impact on their jobs in the future, but satisfied in the knowledge that they are now much better prepared to meet the challenge.

William J. Gray
Records Management Company of Canada