



**ARCHITECTS OF CHANGE:
HOW THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF CANADA
IS RESPONDING TO THE NEW CULTURAL LANDSCAPE**

**IFLA, Library Services to Multicultural Populations Section
Satellite Meeting, 11-13 August 2003, Utrecht, The Netherlands**



**National Library of Canada and
National Archives of Canada**

**Bibliothèque nationale du Canada et
Archives nationales du Canada**





A Portrait of Canada:

- Canada is one of the most multicultural countries in the world.
- Bilingualism is integral to Canadian society.
- Cultural Diversity is recognized and celebrated.
 - Multiculturalism Act
 - Charter of Rights and Freedoms

According to the most recent (2001) Census:

- 1:6 people, or 5,335,000 people have a “mother tongue” other than English or French.
- Over 100 languages are spoken in Canadian homes.
- Close to 20% of Canadians were born outside of the country.





- Historically, the most commonly spoken languages in Canada other than English or French were German, Italian, Ukrainian, Dutch, Polish and other European and Eastern European languages.
- In the last 10+ years, immigration from Asia and the Middle East has been significant.
- The 2001 Census is the first time where Chinese appears as the most commonly spoken language other than English or French. 2.9% of Canadians speak Chinese as their “mother tongue”.
- Other language groups with significant increases include Punjabi, Arabic, Urdu, Tagalog and Tamil.
- There are large regional differences in languages spoken with the greatest concentration of different languages being in urban centers.





• Languages spoken in Canada, in order:

1. English
2. French
3. Chinese
4. Italian
5. German
6. Punjabi
7. Spanish

187 ,675 people speak one or more of the over 40 reported Aboriginal languages.

*Source: 2001 Census: Analysis Series, Profile of languages in Canada: English French and many others.

http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census01/Products/Analytic/companion/lang/content_s.cfm



History of Immigration:

- First Nations in Canada have a long and rich heritage that is still vibrant today.
- Canada 's history, post-colonization by the French and the British, is one of continuous immigration.
- Large groups of immigrants were often the result of famine, war or unrest in other parts of the world.
- Changing immigration policies also affected who was allowed and welcomed to immigrate to Canada.





National Library of Canada:

Mission

The National Library is dedicated to building a world-class national resource enabling Canadians to know their country and themselves through their published heritage and to providing an effective gateway to national and international sources of information.





Mandate

The National Library of Canada is a federal cultural institution located in Ottawa, established by Parliament in 1953, whose main role is to acquire, preserve and promote Canadiana which is part of the published heritage of Canada for all Canadians, both now and in the years to come. The Library serves as one of the nation's foremost centres for research in Canadian Studies and as a showcase for Canadian literature and music.





National Library of Canada: Background:

- 50th Anniversary celebrations are currently underway.
- The Library has 19.5 million items – includes, monographs, periodicals, newspapers, video, sound recordings....
- Every year, the collection increases by 3.5%.
- Total annual budget: \$40,292,502.00
- Majority of materials acquired is through legal deposit.
- Over 21,000 items in languages other than English or French.





- Largest collections of “ethnic” materials are:

1. German
2. Ukrainian
3. Spanish
4. Italian
5. Japanese
6. Chinese
7. Dutch
8. Russian
9. Polish
10. Portuguese

- The Jacob M. Lowry Collection also has approximately 3,500 Canadian titles in Yiddish and 1000 non-Canadian titles.
- The Library subscribes to 70 current ethnic newspapers. It also has over 300 newspapers from over 60 different cultural groups.



Programs and Services:

In addition to the collections, the National Library of Canada provides a wide variety of services and programs relevant to a diverse clientele. These include:

- Public programs celebrating the many heritages of Canada.
- Genealogy and Family History research.
- Digital projects which feature the history and contributions of different immigrant groups.
- Development of specialized reference and resource materials.





Multicultural Resources and Services:

- 2001 a Working Group Report on the Collection recommended a closer examination of Aboriginal and Multicultural collections.
- Aboriginal and Multicultural collections were separate and distinct and led to two reports.
- As a result of the reports, the Multicultural Resources and Services Program of the National Library of Canada was established in November, 2001. The Aboriginal Resources and Services Program was established in April, 2002.





