

**Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec****Action for Québec Documentary Heritage****Mireille Huneault**

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patrimonialeBibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec
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In keeping with its mandate, Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BAnQ)

In keeping with its mandate, Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BAnQ) implements projects aimed at constituting a complete inventory of publishing in Québec, the beginnings of which go back to the 18th century. Since then, the concept of publishing has broadened to include electronic publishing. Like many national libraries, BAnQ faces the challenges posed by electronic resources, particularly in the areas of acquisition, cataloguing and dissemination.

Acquisition

BAnQ collects Québec's published documentary heritage, mainly through legal deposit, as well as all Québec-related documents published outside Québec.

Legal deposit has applied to electronic documents since 1992. The goal is to eventually cover all Québec electronic publications from all sectors. Given the complexity of the operation and the expertise required to carry out the program properly, the institution has adopted a gradual implementation scenario. The program was at first limited to documents made available on hard media (CD-ROM, diskette), but has been gradually extended since February 2001 to online publications. Initially, only government online publications were targeted. Government departments and agencies were approached gradually. Currently, about a hundred Québec government departments and agencies participate in the program. In 2005, parapublic and private

organizations who so wished were invited to join the project, and, since then, around 20 parapublic organizations and some 50 private organizations have become involved. As a result, from February 2001 to March 2008, more than 16,000 online electronic resources have been brought together.

The acquisition of electronic resources poses certain problems to which BAnQ is trying to find solutions. Here are just some of the problems:

- Criteria for the selection and dissemination of HTML publications have to be defined.
- Some Web publications cannot be converted to PDF, which is the dissemination format currently used by BAnQ for online electronic resources. The other dissemination formats to be used must be determined.
- A way of handling the animations contained in some Web publications must be found.
- BAnQ does not provide links to online publications. The publications are saved and disseminated via its server, with the authorization of the publishers. Thus, they are copies within the meaning of the *Copyright Act*. This means that all necessary authorizations must be obtained in order to capture them and make them available. BAnQ makes a legal distinction between the activity of legal deposit and the complementary activity of access and dissemination of the publications concerned by means of a licence.
- Electronic book publishers have shown an interest in depositing their publications. BAnQ's legal services are currently working on a licence providing for the reception and dissemination of paid publications. The publishers must have the assurance that online access to their paid publications will be secure and restricted, that the publications will be available only at the consultation stations of the institution's dissemination centres, and that it will not be possible to reproduce the publications.
- BAnQ also has to keep the online publications received through legal deposit up to date. Because the publications are available directly on the Internet, publishers often expect BAnQ to handle the capturing and updating. The challenge is huge, because the best means must be found to guarantee the addition of newly published issues. A number of methods, including the following, are used to achieve this.
 - capturing publications reported by publishers with the online legal deposit form;
 - subscribing to publishers' distribution lists in order to receive notices of new releases;
 - using reporting software that makes it easier to find new releases. The software can be used to record URLs and highlight the changes made to a Web page.

Cataloguing

In the interests of optimizing the search and retrieval of these documents through multiple access points, notably author and subject, and providing for the export of records, bibliographic work on Québec publishing adheres to current international bibliographic control standards:

- ISBD—International Standard Bibliographic Description (*consolidated edition, 2007*)
- Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (AACR2)
- Répertoire des vedettes-matière of the Université Laval library (RVM)
- Dewey Decimal Classification (22nd edition)
- Library of Congress Classification;
- MARC 21.

In addition, the following two resources are used for specific types of documents:

- The Cadre de classement des publications gouvernementales du Québec (CCPGQ), for government publications. This classification system, created by BAnQ, makes it possible to group Québec public sector publications in a distinct collection according to their provenance. (http://www.banq.gc.ca/portal/dt/a_propos_banq/editions_banq/cadre_class_pub_gouv_que/cadre_class_pub_gouv_que.jsp). This approach ensures optimal use of these publications, for which search and retrieval by the government unit that produced them generally proves to be more appropriate than an approach according to traditional classification systems.
- In-house call numbers for music, electronic publications on hard media (CD-ROM, diskette), iconography, serial publications, early books and artists' books.

