



# Why can't I find this online?

Investigating persistent access to  
print & digital government  
information

[bit.ly/CDN-gov-info\\_OLA17](https://bit.ly/CDN-gov-info_OLA17)



# Hello!

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# HOW DID WE GET HERE?

## **New(ish)**

New government information librarians, all hired in the last 5 years.

## **Help**

Finding your network

The book project

## **Complex**

Tackling the landscape of government information in Canada.

## **Collaboration**

Skype and email

Google Drive

Check-ins

Informal peer coaching

## **Questions**

Are we a depository library? For which provinces? How do we even find out?



# THE LITERATURE SEARCH

Endless, print-based  
Surprise ILL's! Going  
beyond our own  
collections

	Creator	Date
ons of the governments of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, 1758-1952	Bishop	1957
provincial government publications: Bibliography of bibliographies	Bhatia	1971
nt publishing in the Canadian provinces: A prescriptive study	Pross and Pross	1972
ff threat to depository program		1979/05...
publications: Key papers	Fry and Hernon	1981
entification and acquisition of Canadian government publications: Provinces and territories	Pross	1983
ment publications in microform	Carpentier	1988
ec government publications in microform	Carpentier	1989
ilemma: a study of the free distribution of Canadian federal government publications to depository libra...	Dolan	1989
nt publications in microform and other non-print formats: Past, present, and future years	Carpentier	1990
ke sure that information is available, accessible, and cost-effective" An interview with Patricia Horner,...	Morton and Zink	Septem...
report of the Task Group on Depository Program Review	Canada Communication Group et al.	1991
publications of the Quebec government	Carpentier	1992
accessibility of Canadian government information	Morton and Zink	1992
formation: An update	Monty	1993
ublic documents and the study of provincial politics	Smith	1993
es: An annotated bibliography: general reference works, history, humanities	Bond and Caron	1996
l depository library program: Policy and procedures manual	British Columbia	1996
ving the Canadian government "Weekly Checklist" on the internet	Davies and Chalk	1996
o government information, a view from Canada	Monty	1996
epository system	Depository Services Program (Canada) and Monty	1998
ederal government information: how prepared are the depository libraries?	Dolan and Vaughan	1998
ernment information in Canada: Implications for equitable access	Vaughan and Dolan	1998
overnment information: Are the depository libraries prepared?	Vaughan and Dolan	1998
ocuments on the web	Clark	1999
ervice in Canada: Implications for electronic access (Report to Depository Services Pr...	Dilevko and Dolan	1999
an Depository Services Program in Transition	Sheehy and Sevetson	1999
in digital collections	Brodie	2000
n: A depository program for the twenty-first century?	Gnassi	Septem...
y libraries regarding electronic government publications	Moon	2001
e conservation et de diffusion de la mémoire parlementaire	Saint-Pierre	2001
Digital Age	Amata	2004
Canada	Boyko	2004
d	Hamilton	2004
vinces: Alberta, Manitoba, and Ontario	Johnston	2004
vincial/territorial government publications: an action plan for CARL	Hubbertz	2005
ital government publications in Canadian jurisdictions	Johnston	2005
government publications	Monty	2005
ace pilot project	Devakos and Toth-Waddell	2008
	McCaffrey	2009
	Depository Services Program (Canada)	2010
	Wong	2012
	Association canadienne des bibliothécaires de lan...	

### Some Other Federal Publications

The Atomic Energy Control Board is the federal body charged with enforcement of the Atomic Energy Control Act; it "monitors the health, safety and security aspects of nuclear energy" in contrast to Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, whose realm is technical research and development.<sup>2</sup> The Atomic Energy Control Board distributes its processed publications on request. Rumor has it that the board is lax in the regulation of nuclear safety, but its bibliographic control is second to none. It publishes admirable quarterly and annual catalogues which some federal bodies would do well to emulate. Since 1987 AECB technical reports in the *INFO* series are being distributed in microfiche as well. AECB reports in the *INFO* and several other series have also been covered extensively in the *Microlog* collection since 1982.

Printed *Legislative Committee Hansards* are not widely distributed; copies go to committee members and are also kept on file in the Legislative Library for consultation by members of the press. No one else gets them except on microfilm, which is sold by the Legislative Library. The only installment so far covers the years 1973–1983. Film for the period 1984–1987 should appear in 1988. It is remarkable that the debates of provincial legislative committees should be so poorly distributed in the first place; compare Ontario and Quebec, where committee debates are routinely published as a set alongside debates of the full legislature. Hard as it is to believe, there were no published debates for the British Columbia Legislative Assembly at all until 1970. The new microfilm represents real progress.

