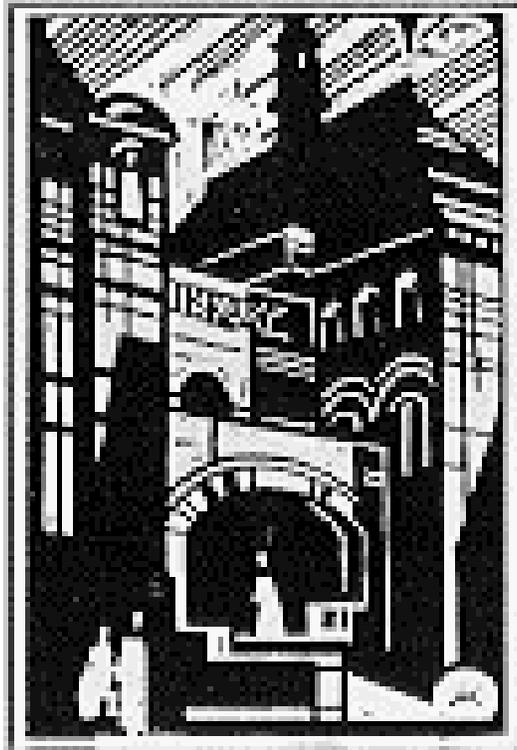




Annual Report
Of the
British Columbia Legislative Library
2002



Cover Story

Linocut print of the entrance to the Library by an unknown artist. The block was found in the attic in November 1985. The print appeared on the cover of the *British Columbia Library Association Bulletin, January 1955*.



May 20, 2003

The Honourable Claude Richmond
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia
V8V 1X4

Dear Mr. Speaker,

I am pleased to present the Library's Annual Report for the year 2002. The report is submitted pursuant to order 116 of the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly, 1987.

This report is shorter than previous reports. In keeping with our efforts to offer more information to the Members of the Legislative Assembly via electronic services this annual report will be made electronically available on the Library's website.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan A. Barton
Director.



APPRECIATION

The Library staff continues to demonstrate their dedication to service and their commitment to meeting the information needs of the clients. The shift to new thinking and new ways of achieving desired results demands greater skills and more flexibility in performing necessary tasks. Many thanks to all of you for making it possible for the Library to remain a growing and thriving organization.



Client Services

Electronic delivery methods are now the preferred way of meeting the information needs of the clients. In 2002 the Library redesigned its websites, developed more web-based information resources and created online document delivery for the inter-library loan service.

A four percent increase in reference transactions reversed the decline in library use experienced in the past two years. The growth in the number of complex reference and research questions was the chief reason for the reversal of the downward trend. More than two hundred and eighty questions were received via e-mail, reflecting the continuing shift to a preference for electronic access by the clients.

Among the major accomplishments of 2002, was the redesign of the Assembly and the Library web sites as well as the development of new web-based information resources. The Library staff contributed ideas and suggestions for the redesign of the Legislative Assembly web site and participated in the testing and evaluation of proposed search engines. In the Reference Services Division the Library web page was expanded and reorganized.

Library Promotion and User Instruction

Open House

Following the redesign of the Library's intranet site the Reference staff hosted an open house to introduce the Members and their staffs to the new system and to demonstrate several new web-based services. After the official "unveiling" by the Speaker, Librarians provided tours of the site which focused on on-line databases, electronic library publications, and recently developed in-house information resources such as *Bills Before the House*, *What's New on the Web*, *Hot Topics* and *Community News Update Online*. The attendance, particularly from Members and Assembly staff was good. Refreshments were served and the event achieved the goals of introducing the new products and in raising the profile of the library.

Instruction and Promotion

Orientation tours and instruction in library use were offered throughout the year to new Caucus Researchers, Legislative Interns and Pages, constituency staff, Legislative Assistants, Assembly staff and Government employees. Some noteworthy sessions included the library technician class from the University College of the Fraser Valley who made their annual visit on February 7 and a group of University of British Columbia School of Library, Archival and Information Studies students who visited on December 12. Leslie Polsom, Reference and Electronic Resources Librarian at the Saskatchewan Legislative Library visited on May 28 and a group of librarians attending the Canadian Association of Law Libraries conference were given a tour on May 27.

Publications and Reference Materials

In keeping with the goal to provide reliable, up-to-date information to the Members and their staffs at their desktops the Library's collection of commercial electronic information products was significantly increased. This included new products as well as a shift from current subscriptions in paper form to an equivalent electronic version.

