Disappearing Deposits: Investigating the Retention of Canadian Federal Government Depository Publications at CARL Libraries

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# The team

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### The current project

- Builds on our <u>book chapter</u> that examined the status of federal, provincial, and territorial government depository programs across Canada
- Evaluates the persistence of federal government materials in former, full depository libraries to understand the landscape of access to historical federal government information
- Explores how print holdings have evolved in the years since the conclusion of the Depository Services Program (DSP) agreement - there is a lack of published information on this topic

### The DSP: Depository Libraries

- The DSP distribution program ran between 1927 and 2013
- Official, print publications from federal government departments were produced, printed, and distributed for free, to any library registered as a selective or full depository
- Full depository libraries (FDLs) received all checklist items automatically (with some exceptions)
- Retention guidelines had been relaxed somewhat in the decade before the end of distribution, but FDLs were still expected to retain most items indefinitely

### The DSP: The Checklist

- From 1928 onwards, a catalogue / checklist of titles was printed and distributed to depository libraries at varying frequencies, finally settling on weekly distribution from 1978 until the conclusion of the distribution program
- This checklist (for ordering) was replaced by the Weekly Acquisitions List (for information only) in April 2015

#### The DSP

"On December 31, 2013, the agreements between the DSP and the depositories expired. The DSP stopped distributing tangible–format publications and transitioned to an electronic–only model in April 2014."

About the DSP (August 5, 2014)

### **Key questions**

- Have former full depository 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

- Sample libraries primarily included former full depositories, with a focus on academic CARL members
- Sample publications came from issues of the federal DSP Weekly Checklist
  - Note: This work was completed before the deployment of provincial shared catalogue projects in Ontario (<u>Omni</u>) and Quebec (<u>Sofia</u>)
- Included libraries: UCalgary, UAlberta, Simon Fraser, UBC, UVIC, UManitoba, UNB, Memorial, Dalhousie, UGuelph, McMaster, Queen's, UWO, UOttawa, UToronto, UWaterloo, WLU\*, York, UWindsor, UQAM, UdeM, Concordia, McGill, Laval, Sherbrooke, and USaskatchewan

### Method

- Key details from data collection:
  - Sample of 100 publications → English+French or bilingual monographs
  - o 25 publications selected from each: 1979/80, 1989/90, 1999/2000, 2009
  - Over 2,600 searches performed
  - Over 18,200 data points collected
- Key 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

#### **II: DEPARTMENTAL PUBLICATIONS PUBLICATIONS DES MINISTÈRES**

#### **AGRICULTURE CANADA**

The insects and arachnids of Canada. Ottawa. 23cm. Paper bound.

Part 6.—The mosquitoes of Canada, Diptera: Culicidae. 1979. 390p. Bibliography, illus., maps, table (folded in back).

Contents.—Introduction.—General biology.—Geographic Phenology.—Anatomy.—Methods of collecting, rearing, and preserving mosquitoes.-Synonymy and authorship.-Acknowledgments.-Key to the genera of mosquitoes of Canada - adults - Key to the genera of mosquitoes of Canada larvae - Subfamily Anophelinae - Subfamily Toxorhynchilinae - Subfamily Culicinae.—Species potentially occurring in or incorrectly recorded from Canada.-Glossary.-References.-Index.

\$8 per copy (Canada).

\$9.40 per copy (other countries). ISBN 0-660-10402-4

Cat. No. A42-42/1979-6

Arbres fruitiers et plantes ornamentales rustiques de Morden (Manitoba), par W. A. Cumming, Ottawa, 1979, 35p. III. en couleur. 23cm. Broché. (Publication 1628.)

Gratult.

ISBN 0-662-90344-7

Nº de cat. A53-1628/1979F

Aphids infesting potatoes in Canada: a field guide, by M. E. MacGillivray, Ottawa, 1979, 23p. Colour illus, 18cm, Paper cover.

Free.

ISBN 0-662-10487-0

Cat. No. A53-1676/1979

Les pucerons nuisibles de la pomme de terre au Canada; guide d'identification sur le terrain, par M. E. MacGillivray. Ottawa, 1979. 23p. III. en couleur, 18cm. Broché.

Gratult.

ISBN 0-662-90286-6

Nº de cat. A53-1676/1979F

#### Monographs. Ottawa.

25.—A revision of the Gymnusini and Deinopsini of the world, Coleoptera: Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae, by J. Klimaszewski. 1979. 169p. Bibliography, figs., maps, tables. 23cm. Paper bound.