The major recommendations of Working Group Report on Multicultural/Multilingual collections include:

- Re-establishing a leadership role for the National Library of Canada in supporting, promoting, coordinating and delivering multilingual collections and services.
- Engaging in a consultation process with libraries and the multicultural community.
- Ensuring that the National Library's collection is more comprehensive in terms of ethnic Canadiana and foreign publications to support the needs of the diversity of heritages in Canada.
- Developing a wide range of online resources to support libraries providing services to multicultural communities.
- Providing resources to multicultural communities through the NLC's Internet.
- Creating a permanent position of Multicultural Librarian.
- Participating in international cooperation initiatives to share Canadian resources with other countries and to bring the wealth of resources available internationally to Canadians.





Achievements/Activities:

- Internal consultation and advocacy within the National Library of Canada.
- Broad external consultations with libraries, associations, ethnic media and community groups.
- Promotion of the National Library's activities to other governmental bodies.
- Outreach activities to publishers of ethnic Canadiana.
- Establishment of partnerships with provincial, national and international organizations.
- Development of a Multicultural Resources Web Portal. This website will act as a “one stop shopping” site for all things multicultural/multilingual at the National Library of Canada; provide valuable resources for individuals and librarians seeking multilingual collections; and, act as a clearinghouse for activities and news in multicultural librarianship in Canada.





Multicultural Resources and Services Web Portal:

www.nlc-bnc.ca/multicultural

www.nlc-bnc.ca/multiculturel



National Library of Canada and
National Archives of Canada

Bibliothèque nationale du Canada et
Archives nationales du Canada

Canada



The Future: Introducing the Library and Archives of Canada:

- Fall, 2002, the National Library of Canada and the National Archives of Canada began the process to merge into a single institution.
- “Transformation” is an opportunity to create a new, modern, relevant institution.
- Multiculturalism a key component to the transformation process of the new institution.





The **vision** of the Multiculturalism Working Group:

The Library and Archives of Canada is a gathering place, both real and virtual, known and open to all, accessible from anywhere. Our collections, services, partnerships and programs strengthen and reflect the rich multicultural heritage of Canada and contribute to our sense of identity.





Summary of the Guiding Principles:

1. Multiculturalism lies at the very heart of the Library and Archives of Canada. It is integral and fundamental to the institution as it is to Canada itself.
2. Client-Centric.
3. Traditional principles of access are questioned.
4. Sensitive, aware, responsive and value input.
5. Partnerships.
6. Collections are representative, comprehensive, accessible, described, used, preserved and promoted.





Summary of the Road Map:

1. There must be a strong commitment, understanding and promotion of multiculturalism throughout the new institution.
2. Staff should be reflective of the diversity of Canadians and be given the opportunities and skills to work within a diverse workplace and with diverse clientele.
3. To integrate multiculturalism, there should be a coordinating body to advocate within the Library and Archives of Canada, gauge and assess our strengths and develop a strong network externally.
4. L&AC needs to start a dialogue with libraries, archives, multicultural communities. We need to promote our collections and services while finding out their needs.
5. Strong policies and guidelines regarding multicultural/multilingual collections and access need to be developed.
6. Multiculturalism should be celebrated and become an integral part of the Library and Archives of Canada.





Summary of Presentation:

A land of immigrants, Canada is one of the most diverse countries in the world. Close to 20% of Canadians were born outside of the country and over 10% of the population speaks a language other than English or French at home. In fact, over 100 languages are spoken in Canada.

Bilingualism is already a key component of Canadian society, and English and French language rights are protected in law. In addition, diversity and multiculturalism are promoted, protected and celebrated in Canada.

The National Library of Canada is a “library for all Canadians”, and it has always been active in the collection, preservation and promotion of the diverse written heritage of our country. Now the National Library is entering an exciting time with a transformation into a new organization, joining with the National Archives of Canada to create Library and Archives Canada.

To better serve all Canadians and to establish a leadership role in multicultural/multilingual librarianship, the Library announced the creation of the Multicultural Resources and Services Program in the fall of 2001. A key resource developed by the program is a new web portal to assist libraries, resource centers, community organizations and individuals to better access our collections and services and resources nationally. The address of the web portal is: www.nlc-bnc.ca/multicultural

Library and Archives Canada will provide even greater opportunities to reach out and serve multicultural communities and create a network of resources to serve and reflect the Canadian mosaic.





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