



# NEWSLETTER

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/ARCHIVES ADVISOR

*Michael Gourlie, Executive Director/Archives Advisor*

Given the timeline of the ASA's recent activities, one would expect to have a splashy conference themed issue as the focus of the Spring 2006 ASA newsletter. Alas, in coordinating and carrying out the conference, certain activities had to be put aside temporarily, including the ASA newsletter. This issue will focus on a variety of recent grants-related activities from institutional members as well as other items of interest to the archival community. Conference coverage will appear in the Summer 2006 issue, and the annual reports of the ASA Board and committees will appear as usual in the Fall 2006 issue.

But the theme of grants does allow some tie-in to the activities at the recent ASA conference. The last conference session featured Ian Forsyth, Vice-Chair of the Canadian Council of Archives (CCA), and Marianne McLean of Library and Archives Canada (LAC) discussing the National Archival Development Program (NADP), the new federal contributions program of LAC administered by CCA. This new funding arrangement has set specific goals to measure its success, and the ASA and its institutional members, along with the other provincial archival associations and their members, will have to create strategic approaches to achieve our provincial goals as well as those of the NADP. And speaking of strategic approaches, the ASA is developing its new strategic plan, partly in response to the NADP and other upcoming challenges facing the archival community. We're seeking member input on the plan, the draft of which is available on the ASA website at <http://www.archivesalberta.org/general/conferences.htm>. Please read it and submit your comments to Janet McMaster at [jmcmast@shaw.ca](mailto:jmcmast@shaw.ca) by August 31, 2006 so that ASA's members can build a plan for the future direction of the archival community.

## ARCHIVES NETWORK OF ALBERTA NEWS



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### *Enhancements to Alberta InWord*

As a result of feedback received from our users, we have recently enhanced the ability to print scanned pages from our Alberta InWord database. To access the database, go to:

<http://asalive.archivesalberta.org:8080/access/asa/documents/>

Once you have selected a description, the pages are brought up by choosing a number at the bottom of the description. After you choose a number, the scanned page will appear. To save a copy of that page for printing, right-click on the document and then select "save picture as". Please note that our Alberta InSight database has not been changed, and the right click feature is not available for Alberta InSight. If you haven't checked out Alberta InWord recently, I would encourage you to do so, as there are over 75,000 scanned pages of textual records that are available.

### *User Statistics*

The number of user sessions to our ANA databases is compiled on a quarterly basis. The numbers have been steadily growing, and for the quarter ending March 31, 2006, we experienced our highest number to date with a total of 44,231 user sessions. This averages out to almost 500 user sessions per day to our databases. User sessions are tracked separately for those institutions with filtered views, so if your institution has a filtered view and would like those figures, please contact me.

As System Administrator, my role is to respond to questions about the system, coordinate training activities, vet descriptions and process bulk uploads. If you have any questions about the Archives Network of Alberta, or wish to arrange for training, please contact me at (403) 236-3406 or [jmcmast@shaw.ca](mailto:jmcmast@shaw.ca).

*Janet McMaster, System Administrator, Archives Network of Alberta*

## ALBERTA'S GREAT TREE HUNT!

The Alberta Heritage Tree Project wants to celebrate your favourite trees.

In a program designed to raise awareness about the impact trees have on our lives today and historically, the Heritage Tree Foundation requests nominations of trees YOU consider special. The criteria are broad: the old, large, rare, those with historical or cultural significance, and much more.

Nominations may refer to an individual tree or groups: a grove, avenue, garden, arboretum or shelterbelt. Perhaps there is a tree that has acquired status as a community landmark or grows in an unusual location or has an unusual shape. Trees within Environmentally Significant Areas, or provide nesting homes for rare birds can be considered in nominations. Additional criteria and information can be found by visiting our website; [www.heritagetreefoundation.com](http://www.heritagetreefoundation.com)

There is no limit on the numbers of trees you can nominate!

What makes our project special and enduring though, is documenting the stories behind the trees you nominate. Trees provide a living link to our past. They hold stories and carry meaning for people.

Upon receiving nominations, Regional Selection Committees, consisting of local individuals from a wide variety of disciplines, will select trees to ensure they match the criteria. Perhaps you would enjoy, as part of

the regional team, selecting trees in your community for Heritage recognition. Call or email us at the contact information below.

Upon selection, each tree will receive a plaque and, with the landowner's permission, be placed on the trunk or directly in front of the tree. This common identifying feature will make it easier for community members to locate a Heritage Tree.

These locations will appear in our book; *Heritage Trees of Alberta* (June 2007) and feature botanical, historical and cultural information on specific trees.

We hope your special tree will be featured!

From the community or from your travels within the Province; please share your tree story with us. Help us to celebrate Alberta's natural history.

Nominations Begin May 1, 2006  
The Alberta Heritage Tree Project  
[www.heritagetreefoundation.com](http://www.heritagetreefoundation.com)  
Box 334  
Turner Valley, AB  
T0L 2A0  
(403) 933-3099  
(403) 398-0201 FAX

\*The Foundation respects the privacy of landowners; publication of locations requires their permission.

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## Alberta's Great Tree Hunt Nominate your favourite Tree!

What makes your tree special:

- ◆ Historical or Cultural significance
- ◆ Age, Height, Circumference/Diameter
  - ◆ Rare
  - ◆ Community Landmark
- ◆ Survivor of Adverse Conditions
- ◆ Horticultural Significance
- ◆ Rare or endangered bird habitat
- ◆ Part of an Environmentally Significant Area

These are a few of the criteria collected through the website. What makes this Project special is documenting the stories behind the trees you nominate. Help select trees in your community for Heritage recognition—participate on your Regional Selection Committee.

