



**Annual Report**  
*of the*  
**British Columbia  
Legislative Library**  
**2005**



## 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 11, 2006

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

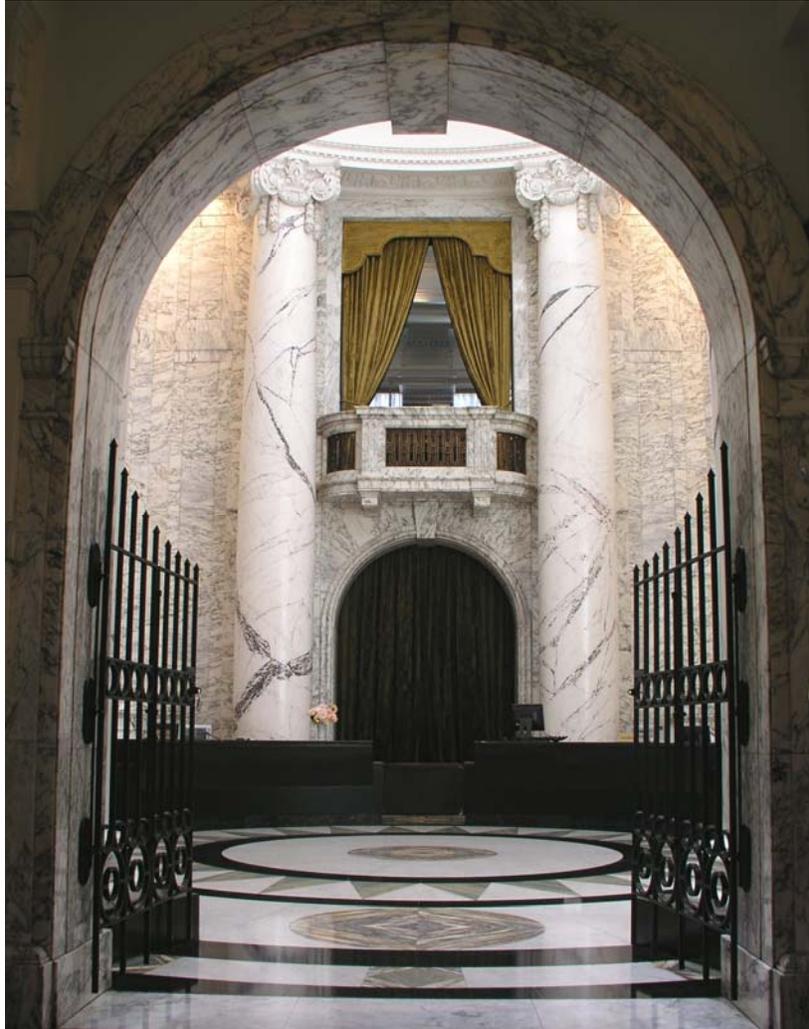
Dear Mr. Speaker,

I am pleased to present the Library's Annual Report for the year 2005. The report is submitted pursuant to order 116 of the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly, 1987.

In keeping with our efforts to provide more information to the Members of the Legislative Assembly via electronic services, this report will also be made electronically available on the Library's Intranet site.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Taylor  
Director



## **STAFF APPRECIATION**

In 2005, the Library staff focused on implementing and learning how to use the new Horizon integrated library system from the SirsiDynix company. Training sessions were held in the Fall and the database went live to staff at the end of November. Staff were up to speed by the end of the year. Without their dedication and their willing involvement in the project, this process would have taken much longer. With their dedication, the process went very smoothly, and credit for that is due to every member of staff. The Library also moved forward with new information products, thanks to innovative contributions from many staff. Much was new, and all staff demonstrated a solid ability to deal with change while still performing their regular activities at a very high level.

## Client Services

Reference statistics declined in 2005, a year that was dominated by the provincial election of May 17<sup>th</sup>. Walk-in and phone use of the reference service dipped noticeably in the period leading up to, and immediately after the election. Overall, reference questions dropped by 12% through the year. This was offset by an increase in the use of information posted on the Library's web sites. This information, compiled by Library staff, is designed to be accessed directly by the user without staff assistance. Detailed information about each of these resources follows below. Last year, for the first time, this report included statistics on the use of Library pages on both our Intranet and Internet sites. This year, our web sites showed strong growth with Intranet use rising by 21% and Internet use by 66%. The Reference Division is planning a comprehensive review and updating of the Intranet site for 2006. Also offsetting the drop in the number of reference inquiries was the dramatic increase in the amount of photocopying, largely in response to requests flowing from the Table of Contents service.

