



◀ Photographic gem in the Ryerson Archives: Canada's first live television show, produced at and by Ryerson on November 14, 1949.

Archival Treasures: The Photographic Collection

One of the highlights of the Ryerson Archives is its photographic collection. Estimated at between 75,000 and 100,000 individual black and white and colour images, the photographs come in various forms and sizes: original prints and negatives, copy prints and negatives, contact prints, slides, transparencies, over-size mounted prints and photo albums.

As with the Archives' general holdings, the focus of the collection is on Ryerson and its predecessor institutions at St. James Square (the Normal School, an RCAF training facility and the Training and Re-establishment Institute for war veterans). Most of the photographs, however, relate to Ryerson from 1948 to the present and depict, among other things: people; buildings and facilities; classroom and academic settings; scenes of student life (initiation, dances, picnics, parades, theatrical presentations and sports); and special events such as convocation ceremonies and guest lectures.

The majority of photographs are turned over to the Archives by three areas: the Media Centre, the Community Relations Department and the School of Journalism. Other departments and offices, such as Campus Planning and Construction and *The Eyeopener*, as well as individual

staff, faculty and members of the general public, donate smaller collections or occasional items.

One of the more popular uses of archival photographs is their reproduction in publications. This holds true at Ryerson as archival photos frequently appear in the student press and in the Institute's promotional literature. The most consulted and perhaps best organized collection for this purpose is the Journalism Collection of contact prints and negatives which not only covers a myriad of Ryerson subjects from 1950 to 1963 but provides detailed information on photographers and assignments.

The Archives photograph collection is also instrumental in supporting academic course work and scholarly research. One student from Western Canada relied on old Ryerson photos to document part of his master's thesis, while Ryerson students in programs such as Architecture and Urban and Regional Planning have found archival photographs useful in preparing essays and projects. Television scholars have examined with great interest, as well, a photograph of the first live broadcast in Canada, produced collaboratively at Ryerson in 1949.

Archival photographs are also popular for use in

displays. At Ryerson, both administrative and academic departments have reproduced and enlarged pictures to publicize events, commemorate anniversaries and even decorate offices!

To make photographs serviceable to users, the Archives arranges individual collections according to their point of origin, that is, under the offices that create or are mainly responsible for them. Individual indices and the automated Cross-Reference Subject File provide additional access points to photographs and the information they convey. It is envisaged that in the future even more sophisticated finding aids, such as systems which provide automated visual access to images, will further enhance the availability of Ryerson's archival photographic record.

It has been said that photographs convey facts, evidence and contemporary opinions and that many embody and reveal the values and aspirations of our society. Smaller in size and narrower in focus than the collections of larger archival institutions, the significance of the Ryerson Archives Photograph Collection lies in its ability to document the pictorial heritage of a unique educational institution, on a site which has been fittingly dubbed the Cradle of Education in Ontario. ■

Censorship & Intellectual Freedom

The following article on intellectual freedom and libraries is by Diane Granfield, the Information Centre Librarian. She is also editor of the *Intellectual Freedom Manual* (Ontario Library Association, 1990) and was recently a member of an Institute-wide committee which considered a formal challenge to a book in the Ryerson Library.

Many assume that intellectual freedom and the fight against censorship are long-standing traditions within libraries. It is beyond the scope of this article to delve too deeply into our history, but suffice it to say that support for intellectual freedom has been somewhat uneven at best.

The first collective sign of concern for censorship came in 1958 when the Canadian Library Association (CLA) established the Committee on Undesirable Literature (CUL) to "consider the various types of undesirable literature which are being published or distributed in Canada." Fortunately by 1961 the committee changed its name (and emphasis) to the Intellectual Freedom Committee. By the end of its term, the CUL concluded that "librarians cannot afford to ignore the problems of censorship, which included the obvious necessity for some protection . . . and recognition of the needs and rights of a mature reading public." (for more detail see article by Steven Horn in the *Canadian Library Journal*, June 1978, p209-213).