Nominations online  
[www.heritagetreefoundation.com](http://www.heritagetreefoundation.com)

**The Alberta Heritage Tree Project**, Box 334, Turner Valley, Alberta, T0L 2A0

Phone: (403) 933-3099 / Fax: (403) 398-0201

Your tree may be featured in our book; *Heritage Trees of Alberta* (June 2007)!

## DESCRIBING THE PAPERS OF ALBERTA'S GREATEST GENEALOGIST

*Jim Bowman (1)*

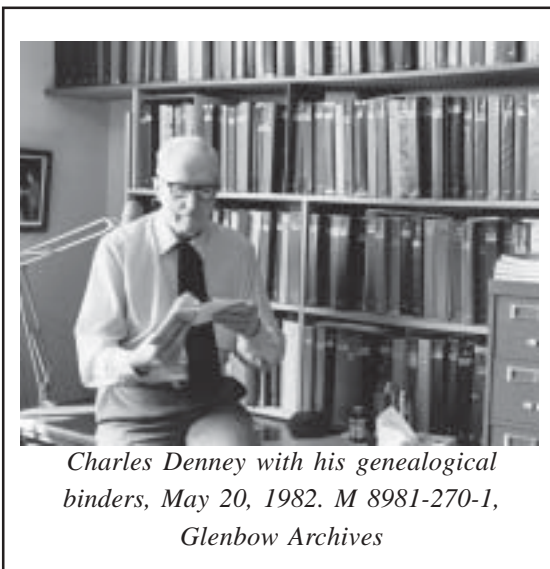
Charles Denney, 1901-2002, enjoyed a very long and accomplished life. The remarkable thing was that his greatest achievements came after he reached the usual age of retirement.

Born to a pioneering rural Alberta family, Denney taught in rural schools in places like Edson, Tofield, Cereal, and New Dayton until 1939. An active supporter of Social Credit in 1930s, he became Supervisor of Cooperatives and Credit Unions in 1940, and eventually started his own income tax and accounting office in Edmonton.

In 1967, as his personal centennial project, Denney set out to document the genealogies of descendants of Lord Selkirk's Red River Settlers. Eventually it encompassed over 1200 Red River and fur trade families, most of which were Métis. To keep track of the diverging and converging family lines, he devised his own file numbering system, assigning a block of 1,000 numbers to each family and their descendants. He also maintained a card file on individual members of the families which grew to 26 metres in extent. An energetic researcher, he traveled throughout western Canada, sifting through libraries, archives, parish registers, and graveyards.

In the 1970s Denney was founder of the Alberta Genealogical Society, an active member of the Edmonton chapter of the Historical Society of Alberta, historian for the Northern Alberta Pioneers and Descendants Association, and member of the City of Edmonton Historical Board. He was largely self-taught as a genealogist and historian, but he understood the importance of documenting his sources. Intellectually active right up to the time of his death, he wrote as many as a dozen letters a day to family and friends, genealogists, and members of Métis families who were complete strangers. He was also a frequent contributor to letters-to-the-editor columns. His letters sparkle with intelligence, creativity, humour, and enjoyment of life.

Realizing that his project had grown beyond the scope of a published book, in 1985, Denney sold his genealogical compilation and personal papers to the Glenbow Archives for the sum of \$25,000. The first accession of his family history files, reference files (copied research resources), and personal papers was microfilmed and file-listed by an archival technician at Glenbow in 1991. A further accumulation of personal correspondence, literary manuscripts, and his wife's family papers was bequeathed to the Alberta Genealogical Society, which donated them to Glenbow in 2003 and 2005.



The Denney Collection soon became Glenbow's most frequently-consulted fonds, largely as a result of the recognition of the Métis as one of Canada's founding aboriginal groups under the Constitution

Act, 1982. For Métis in Alberta, genealogy is not a hobby. It is a necessity for those who wish to document their Aboriginal status.

Research reveals that academic researchers' requirements for archival finding aids differ from those of genealogical researchers. Academics benefit from narrative descriptions of the contents of each file, while genealogists usually need to see lists of names. (2)

There are special issues associated with Métis names. For one thing, because most Métis in the nineteenth century were illiterate, their surnames were only recorded a few times in their lives by their employers, government bureaucrats, or clergy who conducted rites of passage. Spellings and pronunciations of family names varied over time in the early Prairie society where several different languages were spoken. For example, the surname Ouellette changed to Willett, then to Vallette. There was also the French-Canadian tradition of "dit" names, hereditary nicknames which sometimes transformed into legal surnames.

An ASAANA Grant made it possible expand the index to Denney's family history files to include variant forms of names, "dit" names, and wives' maiden names. Descriptions of the reference files were revised expanded for accuracy and completeness. The 2003 and 2005 accessions of the Denney family personal papers inventoried. The entire fonds description was digitized, and can be viewed at [www.glenbow.org/collections/search/findingAids/archhtm/denney.cfm](http://www.glenbow.org/collections/search/findingAids/archhtm/denney.cfm).

(1) This article will also be submitted to *Chinook*, the newsletter of the Alberta Family Histories Society

(2) cf. Wendy M. Duff and Catherine A. Johnson, "Where is the List with All the Names: Information-seeking Behavior of Genealogists," *American Archivist*, vol. 66 no. 1 (Spring/Summer 2003), pp. 79-95.