The Library offers a basic level of service to government employees, and the number of questions was up 17%. We offer the same basic service to the public, and those questions were down by an equal amount.

In 2005, circulation rose by 7%, following a year when it rose by 47%, due at least in part to the introduction of the popular reading collection. In 2005, selected magazines were made available for loan. The Library entrance was improved with the addition of a table displaying a collection of the latest library material.

### Electronic Library Resources

*BC Government Publications*: the trend continues for governments to use the Internet for publishing and distribution, posing problems for libraries wanting to keep and preserve this material for the long term. The Legislative Library, with its emphasis on BC government publications, downloads copies of selected titles to its own server and generates printed copies of selected titles. This year, 5,025 items were downloaded, up from 4,564 last year. The electronic form of these items can be accessed through the Library catalogue. The Library also produces the Monthly Checklist of BC Government Publications, which lists publications by issuing body. It is available electronically back to 2001.

BC Government News Releases: These are part of the downloaded BC publications. Just under 3,000 were added in 2005, bringing the total to 13,746 since this program began in 2001. This year, the material was reorganized in a database format that automatically and dynamically generates access pages and browsable lists, providing up-to-date search results.

BC in the World News, a daily listing of live links to articles about BC that appear in the online international press, was launched in 2003. All reference librarians take turns in selecting articles.

Bills Before the House was introduced as a demonstration product in 2002 and went live in 2003. The format was improved in 2004, and all reference librarians participate in updating it daily when the House is in session. It provides links to full text of first, second, and third readings of bills, links to Hansard Debates with a list of speakers, links to Committee Debates, information about how the bill will take effect (come into force), as well as links to Ministry and other background material and to press releases.

Community News Today is a listing of links to current stories of interest to MLAs appearing in online community newspapers throughout the province. This service was introduced in 2003 and it is updated daily.

A newsletter, First Reading, launched in September, is a key promotional and informational tool for the Library. A service or product is featured in every issue, along with "This Month in BC History", the "BC Trivia Quiz" and a review of a notable book.

The MLA Database contains electoral information on all British Columbia MLAs and was first made available in 2003. It now includes biographical information back to 1951. A simple search by MLA name results in electoral information, Executive Council appointments and some biographical data. Dynamically updated lists of Premiers, Speakers, Cabinet, women MLAs and others have been created and added to the site.

Online Databases and Magazines provides access to a large number of subscription online serials through the Library Intranet.

### **Other Client Services**

Current Issues: This year, reference staff produced one current issue list of books, articles and Internet sites on the topic of *MLAs and Parliament*.

Dining Room reading: A small collection of popular magazines (Chatelaine, Macleans, Newsweek and Time) is made available in the dining room, and is maintained by the Library.

Campaign Literature: In the aftermath of the election, the Library made an attempt to gather campaign literature from across the province and from all parties. After the election, letters were sent out to all candidates asking for the donation of campaign material in order to create a permanent record of this often ephemeral material.

The New Book List is produced monthly, and includes selected new publications acquired by the Library, organized by broad topic. Not included are new BC Government publications, which are listed in the Monthly Checklist of BC Government Publications, described above.

Newspaper collection: The Library receives many daily and weekly newspapers, with the emphasis on BC. We also subscribe to two national newspapers (The Globe & Mail and the National Post) and one US newspaper, the Wall Street Journal. The Library also has electronic access to many international papers. Relevant stories from BC community newspapers are compiled and mailed weekly to all MLAs, and links to those stories are also posted on the Library intranet: Community News Update. This is a companion product to Community News Today, the daily listing of links to online BC community newspapers.

Pre-publication cataloguing services: the Library continues to provide upon request pre-publication cataloguing information and ISBN's (International Standard Book Numbers) for BC Government publications, and acts as the agent of Library and Archives Canada for this program, known by its acronym, CIP.