Through the efforts of the Intellectual Freedom Committee the *Statement on Intellectual Freedom* was devised in 1974 and subsequently endorsed by the CLA as the guiding principle for Canadian libraries. In it, intellectual freedom is broadly defined as the "fundamental right . . . to have access to all expressions of knowledge, creativity and intellectual activity . . ." and that libraries have a basic responsibility to foster this right. However, unlike the American Library Association, which further defines its position, in great detail, regarding such issues as labelling and free access to libraries for minors, the Canadian approach remains a broad stroke, a gesture toward the position that basically censorship is unacceptable.

What libraries in Canada have to protect them from censorship, are various associations at the provincial and national level which endorse the *Statement on Intellectual Freedom* and committees which work toward fulfilling the Statement's goals. The approach allows for a principle to be defined and advocated, which in turn creates a climate favourable to intellectual freedom.

There are no hard and fast or consistently applied mechanisms to protect the right of access to library materials except our own collective will. In the mid-1970's the CLA attempted to lend some legislative clout to intellectual freedom by lobbying parliament to exempt

libraries from the Criminal Code – in order to prevent, among other things, libraries being charged with distributing pornography, obscenity, etc. – but this approach was eventually abandoned.

Censorship is probably no more a threat than it was in the 1950's but in the last few years the threat of censorship appeared at the legislative level, when the federal government attempted to pass the flawed anti-pornography Bill C-54 and seriously threaten intellectual freedom. On the literary front, the ultimate mode of censor-

CANADIAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Statement on Intellectual Freedom

All persons in Canada have the fundamental right, as embodied in the nation's Bill of Rights and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, to have access to all expressions of knowledge, creativity and intellectual activity, and to express their thoughts publicly. This right to intellectual freedom, under the law, is essential to the health and development of Canadian society.

Libraries have a basic responsibility for the development and maintenance of intellectual freedom.

1. It is the responsibility of libraries to guarantee and facilitate access to all expressions of knowledge and intellectual activity, including those which some elements of society may consider to be unconventional, unpopular or unacceptable. To this end, libraries shall acquire and make available the widest variety of materials.
2. It is the responsibility of libraries to guarantee the right of free expression by making available all the library's public facilities and services to all individuals and groups who need them.
3. Libraries should resist all efforts to limit the exercise of these responsibilities while recognizing the right of criticism by individuals and groups.
4. Both employees and employers in libraries have a duty, in addition to their institutional responsibilities, to uphold these principles.

ship – threat of death – befell Salman Rushdie for having offended the Muslim community with his book *Satanic Verses*. Closer to home, mention of Margaret Laurence recalls that even "established" Canadian authors are not immune to the censor.

It is smugly assumed at Ryerson and other academic institutions that academic freedom and intellectual freedom are necessary in order for institutions of higher learning to seek, discover, describe and disseminate knowledge. A recent study published in *College & Research Libraries* (July, 1989, p420-432) investigating the censorship phenomenon at the university level found little to support this belief.

" . . . Censorship pressure is very much a reality for libraries at the post secondary educational level . . . Censorship attempts were not confined to any particular format . . . Books, periodicals, films and videotapes were all targets of complaints. . . . [and] distinct categories did emerge.

Diet, biography, best-seller fiction, the occult, human reproduction, historical revisionism, homosexuality – all were the object of censorship attempts. Even the most seemingly innocuous work has the potential to offend someone."

The Ryerson Library in recent years has had to deal with two serious attempts to remove material from its shelves. The most recent challenge has not yet reported to Academic Council. The earlier challenge was covered in the Report to Academic Council of the *AD HOC* Committee on Library Holdings, December 1985, John Cook, Chair, a copy of which is located in the Ryerson Archives.

The political action required to fight Bill C-54 and to support Salman Rushdie served to sensitize the library community to how vulnerable intellectual freedom actually is to attack. The Ontario Library Association published the *Intellectual Freedom Manual* late in 1990 to help libraries cope practically with censorship.

It suggests libraries take steps to encourage a censor-free climate including creating an authoritative written selection policy, having a clear mechanism for handling complaints and providing a form for complainants to fill out and attaching of intellectual freedom and freedom of expression documents to the selection policies.