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## CPCAR GRANT SOUTH PEACE REGIONAL ARCHIVES

Mary Nutting, *Archivist*

As a new small archives it is easy to get caught in the digital ease of scanning photographs and then using those scans almost as a preservation tool. The original photographs, stored in acid-free envelopes with their fonds are put into archival storage and forgotten amidst the daily busy-ness.

Thankfully, because of grants like the CCA Conservation Plan for Canadian Archival Records (CPCAR) grant, at least once a year I have to consider what my preservation goals are. This matching grant allows me to accomplish some of those goals at half the actual cost.

In 2006, South Peace Regional Archives received a CPCAR grant to make preservation negatives for the Mack Prentiss collection and the Field's Studio fonds. It was a fairly easy project as my work was limited to choosing the photographs and then packaging them to send to the Provincial Archives. Dennis Hyduk, Conservator, produced the negatives at ASA standards and a set of reprints for reference.

Both of these collections were preserved rather miraculously. The Mack Prentiss collection contains photographs taken by A.M. Bezanson during his first exploratory trip into the south Peace River area in 1906 and his subsequent settlement there. Later they were used in three books to promote settlement in the Peace Country. They were preserved by an unidentified man who died in a rooming-house in Seattle, Washington. As the proprietor sorted through his belongings, she came across the photographs with meticulous hand-written descriptions on the backs identifying them as being on the Grande Prairie. She sent them on to her cousin Mack in Grande Prairie and 30 years later he deposited them in the archives.



*Camp on Moberly Lake, 1911*  
A.M. Bezanson

The second collection is the Field's Studio fonds which details life in Grande Prairie during the "Plenty Twenties". The photographer, an artist from New York, closed down his studio at the beginning of the Great Depression and died shortly afterwards. This collection came in four different accessions with very little identifying notes. We had to piece together descriptions from many sources.



*Grande Prairie Train Station, [1928]*  
Field's Studio fonds

Thank you ASA and CCA for assisting us with this project!

## PROCESSING THE KERRY WOOD FONDS

*Shelley Respondek, Staff Archivist, Red Deer and District Archives*



*Figure 1: Kerry Wood*

Kerry Wood was a very accomplished man in his time. He was the recipient of two Governor-General's Literary Awards for juvenile literature (1955 and 1957), a member of the Order of Canada (1990) as well as an honorary recipient of a

Doctorate of Laws degree from the University of Alberta. Born in New York State in 1907 as Edgar Allardyce Wood, he was known to friends as Nobby. He and his family moved to Red Deer, Alberta in 1918 after spending some time in both the provinces of Ontario and Saskatchewan. At a very early age Nobby knew that he wanted to be a writer. And not just any writer; he wanted to write about all aspects of the fascinating and ever changing world of nature and wildlife. At the age of sixteen, he took the pen-name 'Kerry Wood' and was successful in publishing small articles and stories in various newspapers and magazines. In 1936 he married the love of his life, Marjorie, and together they had three children, Rondo, Heather and Gregory. Many of Nobby's hobbies and interests centred on his love of the outdoors. For example, he was an avid birder, canoeist and archer. Ever the entrepreneur, Kerry also started an archery business making bows and arrows; and with his wife, he self-published his books. They also sold MacOwls, those cute and loveable stuffed Scottish owls. Kerry wrote about Canada, Alberta and Red Deer and instilled in children as well as adults the wonders and beauty of nature. He passed away on July 25<sup>th</sup>, 1998.

His wife, Marjorie Wood, donated the papers of Kerry Wood to the Red Deer and District Archives in June 1999. In order to prepare for a NAAB appraisal of the donation, Garth Clarke, the Staff Archivist at the time, spent a considerable amount of time organizing the records into series and roughly processing the items down to file level. A preliminary finding aid was also completed.

In 2005 the Archives received a grant from the Canadian Council of Archives (CCA) to properly process the records, down to series and file level, as well as producing a RAD compliant finding aid. With the preliminary finding aid from the 1999 NAAB appraisal in hand, the Project Archivist, Mitra Shakibanejad; the Archives Technician, Keely Burkholder; and the Staff Archivist, Shelley Respondek began to analyse the records. The preliminary finding aid indicated that there were ca. 1600 photographs in 6 banker's boxes, with the remaining 19 boxes containing manuscripts, awards, audio reels, books and other material. It was decided that the Project Archivist would process the photographs while the Archives Technician and the Staff Archivist processed the rest of the material.

After a week of initial inventorying, it was evident that there were a lot more photographs than had been previously anticipated. Several thousand more to be exact. Discussion ensued as to how to approach processing so many photographs. It was decided that they would be divided down to the sub-sub-series level to identify groups of photos (i.e. specific types of birds) but that photos would not be individually identified. Certain series proved to be quite time consuming as time had to be taken to research individual species of birds and different types of mammals before we could identify them. When all was said and done, there were 6184 photographs processed along with 681 slides.

Meanwhile, the Archives Technician set about processing the paper material. She removed staples, elastics and duplicates, and created the file descriptions for the final RAD compliant finding aid. The Staff Archivist spent her time processing the books that were part of the donation. It was decided to process the books by the series they were part of, and then alphabetically by author's last name. Intellectually, a chart was created listing all books by four main subject areas. This was done to assist researchers in choosing the correct books for their research query. To keep the books accessible, they were placed on the shelves, with an acid-free identification card placed in them. However, to minimize space, the books had to be placed in two

rows on each shelf, creating a back and a front row. This arrangement was a compromise instead of having to lift a heavy box of books off the shelf, just to retrieve one item. 155 books were processed in all. Once this was accomplished, the Staff Archivist assisted the Archives Technician in finishing the processing of the paper records. In total, the fonds comprises of over 10 metres of records, in 50 various-sized Hollinger boxes.