From other provincial governments there appears to be little new, although it would be easy to overlook new initiatives, considering how difficult it still is to identify locally-produced material. Checking under *Canada* in *Guide to Microforms in Print 1987*, one finds a great

\*\*\*\*\*

Question: What did the police say when they caught up  
with the renegade government publications  
librarians?

Answer: You're surrounded. Come out with your Hansards  
up!

(I don't write them, I just publish them (ed.))

\*\*\*\*\*

Input Newsletter.

## KEY RESOURCES

*Government Publishing in the Canadian Provinces: A Prescriptive Study.* Pross, A. P. & Pross, C. A. (1972)

- ▶ Last complete comprehensive study of provincial government publishing
- ▶ Recommendations came out of the study and were embraced by the Canadian government information community

# KEY RESOURCES

Bibliographie du Québec.

Bibliothèques et Archives nationales du Québec. (1821-2017)

Canadian provincial government publications: Bibliography of bibliographies.

Bhatia, M. (1971)

Canadian reference sources: An annotated bibliography.

Bond, M. E. & Caron, M. (1996)

Access to Canadian Government Publications in Canadian Academic and Public Libraries. Jarvi, E. T. (1976)

A Guide to the Identification and Acquisition of Canadian Government Publications: Provinces and Territories. Pross, C. V. (1983)

An Index to Selected Canadian Provincial Government Publications.

van Haften, J. (1992)



# KEY RESOURCES

Acquisition of Canadian Provincial Documents.  
Archer, J. H. (1961).

Canadian provincial and municipal documents: The mystery explained?  
Presser, C. (1975)

Federal and provincial depository library system for government  
publications in Canada.  
Drake, J. A. (1980)

Panel - Brian Land, Lionel Levert and John Noel: Finding and using  
Canadian government documents: Federal and provincial.  
Aiken, L., and Barnes, E. (1986)

# TERMINOLOGY

- ▶ Inconsistencies abound...
  - ▷ What is a “publication”?
- ▶ We’ll use the terms
  - ▷ Deposit obligation
  - ▷ Distribution program
  - ▷ (de)centralization

# DECENTRALIZATION CHALLENGES

- ▶ Lack of enforceability
- ▶ Inconsistent information about what should have been received
- ▶ No standard definitions
- ▶ Insufficient capacity to distribute
  - ▷ Pross & Pross (1972)

# JURISDICTIONAL INDIVIDUALITY

- ▶ Canadian federal system - highly centralized
  - ▷ DSP: 1927 - 2013
- ▶ Provinces & territories
  - ▷ Centralized vs. decentralized collection and production
  - ▷ Queen's Printers/l'Éditeur Officiel de Québec
  - ▷ Centralized vs. decentralized distribution

