

BACKGROUND - CANADIANA

LAC's digitization plan

- Library and Archives Canada's (LAC) service model is predicated on digital content being available to Canadians through the internet on a self-serve basis. For this model to have intended benefits for the public, LAC must publish online about 500 million pages or 10% of its collection.
- Between 1999 and 2008, LAC digitized about 25 million pages. This represented a rate of less than 3 million pages per year, and was funded through Canadian Culture Online (CCOP), a program of the Department of Canadian Heritage. Both CCOP, and its successor program – the Canada Interactive Fund – have since been eliminated.
- Digitizing 500 million pages would take decades if done solely with internal resources and with existing funding. For this reason, in 2006, LAC began increasing its digitization capacity by working through cost-recovery partnerships.
- LAC's first such partnership was negotiated with Ancestry.com in 2007, and through this arrangement, more than 3 million pages were digitized and are widely available online, including the 1901, 1906 and 1911 censuses. Since then, LAC has negotiated more partnership agreements, with a view to digitizing 500 million pages on an 8 to 10-year horizon.
- LAC's internal digitization capacity is currently dedicated to LAC's digitization on demand service channel, the First World War records (18 million pages) and processing 2/3 of the archival microfilm collection (27 million pages).

Benefits and costs

- Under the agreement with Canadiana.ca, LAC's archival records currently on microfilm will move online where Canadians will be able to consult them anytime, free of charge.
- Canadiana.ca also will turn this collection into a searchable database by transcribing 60 million handwritten pages, and creating related descriptions. It is LAC's understanding that this work could cost Canadiana.ca and university libraries as much as \$50 million.
- For ten years, access to the enhanced search tools will be at cost through the Canadiana.ca website. Also during this time period, free access to these records will be available online, and the enhanced search tools will be accessible free of charge through more than a hundred service points across Canada.
- After the ten years, the enhanced search tools will be made freely available to all Canadians on the LAC website.

Scope of the collection

- The digitization partnership between LAC, Canadiana.ca and university libraries across Canada covers LAC's archival holdings that have been copied onto microfilm over the past 40 to 50 years. Microfilming of this material was done for both access and preservation purposes.
- The microfilm collection represent the most heavily used archival material in LAC's holdings, and consists of approximately 40,000 microfilm reels.
- The archival content on microfilm dates from the 1600s to mid-1900s, and consists of approximately 60 million handwritten pages. This includes colonial government documents, land grants, church

records, papers and letters of prominent Canadians, immigration and ships lists, First Nations and military records.

Risks

- As microfilm reels are freely available at LAC and because their content is out of copyright, nothing prevents Canadiana.ca, university libraries or any other user from scanning and offering this collection on line. Opposing this partnership may result in a less universal access regime.
- LAC and Canadiana.ca entered into a legal agreement.
- The dissolution of the joint venture between LAC, Canadiana.ca and university libraries would significantly hinder LAC's ability to grow its digital offerings in a timely manner, and would significantly impair LAC's relationship with the library community.

Stakeholders

- Library associations support this partnership and the work of Canadiana.ca:
 - Canadian Library Association
 - Canadian Urban Libraries Council
 - Canadian association of research libraries
 - Canadian Research Knowledge Network
 - Ontario Council of University Libraries
 - International Federation of Library Association
 - The Friends of Library and Archives Canada, and others.
- Stakeholders of this collection are users of public, university and other libraries across Canada.
- The archival community's only concern is that Canadiana's description approach will be consistent with their own.

Communications Strategy

- Publish a news item on LAC web site that includes supportive quotes
- Promote the news item on social media
- Reactive media lines, Qs and As and op ed
- Correct factual errors in traditional media and social media