All participants in the processing of the collection learned the value of teamwork, as we all had to help each other to accomplish the overwhelming task of processing over 10 meters of records in 3 months. We also learned that even with a preliminary finding aid to assist us in our work, careful inspection of all files and series was still required as there were missing dates and incomplete file lists that had to be rechecked or created from scratch.

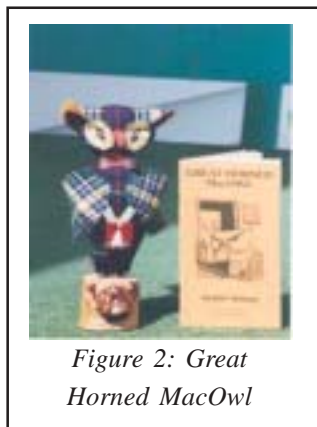


Figure 2: Great Horned MacOwl

Through all the stresses of trying to identify yet another species of bird or mammal photograph, deep discussions on various interpretations of RAD, and what to do with the many audio reels found in the boxes, everyone involved in the project had an enjoyable time. We learned from each other and from the documents that were at our fingertips. Kerry Wood had an incredible life where he was able to live out his dream of becoming a writer and sharing with millions of readers his love and knowledge of the outdoors.

To learn more about Kerry Wood, please contact the Red Deer and District Archives at (403) 309-8403 or at [www.reddeer.ca/archives](http://www.reddeer.ca/archives).

# Archival

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## UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY ARCHIVES COMPLETES TWO SPECIAL PROJECTS

*Lisa Atkinson, Archival Program Manager, University of Calgary Archives*

The University of Calgary Archives is pleased to announce the completion of two externally funded projects. The projects include the arrangement and description of the papers of Dr. Richard Forbis and of Professor Terence Penelhum which are held in the University Archives.

Dr. Forbis has been dubbed “the Father of Alberta Archaeology” for his pioneering contributions to Northern Plains archaeological science. An eminent archaeologist and prehistorian whose achievements were recognized through many awards and scholarships, Forbis taught at the University of Calgary from 1960 until his retirement in 1988. As the first archaeologist at the University of Calgary, Dr. Forbis was responsible for creating the Department of Archaeology – Canada’s first university department devoted solely to the instruction of that subject – and for its development into the distinct and eminent school it has become.

Richard Forbis’ records reflect the more than 30 years he spent in the investigation of the archaeology of western Canada with a particular focus on the early man studies. He was personally responsible for the first systematic programme of archaeological investigations in Alberta, undertaking extensive fieldwork all over the province. As Chairman of the Public Hearings into the Conservation of Historical and Archaeological Resources in Alberta in 1972, Dr. Forbis played a critical role in the development of the Alberta Historical Resources Act, which introduced into Canada a new era of heritage public policy. Dr. Forbis died in 1999. The records he left behind reflect a man with an extraordinary commitment to his chosen field, whose work and vision were instrumental in shaping the province’s policy and law. This project was made possible by financial assistance from the Government of Canada through the National Archives of Canada and the Canadian Council of Archives.

Terence Penelhum has been a professor emeritus of Religious Studies at the University of Calgary since his retirement in 1988. Professor Penelhum enjoys international recognition for his numerous books and articles on the subjects of David Hume, faith, ethics, and reason. He has been sought after for teaching and research appointments at Cambridge, Oxford,

Edinburgh, Yale and numerous other universities throughout North America. He has received honorary doctorates from four Canadian universities and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1975. Terence Penelhum was dean of Arts and Science from 1964 to 1967, head of the Philosophy Department from 1964-1970, and director of the Calgary Institute for the Humanities from 1976-1979. He was a full professor in the Department of Philosophy from 1964-1978, and in the Department of Religious Studies from 1978-1988.

The *fonds* consists of records relating to Terence Penelhum’s various roles as professor, author and lecturer, and personal records relating to his roles as dean and department head. The *fonds* documents the period from 1950 to 2000 and includes manuscripts for books and articles, correspondence, unpublished conference presentations, public lectures and presentations, speeches, convocation citations, tributes to colleagues, lectures for courses taught, and records relating to awards and honorary degrees received. This project has been supported by a grant from Alberta Lotteries through the Archives Society of Alberta.

The file lists for Dr. Forbis’ and Professor Penelhum’s records are available on the University Archives’ “Private Papers” webpage located at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/archives/researchholdings.html>. Paper copies of the lists are available to researchers in the Archives’ reading room located on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor of the MacKimmie Library Tower. The fonds-level descriptions have been added to the Archives Network of Alberta and the Archives Canada online databases.



# PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA DIGITAL PRESERVATION SURVEY: TECHNOLOGY – PART I

Lori Podolsky Nordland, *Digital Archivist, Provincial Archives of Alberta*

In the last article, I provided highlights of a digital preservation survey that was sent to eleven national and international archival and library institutions (of which eight participated) in September 2005. Six major themes – appraisal, acquisition, storage, access, metadata, and challenges – were addressed with responses ranging from no response to general response with a few remarks, to more a substantive, in-depth response. Overall, the article summarized the responses on the current practices, as well as those informing future policies and procedures, relating to the infrastructure of a digital archives, the extent and scope of digital records acquisition, and the capture of preservation metadata for acquiring, appraising, and preserving digital records.

