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Heritage Content Priorities Task Group Report

October 21, 2020

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Agenda

- Introduction & Background
- Landscape Analysis
- Principles & Criteria
- Recommendations
- Discussion
- Where do we go from here?
- Questions & Feedback

The Canadiana Collections, over five centuries in the making, tell an incomplete, oftentimes distorted and, sometimes harmful, story of Canada. As new custodians of the Canadiana Collections, CRKN and its members have the opportunity to redefine the principles guiding the collections' evolution, thereby helping to ensure that future development of the collections are firmly grounded in our commitment to reconciliation. The findings and recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, as well as the recent social and racial unrest evidenced around the world, once again underline the need for each organization to do its part in creating a more just and equitable society.

With this in mind, the members of the Heritage Content Priorities Task Group respectfully submit their report. If adopted, the recommendations presented will be an initial step in an ongoing effort to ensure that future collection curation, description and arrangement be done in collaboration with the users of our collection, guided by and respectful of Traditional Knowledge.

Introduction & Background



Why the HCPTG?


- To ensure that the Canadiana Collections remain vital and responsive to the developments of the research community
- To better align CRKN's digitization and preservation services with member and stakeholder needs



Role of the HCPTG

- Develop principles for collection development
- Guide collection development priorities
- Recommend improvements for discoverability
- Recommend criteria for evaluating and prioritizing for-a-fee digitization projects

Report Development

- Reviewed by Preservation and Access Committee, Content Strategy Committee and the Board of Directors
- Shared with members
- **Present to members at CRKN's conference to elicit feedback** 
- Consult with stakeholders
- Refine the report
- Deliver the report to PAC and CSC in November 2020

Landscape Analysis



Landscape Analysis

- Environmental scan of digitization strategies and priorities
- Environmental scan on newspaper digitization
- Member and stakeholder surveys



Environmental Scan of Digitization Strategies & Priorities

Goal: to define and understand the digitization priorities of members and stakeholders, as well as the strategies and principles they have adopted around digitization.

Methodology: investigated 36 GLAMs across Canada and 8 national projects around the world

Findings:

- Few institutions have their strategic plans published online
- Information varied in scope and depth



Environmental Scan of Newspaper Digitization

Goal: to determine the state of newspaper digitization in Canada

Methodology: examined newspaper projects taking place across Canada

Findings:

- Digitization of newspapers is important to GLAMs
- Wide variety of organizations involved in digitization
- Challenges:
 - funding
 - copyright and permissions
 - newspaper industry undergoing transformational change
 - lack of a national newspaper digitization program
 - combination of free access and behind paywalls
 - lack of a national inventory or index of digitized newspapers



Member and Stakeholder Surveys

Goal: to learn more about members' and stakeholders' digitization, hosting and preservation strategies, priorities and needs

Methodology:

- conducted two surveys: one for members and one for stakeholders
- responses from 44 member organizations (55%) and 28 stakeholder organizations (including museums, archives, government libraries)

Survey Findings

Members

- Strongly engaging in digitization activities
- Digitizing a wide variety of materials
- Main challenges:
 - Lack of funding
 - Lack of qualified staff
 - Lack of necessary equipment
 - Issues around rights management
- Strong interest in CRKN's digitization, hosting and preservation services

Stakeholders

- Moderately engaging in digitization activities
- Digitizing a wide variety of materials
- Main challenges:
 - Lack of funding
 - Lack of necessary equipment
 - Issues with creating quality metadata
 - Issues around rights management
- Moderate interest in CRKN's digitization, hosting and preservation services



Member Survey Findings – Continued

Developing the Canadiana Collections

- 50% of members stated it was “very important”
- 40% stated it was “somewhat important” to continue to add new content

What content should be added to Canadiana?

- Material relating to groups that have been traditionally underrepresented in Canadian documentary heritage
- At-risk materials
- High interest archival collections
- Newspapers

Poll

**Please rank the following content types in order of importance for adding to the Canadiana Collections?
(1 is the most important and 4 is the least important)**

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Principles & Criteria



Principles

- **Representative:** The Canadiana Collections will be developed to represent the geographic, socio-cultural, and linguistic diversity of Canada with a view to historically under-represented and marginalized voices and communities.
- **Collaborative:** The Canadiana Collections will be developed in close collaboration with CRKN members, stakeholders, and other partner organizations to ensure alignment of priorities and to avoid duplication of effort.
- **Open Access:** The Canadiana Collections will focus on open access content when possible, recognizing that some valued materials, for cultural reasons, may not be appropriate for open access.