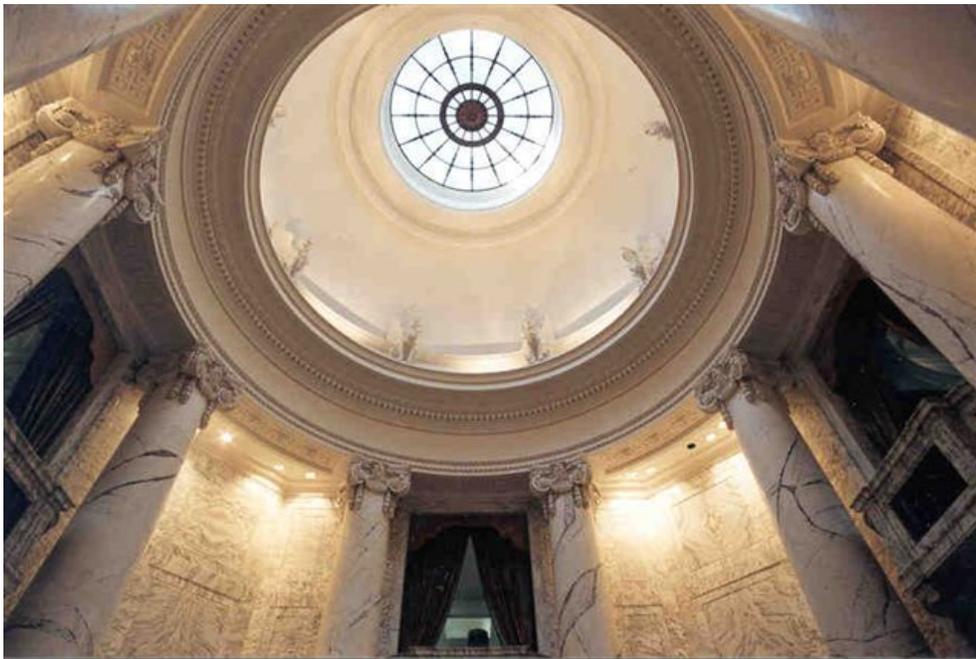
The Table of Contents Service was launched in the Fall of 2004, so 2005 was the first full year. This is a well-received product, providing photocopies of journal articles on demand.

Each time a new information product is made available on the Intranet, or whenever new issues of New Books or Current Issues are produced, an e-mail notification is sent to all Members and Assembly staff. The notices contain links to the new products and publications and whenever possible, a file is attached so the publication can be viewed by our prime users when away from the Parliament Buildings.

BC Royal Commission Checklist: the Library did a great deal of work in 2005 in preparation for the publication of a new checklist that will cover the years 1981-2005. Two previous checklists cover the years 1872-1942 and 1943-1980. Publication is anticipated in 2006.

Public Affairs Television: a service that records on DVD news programs and documentaries of relevance to politics and life in British Columbia. The service records five programs regularly: Voice of BC, W-5, Question Period, Mansbridge One on One and Fifth Estate. These recordings can be signed out for home or office viewing.

Lunch hour documentary viewings were started in the fall, and showed DVDs from the Library's collection in the Members' Lounge. Attendance has been good, and the Library plans to continue these sessions every couple of months when the House is sitting.



## **Books of Remembrance**

For the month of November, the Library once again moved a display case to the Memorial Rotunda in order to put on public display the Books of Remembrance. These books honour Canadians who gave their lives in the service of their country in the First and Second World Wars, the Korean War, the South African War (1899-1902), as well as the Merchant Navy for Canada and Newfoundland (1914-1947). These books are copies of those in the Memorial Chamber of the Peace Tower in the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, and we display them each November.

## **Library promotion and User Instruction**

Orientation tours and instruction in library use were offered throughout the year to caucus researchers, legislative interns, pages, constituency staff, Legislative assistants, Assembly staff and government employees. All reference librarians took turns conducting these tours, which were personalized to the client's needs, and ranged from a few minutes to an hour.

An orientation package was put together for each of the MLAs when they arrived at the Legislature for the opening of the 38<sup>th</sup> Parliament. The package was designed to be welcoming (a letter of invitation for a tour), useful (pens and notepads), and fun (a T-shirt with the Library logo), as well as a marketing tool for the Library. We were gratified to receive considerable positive feedback on the package.

## **Visitors to the Library**

January 27: Ten legislative interns were given extensive training on the use of the library catalogue and other library resources.

March 10: Fifteen library technician students from the University College of the Fraser Valley visited the Library for their annual tour.