This article focuses on the technical aspects of the digital preservation survey. These aspects include information on the technical infrastructure, storage, and the extent or scope and size of the digital collections given by each of the participating institutions. The pyramidal approach to digital preservation (Figure 1), in which the three sides are technical, organizational, and resources, to digital preservation is followed for a more in-depth look at these technical components.(1)

## Technical Component:

The technical component of a digital preservation strategy, according to Anne R. Kenney and Nancy Y. McGovern, is a combination of the hardware and software, network protocols, and technical skills needed to manage and preserve digital objects or records.(2) In the Provincial Archives of Alberta digital preservation survey, two objectives were formulated to address the hardware and software factors, and the storage aspect of network protocols. Although the survey did not ask about technical skills, some respondents did provide some additional information on this. Overall, the respondents provided valuable

information on the part of technology in their digital preservation strategy solution.

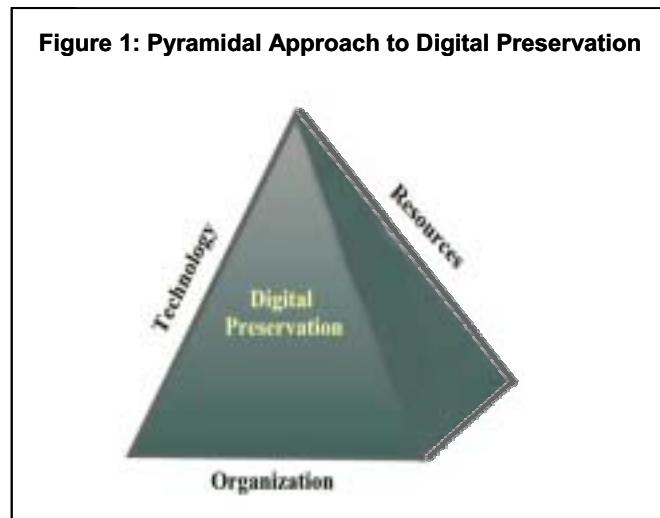
As mentioned in the first article, all of the institutions responded that they are in the process of initiating some type of systems architecture for their digital records. Although the institutions are in various stages, each respondent provided individual, valuable comments on managing and preserving emails, websites, and media storage, for instance.

When combined, these responses gave a generic overview of a systems architecture and its components.

The third section of the survey addressed storage devices. Most responded that some form of storage existed, and one institution was in the process of reviewing its storage infrastructure. Of the three institutions that have received digital records, the indication is that the records are transferred on

removable storage such as floppy disks and CDs. Although not explicitly stated, institutional records appear to be transferred through internal networks. However, all of the institutions stated that formal procedures for this type of transfer are not yet implemented.

The storage infrastructure varies for each institution, but some commonalities exist. Currently, each institution uses a variety of media storage, such as floppy disks, zip disks, CDs and DVDs. Storage on USB devices was not mentioned; and since this is fairly new technology (in the archival sense!), these are probably not used for transferring records or as long-term storage. One of the provincial archives is adopting a number of approaches to storage to address access needs, security concerns, and other factors. Removable drives are one element to their approach. A combination of removable and networked storage appears to be the preferred approach. →



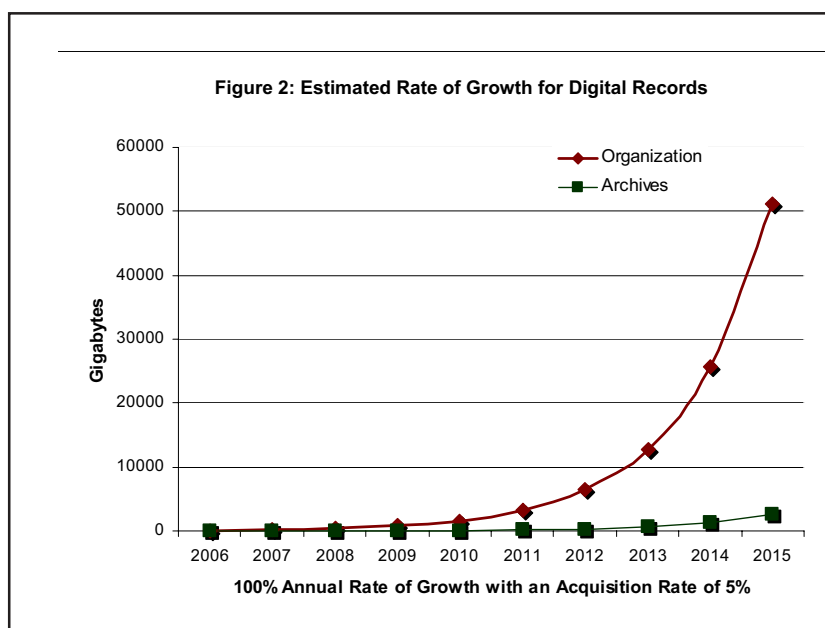
Overall, most of the institutions are implementing networked storage in the form of storage area networks (or SAN). For institutions managing and preserving over five terabytes of information, R. David Vernon and Oya Y. Rieger from Cornell University recommend a hierarchical SAN architecture for access, retrieval, and storage.(3) A hierarchical storage takes advantage of the benefits in combining disk, tape, and optical storage systems for automatically migrating from one storage media to another. This type of architecture allows for faster online access and retrieval of large archival storage projects, while optimizing storage for each given technology's benefits. Finally, the storage architecture should be scalable and flexible to accommodate the acquisition or growth rate of digital records into the archives.

