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Speaker of the Legislative Assembly  
Province of British Columbia

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS  
VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA

To the Legislative Assembly of the  
Province of British Columbia:

Honourable Members:

Pursuant to the requirements of the Legislative  
Library Act, chapter 216, R.S.B.C. 1960, section 10, I  
have the honour to table the report of the Librarian for  
the year 1974.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordon H. Dowding,  
Speaker.

Victoria, British Columbia.  
March 3, 1975.

Clerk Legislative Assembly  
**RECEIVED**  
MAR - 3 1975

VICTORIA, B. C.

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R E P O R T

ON THE

LIBRARY OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE YEAR 1974

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Clerk Legislative Assembly  
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MAR - 3 1975  
VICTORIA, B. C.



LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY  
~~PROVINCIAL LIBRARY~~  
VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA

January 22nd, 1975.

The Honourable Gordon Dowding,  
Speaker, The Legislative Assembly of  
British Columbia,  
Parliament Buildings,  
Victoria, British Columbia.

Dear Mr. Speaker,

I have the honour of presenting this report of the Legislative Library's activities for the year, 1974.

Change of Name

For many years the Legislative Library provided both public and research services that went far beyond those normally associated with a legislative library. Both the present Library Development Commission and the Provincial Archives, in fact, began as services of the Legislative Library. Since the establishment of the Commission and the Archives as institutions in their own right and with the increasing number of academic and research libraries in British Columbia, the work of the Legislative Library has been increasingly concerned with the Members of the Legislative Assembly and the Executive Council and with the research staffs of the public service.

On September 30, therefore, the Hon. the Provincial Secretary announced that the library would return to its statutory name of Legislative Library. The return to the name under which it was formally established in 1894 was made chiefly to define more clearly the role of the library and to clarify that role in the context of a proposed revision of overall government library service.

It should be noted, however, that the specialized material in the Legislative Library's collection will continue to be available to the public by inter-library loan and under the same conditions as always.

Renovation

The renovation of the library wing, which was supposed to have been completed early this year, has still not ended. The consequent disruption to the reference service and, indeed, to the whole operation of the library has been serious. Because of construction work in the public areas, the library was forced to suspend its service to the public in July; that service has still not been fully restored. As far as possible, however, reference assistance to the Members was provided, although at times it was difficult for the Members to reach the staff and for the staff to reach anybody other than the construction crews.

The work in the book stack area, however, was finally completed in July and the task of moving the library's collection of some half million volumes was finished in mid August. The credit for the planning and the supervision of the move is due wholly to two staff members: Mrs. Maedythe Martin and Mr. John MacEachern. Theirs was a complicated and time-demanding job and the success of their efforts is attested to by the efficiency with which the move was completed and the accuracy of their space projections.

### Staff

Two staff members have been cited for their special efforts during the past year. The entire staff, however, must be commended for their co-operation, their willingness to put up with almost intolerable working conditions, and their plain hard work during what has been the most difficult year the library has known since the opening of the building in 1915. In the face of dirt, drafts, and drudgery - and, sometimes, of considerable danger as well - they laboured to maintain as near a normal level of service as was possible.

The year saw major changes in the staff, especially in the administrative areas. Dr. Willard Ireland, Provincial Librarian and Archivist since 1946, retired in March and was succeeded as Librarian by Mr. James Mitchell. With his retirement Dr. Ireland ended 34 years in the service of the people of British Columbia. He had been since 1940 the Provincial Archivist and since 1946 the Provincial Librarian and Archivist.

In addition to his main tasks of strengthening the collections and enriching the service of both the archives and the library, Dr. Ireland assumed major roles in the Province's centennial observances and undertook a wide variety of duties in community and professional service. He served as president of the British Columbia Library Association, the Canadian Library Association, and the Pacific Northwest Library Association; he was president of the British Columbia Historical Association, a councillor of the Canadian Historical Association, and regional vice-president of the American Association for State and Local History. In 1961 he was lent by the Provincial Government to the Federal Royal Commission on Government Organization. He served two terms on the Senate of the University of British Columbia and a number of years as a member of the Board of Governors of the University of Victoria, assuming the chairmanship of the board from 1969 to 1971.

Dr. Ireland's has been an impressive record of service to librarianship, to the government of British Columbia, and to the community at large.