In recent years the swell of support for intellectual freedom has grown to include a large arts and publishing community. The Book and Periodical Development Council for example sponsors the annual Freedom to Read week. The strong political activism displayed by Canadian libraries in the last decade illustrates that intellectual freedom has perhaps become a tradition after all.

In addition, there is a healthy debate emerging wherein the ambivalence of *appearing* to defend "difficult" material is being acknowledged and addressed. The whole area of hate literature and violence against women and children, is frequently discussed in the library and cultural literature. For a detailed treatment of this debate from a Canadian perspective, see *Women Against Censorship*. (Varda Burstyn editor 1986)

Librarians do not in fact defend *specific* works but uphold a principle of access to them. By having a potentially controversial work in the library, librarians are not individually or even collectively responsible for it, but simply respect the intelligence of readers to judge for themselves.

W.D. Valgardson, a Canadian author whose book *Gentle Sinners* was banned from a high school in Winnipeg in 1989, stated in a recent interview: ". . . when you start to ban one idea, you're on a slippery slope . . . The trouble is, every time I hear about all the things that have been banned, or people are attempting to ban, what I see us essentially being left with is that no-one has the right to read, see or think anything. Pretty soon all you've got is silence."

The tendency for righteousness to fail was succinctly summarized by a delegate at the 1987 annual CLA convention: "If you go after Marquis de Sade you get Margaret Laurence every time." ■

Library involved in International Development

Over the past few years the Library has been involved in a variety of projects both in Toronto and Bolivia under the auspices of the RIDC. Until the end of February, Ada Maria Trevisan Rosa, a Brazilian librarian with the SENAI Regional Department of Bahia, was working here on a fellowship programme to develop her skills and to gain information pertaining to the establishment of a science and technology library at the Regional Centre for Chemical Process and Instrumentation Technology. Ada was only one of a number of professionals from Brazil participating in fellowships at Ryerson. She is the latest visitor who has come to Ryerson for organizational advice and exposure to technology in Ryerson's library.

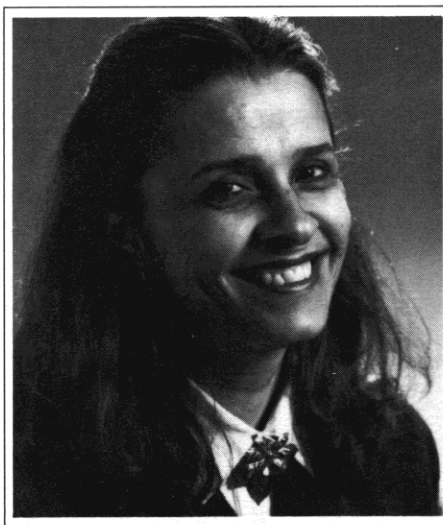
In past years Olive King, 7th floor business librarian, travelled to Sri Lanka, and Zita Murphy, Librarian Computerized Research Service, went to Bolivia. Olive's visit has been discussed in some detail elsewhere (see *NEXUS April 1990*). Zita spent several weeks in Santa Cruz, Bolivia in the summer of 1990 working in support of the library at Nur University. She assisted with policy and procedure development and helped form stronger ties both within Nur and other universities in Santa Cruz, Cochabamba and La Paz and within Nur University itself. Zita was also able to tailor the low-cost software package called MICROISIS (a database created by UNESCO for applications in developing countries) to suit Nur's needs and trained the staff in its use.

At an association meeting in Santa Cruz, Zita gave a seminar entitled "Library Automation Application Using MICROISIS" – in Spanish.

In 1989 prior to Zita's trip, Teresa Benchetrit, librarian from Nur, had done a fellowship at Ryerson which, among other things, concentrated on learning MICROISIS. Ada Rosa's fellowship was of a slightly different nature.

Ryerson International Development Centre's involvement in a consortium in Brazil supports the work of the Brazilian National Industrial Apprenticeship Services (known as SENAI). The first project concentrates on a chemical process and instrumentation technology centre in Salvador, Bahia. Ada will be in charge of the Centre's library. She ran a technical library at Companhia Petroquímica de Camacari for 4 years.