The extent and scope (size, format, and complexity) of digital records also impacts the systems architecture. As mentioned above, flexibility and scalability are essential features to ensure the longevity of the infrastructure. Library and Archives Canada acknowledges the need of such an infrastructure "to keep pace with the needs and expectations of our clients [and] to handle the increased complexity of collection information and to continue the trend towards digital items in our collection."(4)

At the time of the survey, Library and Archives Canada was one of three institutions that received digital records. McGill University, Archives of Ontario, and Library and Archives Canada acquired two gigabytes, 200 gigabytes, and 7200 gigabytes of information,

respectively. Unfortunately, none of the respondents indicated the complexity (i.e., multimedia versus simple textual document) and format (i.e., .DOC, .JPG, .WAV, .WMF) of the records in their holdings. However, it is probable that the majority of the digital records are basic textual documents and image files, and that a small percentage may include multimedia files with a combination of text, image, and sound. As well, McGill University and Library and Archives Canada have been working on web archiving projects, which would be considered complex documents.

Additionally, information relating to the rate of growth required for storage capacity was not included in their responses. As these institutions are only receiving digital records on an ad hoc basis, they may not have been able to provide this information in detail. However, some extrapolations may be made if a growth rate is estimated from 50% to 100% yearly.(5) For instance, if an organization has 100 gigabytes of information for 2006, then in 2007, the organization will have created 150 to 200 gigabytes, and in 2008, that amount increases to 225 to 400 gigabytes. To estimate the acquisition for the archives in which three to five per cent of the total amount of gigabytes is considered to have permanent or enduring value, then the archives may anticipate approximately three to five gigabytes in 2006, six to ten gigabytes in 2007, and 12 to 20 gigabytes in 2008. The accompanying graph illustrates this example.



Following from the complexity of the digital record are software applications and programs used to create, store, and manage them. McGill University and Archives of Ontario are working on projects to convert emails from a proprietary format to one that is an open standard. McGill University has been converting emails from the Outlook personal folder storage to XML and PDF/A. Archives of Ontario converts their emails to HTML. In converting the emails from a proprietary format to the open standards of XML, PDF/A, or HTML, software programs and applications should have less difficulty in accessing and rendering the documents. A well-developed systems architecture, therefore, should have the capacity to incorporate conversion of documents to open standards or more ubiquitous formats.

### Summary:

When analyzing the responses from the Provincial Archives of Alberta digital preservation survey, an outline for the technology component emerges.

1. As digital records are transferred to the archives using removable storage, the systems architecture should incorporate the ability to read different media storage formats such as floppy disks, CD/DVDs, and USB devices.
2. The systems architecture requires a storage infrastructure that is scalable and flexible to accommodate a growth rate of that nearly doubles each year, and in which the complexity of the record increases as new technology is created.
3. Software and hardware technology must be stable for long-term management and preservation to ensure accessibility and retrievability into the future.

The Provincial Archives of Alberta is working towards such a systems architecture, and the information from this survey has been beneficial in moving towards this goal.

To request a copy of the *Provincial Archives of Alberta Digital Preservation Standard Survey Summary Report*, please contact Lori Nordland at:

Provincial Archives of Alberta  
8555 Roper Road  
Edmonton AB T6E 5W1  
Telephone: 780-415-8143  
Fax: 780-427-4646  
Email: lori.nordland@gov.ab.ca  
Website: [http://www.cd.gov.ab.ca/preserving/paa\\_2002/index.asp](http://www.cd.gov.ab.ca/preserving/paa_2002/index.asp)

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- 1 Adopted from Anne R. Kenney and Nancy Y. McGovern, "Three-Legged Stool," March 2005 ([http://www.library.cornell.edu/iris/dpo/docs/Cuba-ark-nym\\_final.ppt](http://www.library.cornell.edu/iris/dpo/docs/Cuba-ark-nym_final.ppt))
  - 2 Kenney and McGovern, "Three-Legged Stool"
  - 3 R. David Vernon and Oya Y. Rieger, "Digital Asset Management: An Introduction to Key Issues (Revised 2/02 – Revision 2)," Office of Information Technologies IT Architecture Initiative (<http://www.cit.cornell.edu/oit/Arch-Init/DigAssetMgmt.pdf>)
  - 4 Library and Archives Canada, "Report on Plans and Priorities (2005-2006)," ([http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/est-pre/20052006/LAC-BAC/LAC-BACr5601\\_e.asp](http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/est-pre/20052006/LAC-BAC/LAC-BACr5601_e.asp))
  - 5 David O. Stephens and Roderick C. Wallace, *Electronic Records Retention: New Strategies for Data Life Cycle Management*, (ARMA International: 2003).

## EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON ARCHIVES

*Shelley Sweeney, Secretary General, Bureau of Canadian Archivists*

From May 18<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup>, 550 delegates from all over the world attended the European Conference on Archives in Warsaw, Poland. As the Secretary General of the Bureau of Canadian Archivists, I had the privilege to attend this conference, as I was in Warsaw for a meeting of the International Council on Archives' steering committee of the Section on Professional Associations (SPA). The European conference only meets once every four years, so this indeed was a rare privilege to be able to attend it. The theme of the conference was "Archivist: Profession of the Future in Europe." An interesting opening remark was: "if the archivist did not exist, it would have to be invented." While remarkably there was still the odd archivist arguing over whether archival science was a true science or not (does it really matter when there are hundreds of thousands of professionals around the world studying and performing archival duties?), for the most part discussion centered around *competencies, accreditation and certification*.