Miss Margaret Hastings has been appointed Assistant Librarian and Mrs. Joan Buckingham has been named head of the Reference Department. Miss Elizabeth Edwards, who has been head of the Cataloguing Department for five years retired in December. Her work, particularly with the library's program of cataloguing support provided to government departmental collections, has been a valuable part of the library's service.

### Service to Government Departments

The addition of two professional positions to the library's establishment was necessitated by the increasing needs of other government departments for improved library service. Following the pattern established for the Department of Recreation and Conservation, the library engaged a librarian for full-time service to the Department of Human Resources. A further professional librarian was added to the Cataloguing Department to meet the growing number of requests for cataloguing assistance that have come from government departments. The library now offers full cataloguing services to the Department of Health, Human Resources, Recreation and Conservation, Water Resources, Municipal Affairs, Mental Health, Mines, Economic Development and to the Provincial Museum and the Pollution Control Branch.

### Summer Programs

The Department of Labour's summer Careers program provided considerable assistance to the library in a number of areas. Two mid-course library school students were hired to undertake the first steps in producing a checklist of the library's British Columbia newspaper collection. The information gathered for the checklist is to be transmitted to the University of Victoria to be coded for inclusion in a projected computer-based union list of newspapers. A third library school student was used to catalogue a large collection of cabinet submissions, which had been turned over to the library two years ago and which were awaiting action.

Two senior university students were engaged to conduct an inventory of the periodicals collection, highly necessary in view of the move and a preliminary step in the production, again in co-operation with University of Victoria, of a regional union list of serials.

As in former years, the library employed a university student to assist in the government documents department.

### Newspaper Index

The demands of the library's continuing project of indexing the current Vancouver and Victoria newspapers have increased to the stage where they impinge on other areas of reference service. In 1974, some 54,695 news items were indexed, many under three or four individual subject headings, resulting in some 123,354 additions to the file. Discussions with the librarian of the Pacific Press, which it was hoped might lead to some form of co-operative indexing, continued but because of fundamental differences in indexing procedure it appears that little progress can be expected for some time.

The work on the retroactive indexing project progressed according to the estimated schedule until the middle of the year, when staff vacancies occurred in the unit. These vacancies have seriously slowed the progress of the program.

### Microform

The renovations to the library have had a particularly disastrous effect on the program of filming the regional newspapers. The camera has been inactive because of protracted renovations to the room in which the unit is located and the consequent interruption in the microfilming program, which has been considerably longer than estimated by the architect, has posed a serious problem.

During the year a re-assessment of the whole microfilming project has been started. It has been necessitated by the deteriorating condition of many of the physical files of the newspapers themselves and by the generally poor quality of many of our microfilm files. One of the major reasons for the quality of the microfilm negatives lies not with the camera operators but with the library's unwillingness in the past to disbind its bound volumes for filming purposes, which has resulted in the loss of readable copy of the two inside columns on either side of the gutter. Obviously film of this quality does not provide a satisfactory archival record and must be re-done. With the help of a part-time assistant, the Central Microfilm Bureau's operator is currently reading all existing microfilm files of the regional papers to determine the extent of the re-filming program. Upon the completion of this survey, it is hoped that a schedule can be arranged in consultation with the academic libraries of the Province so that their needs for regional resource material can be met as speedily as possible as well as our own for a microfilm record of an acceptable standard. The eventual re-filming program, which should be started within the next year, will be a demanding one in terms of both time and money. But it is vital that the program be supported if the newspaper records of the province are to be preserved.

### Publications

The library's two monthly publications continue to be in demand. The Monthly Checklist of British Columbia Government Publications has been found especially useful by libraries throughout Canada for securing government material for their collections. All libraries have agreed that it is an essential guide while, at the same time, pointing out quite rightly that it is no adequate substitute for the kind of order catalogue produced by the provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

Early in the year Mrs. Christine R. Fox's Index to the Journals of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, 1872-1971 was published. It has filled a long-felt research need and has been well received by government research staffs and by students and research workers in British Columbia history.