To date, only public sector electronic publications, which are often actually monographs or serial publications transferred to a new medium, have been processed. Cataloguing them is similar to catalog paper publications and has not posed any major problems. However, the electronic publication of these documents is becoming increasingly complex, which has stimulated BAnQ to update and improve its cataloguing policies and procedures to ensure proper cataloguing of these new documents, particularly with regard to:

- indicating the sources of information for publications integrated into (or supplied with a link on) a Website that places them in context;
- distinguishing between documents for internal use and documents intended for dissemination;
- defining the criteria that make it possible to distinguish between electronic resources in the nature of monographs or serial publications and integrating resources;
- recording the publication dates of documents whose previous editions have recently been placed online, and writing appropriate notes.

Dissemination

On the BAnQ Website, the portal called *Publications gouvernementales du Québec en ligne* (PGQ) (<http://services.banq.qc.ca/sdx/pgq/accueil.xsp?db=notice>) lists the monographs and periodicals of a number of Québec government departments and agencies. PGQ is a new interface that enables full-text searching in more than 10,000 online Québec government publications received by BAnQ since 2001 under the legal deposit program. The publications can be viewed on screen.

Currently, only online government publications that have been registered for legal deposit are available in this search interface. As of fall 2008, BAnQ plans to broaden the program to also make available all online publications of the parapublic (education, health and municipal) and private sectors. The interface will enable targeted searches by type of publication—government, parapublic or private—and allow comprehensive, simultaneous searching in the publications of all three sectors. It will also be possible to disseminate online publications that do not meet our legal deposit criteria. With the new capabilities, even online publications not subject to legal deposit can be made available where warranted. In response to a request from publishers, access to the publications concerned will not be provided in the Iris catalogue. They will be available only through the PGQ dissemination tool.

Users who consult the Iris catalogue can click on the appropriate icon in a bibliographic record to access the full-text online version of the resource. In addition, BAnQ promotes its online electronic resources by creating specific sites on its portal, including virtual exhibitions, electronic and audio books, and other dissemination sites for publications digitized by BAnQ, always obtaining the copyright licences required when the publications are not in the public domain.

Licences and copyright constitute one of the main problems to be addressed when it comes to disseminating online electronic resources. The reproduction, permanent storage, digitization and online dissemination (“communication to the public by telecommunication” within the meaning of the *Copyright Act* in Canada) of documents protected by copyright are activities that require the explicit authorization of the copyright holder, whether a public-sector or private-sector publisher is involved. BAnQ, a corporation of the Québec government, is subject to precise government standards concerning respect of copyright and cannot depart from them in any way. BAnQ’s enabling legislation does not allow it to regard legal deposit as giving it the power to capture, reproduce and disseminate paper or electronic publications acquired by legal deposit. An authorization is necessary, even to make free publications available. Here, the difficulty often lies in having requests processed and obtaining the signature of the person in charge, especially in large institutions.

BAnQ negotiates the necessary licences with the rights holders. In many instances, however, that is no easy task and it is necessary to break new ground, because sometimes there are multiple rights holders. In other cases, the electronic rights have initially not been provided for, or have been provided for only in part. In other

situations, the rights holders are nowhere to be found and remain so even after diligent and reasonable searching.

These difficulties do not arise with free publications; only with commercial ones. Publishers are very timid and nervous about online access and dissemination as opposed to the normal commercial exploitation of these publications, despite the fact that BAnQ provides assurances regarding access, control and reproduction mechanisms for private or personal use or research purposes and not commercial ones. BAnQ is currently working on a licence pilot project with private publishers and it plans to approach certain professional associations in Québec in the publishing community. These steps involve guarantees regarding access and dissemination. Québec publishers seem to be somewhat open to our ideas, but convincing them will take time.

Conclusion

National libraries the world over are concerned about the collection, cataloguing, preservation and dissemination of online electronic publications, and, in varying degrees, are engaged in thinking about these matters. Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec is no exception, and, in its strategic development, is taking account of this major trend in the publishing world.

We all feel we are at the dawning of a new era in the documentary field, an era we must enter with new tools and, especially, new paradigms. At the same time, we are witnessing the powerful rise of a movement to create union catalogues and collaborative modes of document cataloguing. It is obvious and indispensable that national libraries share among themselves and with all types of libraries the expertise needed to overcome these new challenges.

National institutions take part in the development of electronic publishing and promote publishing practices that foster the long-term preservation of electronic publications. They serve as role models in their respective document communities with regard to the new means of dissemination. Québec libraries of all kinds—public, university and specialized—believe, and correctly so, that Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec will preserve electronic documentary heritage, just as it does print documentary heritage, and that it will see to making it available to all citizens.