While it would seem that there is a greater need to establish common competencies in Europe because of the wide range of dissimilar educational offerings in Europe and the opportunities for archivists to work in other countries via the European Union, this is a growing trend around the world. In our SPA meetings, the steering committee determined that it is interested in developing a competency model for the international community to employ as it needs. I brought up Canada's ALARM report on competencies for librarians, archivists and records managers.

The conference also had a lot to say about the issue of accreditation of schools which provide archival education. Accreditation ensures that schools meet a minimum acceptable standard, in an effort to guarantee the quality of the education of archivists, and through that education, the quality of the archivists trained. It also ensures that schools keep abreast of current developments. Accreditation is currently being studied here in Canada, so this too was a topical issue.

And finally, although certification has not been popular in Canada because of the strength and relative homogeneity of our educational programs, it too was of interest. Certification is really a tool to ensure that educated archivists maintained their professional status by being involved in the archival community, participating on committees, attending conferences, writing articles and books, speaking at events, and so on. Certification is not for entry-level archivists with differing backgrounds to enter the profession as, if we followed the American model presented by the Academy of Certified Archivists, certification is achieved once one has obtained a degree and a certain number of years of experience.

The conclusion of the conference was that competencies, accreditation and certification were all important components of the further professionalization of the archival field. All in all, this conference was very stimulating and timely.

### CITY OF EDMONTON ARCHIVES WELCOMES A NEW CITY ARCHIVIST

It is with great pleasure that I announce the appointment of Dr. Michael Payne as "City Archivist and Supervisor of Educational Experiences."

Michael comes to the City of Edmonton from the Province of Alberta where he worked as "Head of Research and Publications" for the Cultural Facilities and Historic Sites Branch of Alberta Community Development. A noted author, historian and educator, Michael brings a wealth of knowledge, skills and experience to the Recreation Facility Services Branch overall, and to his position in particular.

Michael began his new duties on Monday, May 1. As Director of Programs & Events, I welcome Michael to his new position and look forward to what I'm sure will be his many contributions to the citizens of Edmonton.

*Bryan Monaghan  
Director, Programs & Events*

## RESIDENTIAL ASSESSMENT CARDS ARRANGED AND DESCRIBED

*Carol Stokes and Glenda Leslie, Archivists*

The City of Calgary, Corporate Records, Archives is pleased to announce that four sub-series of the Residential Assessment Cards have been arranged and described. This project has been supported by a grant from the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation through the Archives Society of Alberta.

The four sub-series that have been processed are:

- Pre 1975 Assessment Cards
- Building Assessment Record Cards Demolitions
- “Mobile Unit Validation Records” – Mobile Homes
- Assessment Record Cards (Demolished Buildings).

The sub-series titles were taken from the Records Transmittal forms accompanying the records.

The Assessment Department created the Residential Assessment Cards in order to maintain property details separately from the Assessment roll, which is open to the public. Recording them separately rather than including them in the roll ensured the confidentiality of this information and did not link it to personal information.

The property details, described below, were used to assess the value of a property. The collection and use of this information was made obsolete with the province-wide introduction of the Market Value System of assessment in 1999, ending Assessment’s requirement to create and maintain these records. The change in assessment model removed the confidential nature of the property details.

These cards, 1952-1999, may include the legal description and the building/property address; construction date; detailed information about the construction materials used, interior fixtures and rooms; building dimensions; assessed value; a record of inspections; and often a detailed pencil sketch of the building itself. The cards were updated as new information became available through inspections. They

are useful to researchers in the areas of building history, business or community history, and environmental research.

Assessors occasionally added notations to the cards and these provide a glimpse into a day in the life while out on inspection. Problems with dogs were frequently mentioned, as well as the occasional encounter with a difficult person. One assessor noted “Loud music! Door sign ‘stagger in’. Did from the outside” on the card. “Residence in a Rundown Maintenance Category. Looks Like its Occupied by Hipps [sic]??” observed another assessor. “Building kaputskii” [sic] was a favoured notation.

These records are electronically searchable through the description work done in DB/TextWorks. This increased access was shown recently when a researcher found considerable information in sub-series III regarding a building he was researching, information that would not have been readily available without the support of funding received through the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation and the Archives Society of Alberta.

For more information, please contact:

The City of Calgary, Corporate Records, Archives  
Email: [archives@calgary.ca](mailto:archives@calgary.ca)  
Phone: (403) 268-8180

## GLENBOW CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF “FRIENDLY, COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE”

*Jim Bowman, Glenbow Archives*

Researchers visiting the Glenbow Library & Archives on the morning of April 19 may have been astonished to see the place festooned with blue and silver balloons, and a hubbub of a hundred or so people eating cake and drinking coffee.

The Library & Archives took a break from the usual “no food, no drink” rule to welcome past and current staff, volunteers, and regular researchers on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the oldest continuously-operating archives in Alberta. Guest of honor was Hugh Dempsey, Glenbow’s first archivist, now Chief Curator Emeritus.