Extensive changes were made in the production and appearance of *Community News Update*, in order to provide an electronic version of the library's most popular in-house service. Instead of photocopying articles from the community newspapers, staff began scanning the articles, which were then edited and converted to electronic format for use in either a printed or an electronic version of the product. The electronic version became available through the Library intranet in November.

The staff also continued to produce other in-house publications and to update the many lists, in which the information changes regularly. These are now also available on the Library intranet. Complementing these revisions was the publication of the *Electoral History of British Columbia: Supplement, 1987-2001*. The Supplement completes the electoral history project for the Province for the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.



Technical Services

Desktop Service-Delivery

In keeping with the goal to deliver more services to the users' desktops, the staff in the Systems Branch concentrated their efforts on the development of the new Library website. At the Library's suggestion the Library's Intranet server was designated as the Intranet server for the Assembly network. The Library's substantial collection of web documents was converted to fit the new Internet and Intranet sites, which went live in mid September.

New Products

More "behind the scenes" work is now required for both the Reference and Technical Services staffs to produce and maintain the increasing volume of material necessary for the Internet and to provide electronic services for the clients. In addition many tasks have become cross functional as computer systems blur the distinction between the two areas.

The Systems and Technical Services staff successfully converted the *British Columbia Government Publications Checklist* to electronic form and in January the Checklist ceased to be issued as a print publication. It is now available on the Library's public Internet site with a hyperlinked Table of Contents and active links to full text government electronic publications. The Systems staff also set up the electronic versions of *Community News Update Online* and the new reference products: *Bills Before the House*, *What's New on the Web*, *Hot Topics* and *BC Political Facts*.

Downloading Electronic Publications

The staff continues to find procedures which successfully handle electronic material, but significant concerns about publications which are no longer available in paper format remain. Procedures are now in place to archive British Columbia government publications found on the web and procedures to archive federal government publications are in the planning stages.

British Columbia government publications, which are available electronically, are downloaded and the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) is added to the bibliographic record in the Library's electronic catalogue. This provides a hypertext link from the catalogue to the actual item on the government's website. If the item is of primary importance to the clients, two copies are printed and added to the paper collection.

Many organizations and trade publishers now make their publications available in electronic formats. This allows the Technical Services staff to make links to the records in the Library's public catalogue so that these publications are available to users on the Library's website and links are made to publications located on other websites. The catalogue has, therefore, been enhanced to become a pointer to publications held elsewhere.



Organization and Staffing

The library enjoyed a relatively stable year although there were some staff changes. Nicole Aerts joined the staff on January 21, as Serials Librarian, replacing Nancy Chapman who transferred to the Reference Division. Janet Frost resigned from the Reference Division, effective May 31 and was replaced by Peter Gourlay on August 6. On September 16 Nicole Aerts left on maternity leave. Her auxiliary replacement is Elizabeth Wright. On October 4th, Lisa Allan, the Auxiliary replacement for Terri Rowe in the Cataloguing section, completed her term and returned to the Staff of the Sergeant at Arms. Cataloguer Jeff Pitblado left on December 13 for extensive travel in South America.

Staff Development and Training

The need to acquire more and more computer-based training has dominated staff training initiatives and the rapid pace of change in electronic fields requires staff to focus personal development in this area as well. However, training activities ranged from First Aid refresher courses to Performance Planning and Review workshops to attendance at Librarian's conferences as people found ways to fit in other pursuits.

Statistical Summary

		2001	2002
Reference Services	Questions Answered	3,541	3,669
	Remote On-line Reference Service	49	22
	Newspaper Index Entries	15,193	1,022
	Material Circulated*	2,805	2,259
	In-Library Use	7,408	5,543
	Interlibrary Loans:		
	-Items Borrowed	55	49
-Items Lent	45	42	
Technical Services	Government Publications Received	25,559	19,143
	Government Publications Catalogued	3,024	3,405
	New Book Titles Catalogued	4,031	5,365
	Retrospective Conversion/Reclassification	1,447	1,082
	Cataloguing in Publication	326	290
	Titles Received:		
	-Books	1,645	1,767
	-Periodicals & Catalogued Serials	2,000	1,930
Newspaper Titles	223	222	
Filming	Frames Filmed	25,150	974
Automation	Dynix Database Size:		
	-Books and Government Publications	121,702	128,778
	-Newspaper Index	266,701	276,455
	-Cataloguing in Publication	4,076	4,368
	-Periodical Index	40,869	43,487
	Total Size	433,348	453,448

*Does not include in-Library use.