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**1.**

**DISTRIBUTION  
PROGRAMS**

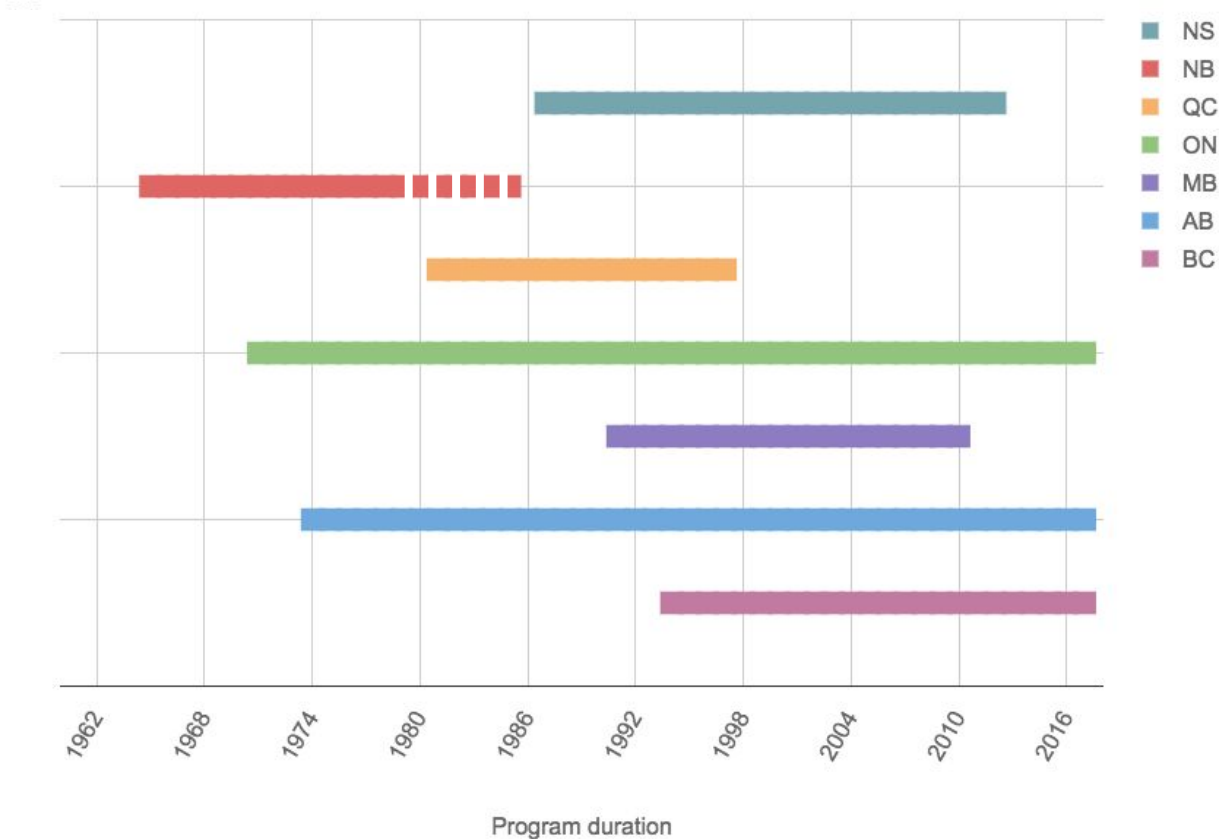
# DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS

- ▶ Government of Canada Depository Services Program (DSP) well-known across Canada
  - ▷ Created by Order-in-Council
  - ▷ Centralized distribution
  - ▷ Full & selective depositories
  - ▷ Over 1,000 participating libraries in 2007
  - ▷ Exchange and other external participants
  - ▷ Collaborated with LAC on Legal Deposit
  - ▷ Distribution active until 2013

## PROVINCIAL & TERRITORIAL

- ▶ Some, but not all jurisdictions had programs
- ▶ Few programs are still in operation
- ▶ Design, administration, and scope of the programs varies greatly
- ▶ Amount of information describing the programs available also varied, and some accounts appeared to contradict others

# Provincial deposit programs





## “OFFICIAL” SUPPORT

- ▶ Some, like the federal DSP, were created by government legislation or directives
- ▶ Some were official government programs, but without legislative support
- ▶ Some programs were apparently informal

# PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

- ▶ Difficult to compare at the same time using existing literature
- ▶ Participating libraries varied over time, but also:
  - ▷ By participation type (full, selective, other)
  - ▷ In number
  - ▷ By location

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**2.**

**GOVERNMENT  
DEPOSIT  
OBLIGATIONS**

# DEPOSIT OBLIGATIONS

- ▶ More common than distribution programs, but still not in every jurisdiction
- ▶ Often backed by legislation
  - ▷ Acts, Regulations, Orders-in-Council
- ▶ Sometimes the “deposit” started out informally then became formalized

# DEPOSIT OBLIGATIONS

- ▶ For some jurisdictions, library collection mandates and participation in distribution programs attempt to compensate for lack of legislated deposit obligation
- ▶ Sites of deposit vary in location and number, but most often include the provincial or territorial Legislative Library
- ▶ Opportunities for coordination with distribution program

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**3.**

**PROGRAM  
DOCUMENTATION**

## FORMER FEDERAL PROGRAM

- ▶ At the federal level (DSP), when the distribution program was operating, you could find:
  - ▷ Published, publicly-available [guide for depository libraries](#)
  - ▷ Website included a complete list of all full and selective depositories with contact information and/or location
  - ▷ Explanation of how the program worked
  - ▷ Description of [DSP \(Library\) Advisory Committee](#) and minutes from meetings
- ▶ Current website has historical snapshot & three commemorative weekly checklists

