

Access of Toronto)

QUEBEC-ACTUALITE (Quebec and current affairs from three French-language newspapers. Corresponds to *Index de l'Actualité*. Prepared by Microfor Inc.)

Other ORBIT data bases with a Canadian component cover petroleum refining, areas affected by freezing, and patents.

Having established the possibility of on-line access to Canadian data bases, it now remains to be discovered which, if any, libraries subscribe to these services. This is one of the questions which I hope to follow up in a revised and extended *Guide*.

## CONCLUSIONS

Bibliographically speaking, Canada is a very highly developed country, so that the main difficulties associated with the provision of research materials are not the usual ones of locating and obtaining publications from the area itself. Excellent reference works and bibliographies are already available, and there are efficient booksellers willing to deal with overseas customers. Initially the problems to be resolved and the decisions to be made lie here in this country. We need to keep in touch with Canadian activities and developments, and co-operate wherever possible with librarians in other countries with similar interests (for example, we need to know more about relevant collections in France), but first of all we need to define our own policies and develop and exploit our own resources. These objectives would be furthered, I am sure, by the establishment of a library group, which could consider overall provision, assess demand (particularly in association with academics in the field), investigate additional sources of funding, initiate bibliographical projects, and provide a focus for all matters relating to resources for Canadian studies.

Valerie Bloomfield

## (d) Major Library Collections

### i. UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Early in 1979, Mrs. Bloomfield visited the University Library to gather information for her *Guide to resources for Canadian studies in Britain*<sup>1</sup> which was published this year. During her visit she saw the Main Library and spoke to Cedric May and Bert Howes. She did not visit the Barnes or Harding Libraries. Mrs. Bloomfield lists the departments of the university which offer courses with a Canadian content and outlines the holdings of the University Library which support these courses.

### Courses and academic interest

In addition to the departmental interest noted by Mrs. Bloomfield, the following developments should be taken into account:

- 1) A new interfaculty course for 2nd and 3rd year students: 'Canada: a cultural survey'.
- 2) A new Extra-mural course: 'Literature of Canada'.
- 3) A new appointment in the History department, generating the following undergraduate courses:
  - (a) Introduction to Canadian studies
  - (b) Evolution of Canadian political institutions and processes
  - (c) Genesis of English Canada
  - (d) A new Canadian element in existing American history courses
- 4) The Interest of the P.E. department and outside users of the Sports Documentation Centre in Canadian publications.
- 5) The following departments, though not having courses with specific Canadian content, make use of Canadian publications — mainly periodicals and government publications:  
Geology — Minerals Engineering Department — Plant Biology  
Social Administration — CWAS — CREES — P.E.

## LIBRARY

- 1) **Acquisition.** There is no acquisition policy for Canadiana.
  - (a) *Monographs.* Most of the library's collection has been donated by the Canadian High Commission, Quebec House, Alberta House, etc. through Cedric May. These donations have broad subject coverage and thus are distributed throughout the library. Purchases are made when specific items are requested. English books are bought through Hudsons and French books from Caron in Montreal. Relatively few items are purchased each year. The Sports Documentation