Criteria for Adding New Content to the Collections

1. Content of high value to CRKN Members
 - content relating to marginalized communities
 - at risk content
 - high-interest archival collections
 - Newspapers
2. Anticipated usage
3. Feasibility of digitizing
 - can physically withstand digitization
 - no copyright or privacy issues (or if under copyright, authorization has been given)
 - good quality metadata is available
 - proper digitization equipment and required personnel are available

Poll

Are you supportive of the principles and criteria as recommended by the HCPTG?

Share your thoughts at
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Report Recommendations

Report Recommendations

1. The Canadiana Collections should be enhanced with 1) content that is more reflective of the diversity of Canadians; 2) at risk materials; 3) high interest archival collections; and 4) newspapers. CRKN should consider focusing its efforts in these areas through the creation of collection development strategies developed in collaboration with members.
2. A series of assessments (content, usage, feasibility, and timeline) should be used to evaluate and prioritize materials to be added to the Canadiana Collections. A complementary series of assessments, including content, access, organization, strategic opportunities, technical, feasibility should be used to evaluate and prioritize third-party digitization projects.



Report Recommendations

3. The assessment of materials to be added to the Canadiana Collections should be carried out by an advisory committee made up of a diverse group of researchers, librarians, archivists, and others in the field of cultural heritage. The advisory committee should be a standing committee reporting directly to the PAC, with members appointed by the PAC. Members of the advisory committee, as well as CRKN staff who work closely with the Canadiana Collections, should participate in professional learning relating to Indigenous histories and contemporary issues.

Report Recommendations

4. In addition to steps already taken, CRKN should investigate and implement measures to further increase the discoverability of the Canadiana Collections.
 - Making Canadiana's "hidden" newspaper collection more prominent and easier to navigate
 - Organizing the complex Government Publications collection so that it is easier to navigate
 - Extending the transcription project
 - Experimenting with intelligent character recognition (ICR)
 - Setting guidelines for priorities for OCRing the Héritage collection
 - Creating file and item level metadata for priority collections in Héritage
 - Re-OCRing documents in Canadiana

Report Recommendations

5. The survey confirmed a strong member interest in adding content to the Canadiana Collections and having it preserved in the Trustworthy Digital Repository (TDR). As a result, it is recommended that digitization, hosting, and long-term preservation services be clearly identified and made available to both members and stakeholders. CRKN should launch a targeted marketing campaign to increase awareness among members and stakeholders of the strengths and capacity of CRKN's digitization and preservation services.
6. More focus should be made in engaging with small and local GLAM organizations, as they often hold the histories of marginalized and under-represented communities. When engaging with Indigenous organizations, respect should be paid to cultural protocols. As well, a coordinated approach should be taken, collaborating with other organizations, so that Indigenous communities are not overwhelmed by requests for assistance.

Report Recommendations

7. It is recommended that CRKN work collaboratively with the Canadian Collective Print Strategy Working Group as it analyzes collective print collections in Canada. A significant factor in determining the level of risk of print collections is to assess whether digital surrogates exist, and what digital preservation measures are in place for their long-term stewardship. Partnership and collaboration initiatives exist as the community links national collection analysis with national digitization efforts.
8. It is recommended that CRKN work collaboratively with Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BAnQ) and Library and Archives Canada and other major organizations (OurDigitalWorld, Internet Archive Canada) on solutions to enable digitization, access, and digital preservation of newspapers.



Report Recommendations

9. CRKN convenes different types of fora (such as conferences or virtual meetings) to enable an exchange of expertise on topics such as digitization strategies and priorities, the logistics of sharing of equipment, digital preservation, funding opportunities, and more.
10. Policy toolkits and resources for developing digitization and heritage preservation strategies should be developed for members and stakeholders. This should be done in conjunction with other organizations (e.g. the NHDS) that are also developing resources in this area.

Report Recommendations

11. For those recommendations which are adopted, the HCPTG recommends that CRKN allows at least a four-month period for CRKN to transition to new processes. This transition period could be from December 2020 to the end of March 2021.

Poll

In general, do you support the recommendations?

Share your thoughts at

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Poll

With the goal of helping us to prioritize recommendations, please select the 3 recommendations that are most important to you.

Share your thoughts at
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Discussion



Discussion

How do we ensure that the Canadiana collections become respectful and sensitive to Indigenous peoples?

How can we ensure that new content added to the collections is more reflective of the diversity of Canadians?

Where do we go from here?



Where do we go from here?

Consult with Indigenous advisory groups such as LAC's Indigenous Advisory Circle, CFLA's Indigenous Matters Committee

Refine the report with feedback received from Indigenous consultations and members during the conference

Deliver report to PAC and CSC in November 2020

PAC to consider terms for a heritage content advisory committee

Questions & Feedback

Thank you!

Jordan Bass, Member, Heritage Content Priorities Task Group

Danny Letourneau, Member, Heritage Content Priorities Task Group

Dan Mirau, Chair, Heritage Content Priorities Task Group