# IS THERE A PROGRAM?

- ▶ In the provinces:
  - ▷ Ontario, Alberta, and British Columbia have program documentation, but not all (or any) is publicly available
  - ▷ Alberta [lists current depositories](#) on the web
  - ▷ Some Ontario government websites recommend depository libraries as sources of information to the public
  - ▷ In general though, if you were to search the web to find out if there is a depository program and what it is, you would come up short



# IS THERE A PROGRAM?

- ▶ Nova Scotia
  - ▷ Legislative Library official depository for NS government publications
  - ▷ Legacy reference to libraries being depositories (not always up to date)
- ▶ British Columbia
  - ▷ UBC government pubs collections policy
  - ▷ BC provincial depository library program policy and procedures manual (1996)  
catalogue record

# ONTARIO

- ▶ Active depository system since 1971
- ▶ OLA advocated for distribution system and for the Legislative Library to be a depository to improve regional access
- ▶ Today, all depositories are selective and eligibility is similar to former DSP

# ONTARIO

- ▶ Benefit and convenience of searching online index of materials
- ▶ No historical record of what used to be available
- ▶ No listing of current or historical depositories

# ONTARIO

- ▶ Legislative Library established repository of born-digital documents in 2000
- ▶ PDFs + harvesting documents and converting to PDF
- ▶ The Library's collection is also available via OCUL's Scholars Portal Books as the *OGDC collection*
- ▶ Potential for collaboration between LL and OCUL-GIC to expand collection

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**4.**

**ELECTRONIC  
PUBLISHING &  
ACCESS**

# GOVDOCS IN TRANSITION

- ▶ Vendor solutions to the challenges of print acquisitions and management
- ▶ Costs \$, and still not perfect
- ▶ Canadian Research Index
  - ▷ Online, but an index to microfiche (Microlog)
  - ▷ Not an electronic collection
- ▶ Canadian Public Documents Collection
  - ▷ Perpetual electronic access--yay!
  - ▷ Digital rights management--boo!

# TRANSITION TO ELECTRONIC

## Federal Depository Services Program

- ▶ Transitioned to electronic only
- ▶ Collect, catalogue and re-host documents
- ▶ CGI-DPN provides added security

## Provincial/Territorial

- ▶ Often the legislative libraries have taken on a similar task
- ▶ GALLOP Portal indexes several libraries at once

## DON'T GALLOP OFF JUST YET...

- ▶ Important to note the scope of GALLOP
- ▶ Not all provinces and territories are included
- ▶ The variety of document types indexed varies by library
- ▶ Read the [scope note](#) to find out the details



## NOT GALLOPING WITH THE REST...

- ▶ Legal Deposit of electronic publications
  - ▷ Quebec ([BAnQ](#))
  
- ▶ The other provinces & territories
  - ▷ Nunavut
  - ▷ Yukon
  - ▷ Prince Edward Island
    - ▷ [PEI Legislative Documents Online](#)

# EXTRA-GOVERNMENTAL INITIATIVES

- ▶ Web archiving:
  - ▷ [Wayback Machine](#) / [LAC Web Archive](#) / [BAnQ Web Archive](#) / [UVIC Web Archive](#) / [UofA WebArchive](#) / [UofT Web Archive](#)
- ▶ [The Internet Archive](#)
- ▶ University of Toronto [Government Publication Digitization Projects Registry](#)

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**5.**

**BOOK CHAPTER &  
FUTURE  
RESEARCH**

## THE BOOK CHAPTER

- ▶ The library community remains the best source of information
- ▶ No consistency across the country
- ▶ Legislative libraries are doing a lot of heavy lifting
  
- ▶ There is no one-stop shop for provincial or territorial information

# FORMER DSP COLLECTIONS

Aka the DSP distribution program post-mortem project...

*Q: What is the status of the collections obtained by former, full depository libraries via the former DSP program?*

# CITATION ANALYSIS PROJECT

- ▶ Citation analysis of a sample of Canadian Political Science and Public Policy academic journals
- ▶ Are political scientists citing government information? Print publications vs. websites
  - ▷ Are the publications still available online?
  - ▷ Are the government websites still accessible?

# FUTURE RESEARCH

- ▶ Many areas unexplored
  - ▷ Collection development and retention
  - ▷ Subscription comparison
  - ▷ More thorough documentation of former and current initiatives for publication, distribution, preservation, etc. in various jurisdictions
  - ▷ The list continues... let's talk!



# THANK YOU! QUESTIONS?

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