### Reference

After a lapse of many years the library began to keep a tally of the number of questions that the reference staff answered during the year. Such statistics are misleading largely because of the disproportionate amount of time and professional skill required to deal with the variety of questions and it was for this reason that the tabulation was abandoned some years ago. They do, however, offer some indication of the amount of service offered and provide at least a useful comparison from year to year. In an effort to give them a modicum of meaning they have been divided into three classes: Directory and ready reference, which are straightforward requests requiring little time or special skill to

answer and usually involving the consultation of only one or two sources (e.g., addresses, names of M.P.s, population of countries, definitions, etc.); Specific, which are, again, straightforward requests for the provision of a specific item (e.g., article, government document, book, etc.); Research, which require considerable time in the location and assembling of material to answer fairly broad questions. In view of the fact that the library was - at least in theory - closed to the public from the end of June because of the construction work, the total of 4,325 questions answered is remarkable.

#### Interlibrary Loan

Interlibrary loan transactions again increased, especially in the area of this library's borrowing to meet research demands. Over 700 requests were received from other libraries for material in the Legislative Library's collection. In turn, 215 requests were made by the Legislative Library for material to meet the escalating demand from the growing number of research workers in the government service.

#### Government Publications

Special recognition must once again be paid to the staff of the government publications department and their work in facilitating the use of the government publications received by the Legislative Library. In 1974 34,817 government publications passed through the department, an increase of almost 3,000 over 1973. The total includes all British Columbia and Canadian federal government publications and a significant number from the other Canadian provinces, the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth countries, and the United States.

#### Cataloguing

A total of 9,483 items were processed in the Legislative Library's catalogue department. Of this number, 4,737 items were for the library's own collection, 4,746, for the collection of other government departments. The library service provided to the government departments is of special significance for only through such co-operation can there develop the centralized system of government library service essential to meet the increasing research demand within the public service.

#### Acquisitions

As cited above, 4,737 items were added to the catalogued collection of the library during the year. This figure does not include magazines and newspapers. In this area the library currently received 775 periodical titles and 231 newspapers.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I should like to thank once again you and the Members of the Legislative Assembly for your forbearance during the past year in the face of the difficulties caused by the renovations to the building and to express my gratitude to the library staff for coping so well and so patiently during a trying period.

The statistical tables are appended.

Respectfully submitted,

  
J. G. Mitchell.  
Legislative Librarian.

JGM\*dfs  
Encls.

1974

Statistical summary of Legislative Library activities

Reference

<u>Reference questions</u>	<u>1974</u>	(1973 figures in brackets)
Directory and ready reference	1,625	
Specific	2,182	
Research (requiring considerable research time)	518	
	<u>4,325</u>	

Newspaper index

New items indexed	54,695	(55,216)
Entries in index	123,354	(200,000)

Magazine index

Items indexed	281	(177)
Entries	ca. 550	(530)
Note: Approximately 100 B.C. periodicals are scanned for selective indexing		

Retroactive index project

News items indexed	43,333	
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Interlibrary Loans

Books lent to libraries other than the Library Development Commission	302	(333)
Microfilms lent	20	(10)
Requests met by photocopied material	218	(173)
Books lent to Library Development Commission for inter-library arrangement with B.C. public libraries	186	(183)
Total inter-library loan requests supplied	<u>726</u>	<u>(699)</u>
Books borrowed by Legislative Library	87	(41)
Photocopy received by Legislative Library from other libraries	128	(31)
Total inter-library loans received	<u>215</u>	<u>(72)</u>

<u>Cataloguing</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>(1973)</u>
New titles added to main catalogue* of Legislative Library	10,961	(8,537)
Titles catalogued for departmental collections	4,746	(3,684)

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\*includes material in departmental libraries  
catalogued by the Legislative Library and  
material in the Library Development  
Commission

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Photocopying

Xerox supplied	37,746	(26,901) pages
Photostats supplied	96	(104) pages
Microfilm supplied		(612) pages
Reader-Printer	2,056	

Periodicals

<u>Magazines</u>	Total received	775	(692)
<u>Newspapers</u>	B.C. daily	17	(17)
	B.C. weekly, semi- weekly, etc.	176	(162)
	Total B.C.	<u>193</u>	<u>(179)</u>
	Canadian, foreign	<u>38</u>	<u>( 36)</u>
	Total newspapers	231	(215)

Binding (excluding government documents and material processed by the library staff)

Newspapers	174	(291) volumes
Periodicals	47	( 28) volumes
Total:	<u>221</u>	<u>(319) volumes</u>

Government Documents

Documents received	34,817	(31,851)
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