POST-DEPOSITORY: Project Update

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OVERVIEW

- Project overview
- Methodology & Limitations
- Data (so far..)
- Next steps in analysis
Project overview

- Builds on book chapter project that examined the status of depository programs across the country
- Seeks to explore the ways in which libraries are adapting their print holdings post-federal depository - lack of published info
- Evaluates the persistence of federal government materials in former full depository CARL libraries to understand the landscape of access to historical federal government information

*Supported by the CARL 2018 Practicing Librarian - Research in Librarianship Grant & 2019 Concordia Library Research Grant*
Relevance to the community

- Contextual information for practitioners
- Guide government information seeking strategies
- Support collection management decisions
- Promotion of resource sharing and collaborative preservation
Key questions

- Have former full depository CARL libraries maintained their print, federal government holdings or are those collections being re-evaluated and weeded?
- Is it possible to locate materials distributed through the former program via public access catalogues?
- What do the results of this study reveal about access to federal government information in Canada more broadly?
Method, Part I

- Use the public catalogues of CARL libraries (ahead of provincial shared catalogue projects in Ontario and Quebec) to search for a sample of items selected from issues of the federal Weekly Checklist.


- Exclusions: Electronic formats, Parliamentary publications, Budget publications, Non-monograph formats (CD-ROMS, Kits, Microforms, Loose leaf, VHS, DVD, Folder, pamphlets and processed), Serial publications (irregular, annual, quarterly, monthly, or bulletin), Items distributed by mailing list.
Research Assistant

- With the support of the CARL 2018 Practicing Librarian - Research in Librarianship Grant & 2019 Concordia Library Research Grant, the project hired Dr. Claire Burrows, PhD for an estimated 110 hours
- Searched the public facing catalogues of all 26 libraries in the project, for a set of 100 government publications, 2600+ searches in English and French
- Completed data gathering: September 2019
Method, Part II

- Research Assistant searched for: title, date, author, format (print), and language match and collected all bibliographic information, in addition to location, status, call number, and permanent URL for all documents.
- As our research assistant found problematic publications (suspected serial documents, pamphlets, and other exclusions), the research team selected new publications.
- Made adjustments to the way information was collected, accounting for consortial catalogues, and publications in multiple locations.
Some of those limitations...

- Institution-specific approaches to cataloguing, description, and discovery
- Different search interfaces may affect successful retrieval or capture of persistent references (catalogues timing out, permanent links unavailable, formats unclear)
- Publication types we excluded may have been treated differently than those we included (e.g. the Hansard, CD-ROMs)
- What’s in the catalogue might not reflect what’s on the shelf
- Our search experiment tests whether it can be found using a public interface to the catalogue, not if it’s in the catalogue

*among others…*
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<th>Full title</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Language Checklist</th>
<th>ISBN</th>
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<td>How we work for you / A votre service</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Labour Canada / Travail Canada</td>
<td>Paper cover / Broché</td>
<td>Bilingual</td>
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Sample Data Collection

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Proportion of Publications Found by Number of Libraries

- > 90%
- 80-90%
- 70-80%
- < 70%
Regional Averages

Average proportion of publications found

COPPUL
OCUL
BCI
CAUL

Organization
Number of Publications Held by Libraries

Number of publications

Libraries holding publication
Dissemination

Where we are in our plan:

- Keep the community posted with progress
- Reach out to the community to seek feedback or input
- Disseminate findings through conference presentations
- Analyze data & write up results
- Ensure that outputs are available in open access formats
Keep the conversation going

Get in touch!

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- Michelle: michelle.lake@concordia.ca
- Catherine (on leave)