April 28: Five staff from the Victoria and Vancouver locations of the BC Courthouse Library Society came to the Library to have a tour, meet the staff and discuss issues related to downloading BC Government publications.

May 5: Nine staff from the Cabinet Operations office came for a tour and a talk about the Library's services.

November 2: Joan Barton, former Director of the Library, brought Pat McKenna, Librarian at the new University College West, for a tour.

## **Staff Development & Training**

The mission statement of the Library reads as follows: supporting the democratic process through the provision of information while striving for excellence in

service. A necessary corollary is the provision and enhancement of the skills and expertise of the Library's staff.

To that end, staff attended educational sessions on a number of topics: the work of the Citizens' Assembly on electoral reform, the constitutional framework of government, interviewing exceptional people, proprietary database searching and many very specific training sessions related to the set-up and use of the new integrated library system.

Staff also attended an in-house roundtable discussion on the topic of "From wired to wireless: libraries in the future", led by a staff member and based on a presentation at the Canadian Library Association conference she had attended.

Cross-training is ongoing in the Library to ensure that critical tasks continue to be done in a timely way during staff absences.

The Library maintains memberships in the following professional organizations and benefits from their conference programs and journals: The Association of Parliamentary Libraries in Canada, The British Columbia Library Association, The Canadian Library Association, The Canadian Association of Special Library and Information Services, The Canadian Association of Law Libraries and The American Library Association.

## **Staff Participation in Legislative Assembly Activities**

Library staff participated in several cross-Assembly committees: the HR Advisory, the Display Advisory, the Information Technology and the Social Committees. Library staff were also involved in the production of the Legislative Assembly Employee Newsletter.

## **Implementing the New Library System**

After signing a contract in May with Dynix Library Systems, we began the implementation of our new Horizon Library System. This implementation was the major focus for the Systems Division in 2005, and all Library staff were involved to a greater or lesser degree. The staff went live with the Main and Cataloguing in Publication databases on November 30. To their credit, the staff adapted well to the new system. By the end of 2005, they were using Horizon at normal operating levels for ordering, receiving, invoicing, cataloguing, searching and

circulating all material except records for the BC Newspaper and Periodical Indexes. Implementation of the BC Newspaper and Periodical Indexes and the public catalogue was delayed because of the late release of the Horizon Information Portal (HIP 4.1).

By year end, the Library had achieved its primary goal of moving to a library system based on an open system database platform (Microsoft SQL). The Library can now access its library system data using standard industry tools. The new system has already demonstrated that the Library can use this standard structure, with standard programming tools, to generate its own custom products without vendor support.

The Library has also achieved its goal of migrating to a Windows based product with its familiarity and convenience.

## Statistical Summary

<b>Annual Totals for the year:</b>		<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>Reference Services</b>	Questions Answered	2,685	2,367
	Remote On-line Reference Service	18	14
	Newspaper Index Entries	11,462	14,810
	Materials Circulated	2,281	2,450
	Photocopies	77,173	97,222
	Table of Contents Service:		
	-Requests made	(3 mo's) 33	169
	-Articles requested	(3 mo's) 241	1512
	Interlibrary Loans:		
	-Items Borrowed	21	21
	-Items Lent	34	52
<b>Technical Services</b>	Government Publications Received (Print)	12,799	16,472
	Government Publications Received (Electronic)	4,678	5,091
	Items printed from the Internet	5,770	6,392
	Government Publications Catalogued	3,117	3,073
	New Book Titles Catalogued	4,245	4,677
	Retrospective Conversion/Reclassification	1,493	486
	Cataloguing in Publication	180	283
	Trade Titles Received:		
	-Books	1,972	2,145
	-Periodicals & Catalogued Serials	2,159	2,285
	Newspaper Titles Received	201	193
<b>Web Statistics</b>	Page Views Internet (excluding Library)	181,024	300,380
	Page Views Intranet	81,541	98,575

<b>Cumulative Totals for the year ending:</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
Dynix Database Size:		
-Books and Government Publications Including Electronic Documents	139,243 16,877	144,294 21,489
-Newspaper Index	298,188	311,345
-Cataloguing in Publication	4,817	5,073
-Periodical Index	49,935	53,595
<b>Total Size</b>	<b>492,183</b>	<b>514,307</b>



Photos: Library entrance, Library Dome, Dome Gargoyle