Contents.-Summary.-Introduction.-Key to tribes.-Tribe Gymnusini C. G.

Vol. 26, nº 1303, le 17 octobre 1979.

\$1 l'exemplaire, \$25 par année (Canada). \$1.50 l'exemplaire. \$35 per année (autres pays).

Trade marks Journal. Weekly, Ottawa. Bilingual.

Vol. 26. No. 1303. October 17, 1979. \$1 per copy. \$25 per year (Canada).

\$1.50 per copy. \$35 per year (other countries).

#### **ECONOMIC COUNCIL OF CANADA** CONSEIL ÉCONOMIQUE DU CANADA

Conseil économique du Canada, rapport née le 31 mars 1979. Ottawa, 1979 25cm. Cartonné.

> Gratuit. ISBN 0-662-90432-X

Economic Council of Canada annual report, year 31, 1979. Ottawa, 1979. 97p. Bibliography. bound.

Free.

ISBN 0-662-10661-X

Inia

Direc, on des eaux intérieures

Dibliographie des publications de la Direction de eaux, 1978. Ottawa, 1979, 15p. 28cm, Broché, B Gratult.

ISBN 0-662-50529-8 Nº de ca Bibliography of Water Quality Branch public Ottawa, 1979. 15p. 28cm. Paper cover. Bilingual

ISBN 0-662-50529-6

Cat. No

**Atmospheric Environment Service** Service de l'environnement atmosphérique

Monthly radiation summary, Ottawa, 28cm. Bilingual.

#### **KEY TO DISTRIBUTION SYMBOLS**

- Sold by the Canadian Government Publishing Centre. Supply and Services Canada, Hull, Québec, Canada K1A 0S9
- Distributed by author department,
- Printed for official use.
- One free copy to authorized persons and institutions when requested within the time specified and according to the terms prescribed by T.B. 748136 (Policy and guidelines on Canadian Government publishing).
- Permanent mailing lists are maintained for the free distribution of serials concerned to authorized persons and institutions according to the terms prescribed by T.B. 748136.

Example of a Weekly Checklist entry from 1979. (79-42)