Ryerson's Library has future projects in which it is interested including sending a librarian to China for another technologically oriented project currently under discussion. By participating in these activities the library can continue its involvement in the Institute's international development initiatives. ■



Brazilian Librarian, Ada Maria Trevisan Rosa

Computer Catalogue Comes On-Line

"Does the University of Toronto or York have this book?"

This is a common question users ask when they find that Ryerson Library does not have the book or periodical that they need. Until recently, staff could only answer uncertainly since they had no direct access to the library catalogues of these two universities. This response became even more problematic during the 1991 winter term strike at the University of Toronto's libraries.

Users can find information for themselves by using a specially designated terminal in the Library's Information Centre on the second or main entrance floor of the Ryerson library. This

terminal links directly into FELIX (the University of Toronto's library catalogue) or into YORKLINE (York University's library catalogue).

After experimenting with each system for a few minutes, a user will probably be able to perform a simple search. Both FELIX and YORKLINE include periodicals and journals as well as books and can be searched by author, title or subject. Instructions near the terminal guide the user. Users are encouraged to try to be self-sufficient and work out how to use the catalogues themselves. Individual libraries at the University of Toronto, e.g. Robarts, Engineering and Science and Medicine are searched separately.

YORKLINE lists books and periodicals in the five York University libraries. FELIX contained more than 3.5 million records of books and periodicals in the winter of 1990. These two systems can be searched all hours that the Ryerson Library is open. ■

New World Power Game Tracked

The world is presently witnessing a global realignment of national boundaries and new economic and politically associated trading regions are being created. The coming decade will likely see more consolidation within four key regional trading blocs: North America, Europe, Asia and Latin America. The library is attempting to keep abreast of these developments in several ways.

The library collects information on international trade and has created and maintained special information files on the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA), the European Community and more recently, the trilateral Canada-Mexico-U.S. trade negotiations. These special files are located on the 7th floor of the library.

The Canada-U.S. free trade file was created just prior to the last federal election. The material is arranged alphabetically by industry such as "Agriculture" or interest group such as "Women". In-house indices link industry key words to authors or organizations that produced the document. There are also two large files containing general information about the Free Trade Agreement. Since the re-election of the Conservative party and the passing of the FTA into legislation, the information in the vertical file on free trade is now largely supplemented by the library's book and periodical collection.

The nations of Europe are presently consolidating their commercial position through the "Europe 1992" single market program. A special vertical file is available on this topic. The material in the file includes reprints of articles from periodicals, government and consultant reports and industry studies. Publications and occasional papers by the European Free Trade Association are grouped together in a separate file.

Currently, there is discussion to extend the Canada-U.S. free trade area to include Mexico. A new vertical file is now being developed for material on this topic. The information collected to date is mostly federal government working papers and reprints from periodicals.

The newly industrializing countries in Asia will continue to strengthen their trading positions in the 1990's. The library is currently endeavouring to collect more material on Japan's economic environment and the Pacific Rim region in general.

Building and maintaining international alliances and understanding international market dynamics are key to survival and growth for everyone in today's business world. The library monitors these events and continues to collect information on these important topics. ■

Bureau of Broadcast Measurement

The Ryerson Library and the Bureau of Broadcast Measurement (BBM) have signed an agreement resulting in a BBM donation to the library worth \$3,000 annually. BBM was organized to provide impartial radio and television audience measurements for broadcasters, advertisers and advertising agencies. In the Fall of 1990 BBM approached Liz Bishop, the Librarian responsible for the Radio and Television Arts collection, with a proposal that the library hopes will encourage similar donations from the broadcast industry.

BBM has been publishing demographic reports about Canadian audiences of radio and television programming since 1944. The survey reports on how many people of different ages and sex are listening and watching during each quarter hour of the daily radio and television broadcasts.