The Glenbow Foundation was established in 1954 by Eric Harvie, who had become the wealthiest man in Canada through his astute investment in mineral rights in the Leduc and Redwater oilfields. He had a passion for collecting and a desire to share his wealth with fellow Albertans. Glenbow staff were initially instructed to “collect like a bunch of drunken sailors”, but the first Director, retired National Museum of Canada anthropologist Douglas Leechman, succeeded in establishing some rationality over the growth of the collection. In April 1956 Dempsey, then a young journalist, was hired to oversee the archives.

“The first 10 or so entries in the accession register were vague as to their dates of accession,” said Dempsey. “But I believe every accession since then has been handled properly.” Dempsey was promoted to an administrative position in 1968, and was succeeded as Chief Archivist by Sheilagh Jameson, then Bill McKee, then Tony Rees.

Glenbow’s first professional librarian was T. R. (Pat) McCloy, who was succeeded in 1972 by Len Gottselig. In 1993 the organization was restructured, with the Library and the Archives combined into one work unit managed by internally elected Directors. Since 2000, Doug Cass has been the appointed Director.

“Archivists in some institutions are primarily concerned with the collections, and consider researchers as almost an imposition. But staff here have always fostered a friendly, cooperative attitude, and that has made Glenbow’s reputation,” said Dempsey.

Glenbow’s President and CEO, Mike Robinson, echoed Dempsey’s comments about the quality of the Library & Archives public service, and cited three examples of scholarly and personal researchers who contacted him to compliment the reference desk staff. Doug Cass paid tribute to past staff members who built up the Library & Archives collections, as well as those satisfied researchers who acted as its advocates.



*Standing, left to right: Ellen Bryant, Pat Molesky-Brar, Jim Bowman, Doug Cass, Harry Sanders, Jennifer Hamblin, Lindsay Moir*

*Sitting, left to right: Tonia Fanella, Susan Kooyman, Roberta Ryckman*

## USER FEEDBACK

The ASA receives feedback from the users of our online materials, either directly through emails sent to ASA staff and contractors or indirectly through institutional members who pass along the comments they receive from individual researchers. Occasionally, the ASA likes to feature the comments received as an example of the reach of the ASA's online work.

Submitted by Susan Kooyman of the Glenbow, the example listed below comes from a researcher in Whitby, Ontario, who was writing a technical and engineering history of narrow gauge railways built in Ontario in the 1870s. The researcher paid the Glenbow to digitize the diary of William Jackson, a Priddis pioneer who worked in the East as a railway labourer before settling in Alberta. As Susan noted when she sent this to the ASA, "not only did he get material for his book, but he also discovered a more personal connection to the diary."

If you have researcher or other feedback about a researcher's archival experiences that you'd like to share with the archival community, please send them to the ASA at [mgourlie@connect.ab.ca](mailto:mgourlie@connect.ab.ca)

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Susan,

Thank you for your note. Sorry for not replying earlier, but we just got back home from a trip.

We were in California when I first saw your note and unable at first to access the files because of time considerations (we were using internet cafes). Later I got free access and looked at them briefly. My wife and I were fascinated by the first look.

Strange though it may seem my grandfather, Abel Clarke, was born in 1853 (this is because both he and my father married at quite late ages) and so he became a coal miner in an English village at about the same time, and age, as William Jackson. This makes the memoir doubly fascinating for me, as it tells something about my grandfather's probable life. Imagine going to work down a coal mine when you were 9 years old! My father would also have started work down the mine when he was 12 or 13, and all his life he promised that I would NEVER work in a mine. So I became a professional engineer, and the first male in my family for 200 years not to be a miner!

To get back to the main theme...the extracts that I need are short but priceless! William describes the methods of young male immigrants working their passage across Ontario by loading the Grand Trunk railway locomotives with wood; getting work with railway contractors at initial starvation rates until they proved they could do hard manual labour; and the efforts of experienced labourers to limit the amount of work the naive new boys did, so that everyone could go along at a 'reasonable' working pace (nothing new there, then!)

Some terrific colour which will be going into the railway construction chapter, later this week.

Thank you again for the help. What would we do without the internet?

Rod Clarke

# SUBMISSIONS? QUESTIONS? SUGGESTIONS?

The *Archives Society of Alberta Newsletter* is published quarterly by the Archives Society of Alberta. Submissions, questions and suggestions should be directed to the Newsletter Editor c/o

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Individuals and institutions are encouraged to submit articles, reviews, reports, photographs or Letters to the Editor to the ASA Newsletter, Issues #2, 3 and 4. Submissions are preferred in electronic format as DOC or TXT files for textual submissions, or as JPG files for graphic submissions.

Submission deadlines are:  
September 30th Issue #2 - Winter  
January 15th Issue #3 - Spring  
April 30th Issue #4 - Summer

\*Issue #1 is reserved for Annual Reports of the Society and its committees

The views expressed in the *Archives Society of Alberta Newsletter* are not necessarily those of the Archives Society of Alberta or its Editor.

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## *Archives Society of Alberta Membership Application 2006 - 2007*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Institution or Individual)

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Voting Delegate (Associate / Institutional)

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Institutional Affiliation (Individual Members)

### *Type of Membership - Please Check*

- Archives Employee \$40.00
- Students, Volunteers, Seniors \$20.00
- Associate Institutional Member \$60.00
- Institutional Member (membership fee is based on the archives operating budget. Please contact the ASA for further information)
- Yes, I would like to volunteer for an ASA Committee

*Please make cheque or money order payable to the Archives Society of Alberta and mail to:*

*Archives Society of Alberta  
P.O. Box 4067, South Edmonton P.O.  
Edmonton, AB T6E 4S8*