We selected the publication: Aphids infesting potatoes in Canada: A field quide

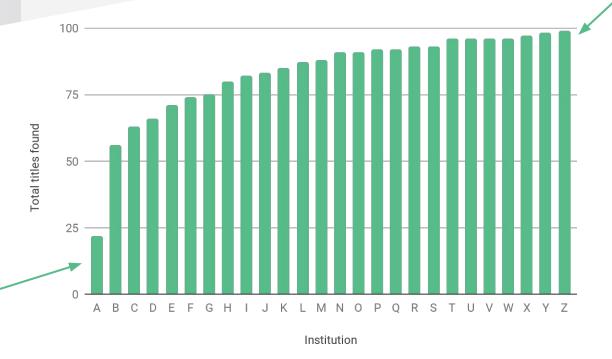
Weekly Checklist 79-42

# Analysis

A summary of what we discovered

## Titles found, by institution

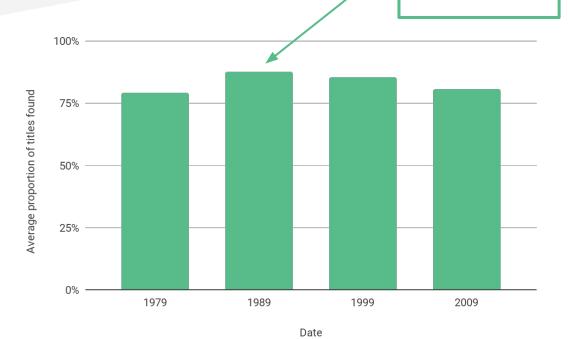
Institution Z held 99/100 titles



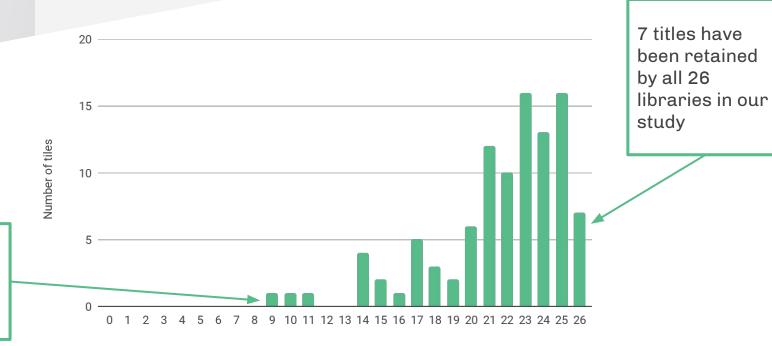
Institution A held 22/100 titles

# Titles found, by year

Average retention was highest for the 1989 titles



### **Title retention levels**

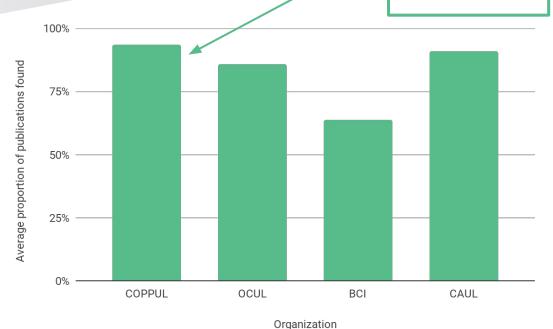


Each title was found in at least 9 libraries

Number of libraries

## Regional averages

COPPUL members had the highest average retention rates



COPPUL: Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries

OCUL: Ontario Council of University Libraries

BCI: Bureau de coopération interuniversitaire (Québec)

CAUL: Council of Atlantic University Libraries

# **Library Partnerships**











### Titles in Library Partnerships

- At least one copy of each of the 100 titles in our sample was found in TUG,
  K@D, OCUL-CF, and COPPUL-SPAN
- o BCI-QULP had at least one copy of 97 titles, but no copies of 3 titles

## Titles in Library Partnerships

- The most secure grouping by number of copies was COPPUL-SPAN, with 98% of titles having copies in more than half of the libraries.
  - K@D 96%
  - OCUL-CF 93%
  - TUG 90%
  - o BCI-QULP 62%
- For OCUL-CF & COPPUL-SPAN, each title was found in a minimum of two libraries

### **Conclusions**

# Have former full depository libraries maintained their print, federal government holdings or are those collections being re-evaluated and weeded?

- As a whole, there's more availability than we expected, though there are some regional gaps
- It's likely that there's been some weeding
  - 437 items (17% from the sample of 2600) were not found
- Partnerships and collaborations could be leveraged to secure the future of these collections before retention drops to problematic levels
- Canada-wide approach and dialogue is crucial

### **Conclusions**

# Is it possible to locate materials distributed through the former program via public access catalogues?

- Short answer: yes, as we found at least 9 copies of each title using OPACs
- O However:
  - Our sample set of titles was designed to maximize the findability of the publications
  - The RA encountered challenges in finding items using different OPACs
  - The migration of over half of the libraries in our study to the OCUL-CF or BCI-QULP shared catalogues could have changed metadata in unpredictable ways

### Conclusions

# What do the results of this study reveal about access to federal government information in Canada more broadly?

- Academic libraries in Canada have significant government information collections
- It is likely that collectively, we still have a good deal of redundancy, for now
- Government publication print collections are vulnerable and difficult to assess
- Coordination & collaboration would help secure this collection into the future
- Now is the time to seek partnerships and make agreements to protect and preserve Canadian federal publications

# Thanks!

#### **Any questions?**

Thank you to CARL & Concordia Library for grants that funded our data collection. And thank you to our research assistant, Dr. Claire Burrows!

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### **Further Reading**

Campbell, G., Lake, M., & McGoveran, C. (2019). Government publications deposit programs: The Canadian federal, provincial and territorial landscapes. In A. Wakaruk & S. Li (Eds.), *Government Information in Canada: Access and Stewardship.* (pp. 3-46). University of Alberta Press.

Cross, E., & Lafortune, S. (2019). Government information in Canadian academic libraries, 2017-2018: Survey of academic librarians. *DTTP*: Documents to the People 47(3): 6-14. https://doi.org/10.5860/dttp.v47i3.7121

Monty, V. (2005). News from the North: Canada is a cold place for government publications. *DTTP*, 33(2): 12-14. Retrieved from http://wikis.ala.org/godort/images/c/c4/Dttp\_v33n2.pdf

Morton, B., & Zink, S. D. (1992). The dissemination and accessibility of Canadian government information. *Government Publications Review*, 19(4): 385-396. doi:10.1016/0277-9390(92)90030-F

Paterson, S. (2018). The government information landscape in Canada. UBC Library and Archives: Open Collections. Retrieved from https://open.library.ubc.ca/cIRcle/collections/ubclibraryandarchives/494/items/1.0368917