For years Radio and Television Arts (RTA) students have been hounding the library for rating reports produced by BBM. Unable to afford the annual fee of \$3,000 to buy the reports, library staff on the 5th floor borrowed from BBM whatever it could collect. Usually these were out of date and the RTA students would stalk the staff of BBM in their efforts to get up-to-date information.

BBM came to realize that their report inventory was out of control when they were unable to find specific reports upon request without com-

mitting a tremendous amount of staff time and causing considerable delay to the researcher.

Believing that the Ryerson Library could solve the Bureau's problems of control, access and space if the library would agree to become the historical depository for the Bureau's reports, they offered Ryerson the most current reports at no charge making them available within 6 weeks of publication.

The library requested that the microcomputer database (MicroBBM) from which the reports are generated also be made available in the library. MicroBBM is more detailed and can provide researchers with very specific information. The library hopes to make this database available to departments through the campus mainframe computer as soon as the technical requirements are in place.

Jerry Good, a faculty member in RTA says that he is "just delighted" with the news.

"This is exactly the kind of thing we should be doing and it fits in beautifully with the plans for the development of the new Communications Centre," he claims.

Jon Keeble, chair of RTA, is interested in a "side issue". He reports that "others in our industry with significant collections will watch how this large donation of material is handled and will base their donation decisions on Ryerson's performance".

The reports will be in three locations: the current year in the 2nd floor reserve room, the prior ten years on the 5th floor and all earlier reports in closed storage retrievable with 24 hours notice. It is expected that the materials will be available for use by the end of August 1991. ■

The Association of Records Managers and Administrators

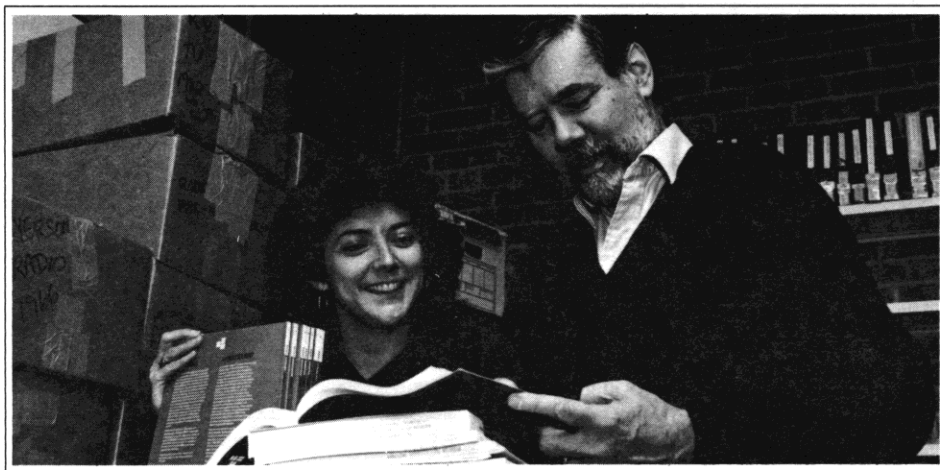
The Association of Records Managers and Administrators (ARMA) is an international professional organization which promotes, supports and exchanges ideas pertinent to the management of information. It brings together people who manage paper and documentation, for the purpose of exchanging and weighing ideas and for speaking with more voice and authority than is possible individually. Its mandate includes the promotion of a scientific interest in records management, development of standards and the provision of records management sources of information. The membership represents a broad spectrum of interests in the management of all aspects of documentation, preservation, disposal and the efficient handling of recorded information.

To support these endeavours, the ARMA directors met with the Ryerson Library administrators in early 1981. The Toronto chapter, chartered in 1969, was one of the first Canadian chapters and includes members representing business, industry, government and educational institutions. The directors approached Ryerson to discuss the transfer of the Toronto Chapter's library collection to Ryerson. The intent was to make the collection accessible to its over 300 members from Metro Toronto and surrounding areas after business hours and on Saturdays and to ARMA students taking records management courses and related business courses. In exchange the collection would also be available to Ryerson students.

It was agreed upon that the Reserve department would administer the collection.

In 1981 this collection consisted of approximately 60 monographs, a slide set and microfiche of the *ARMA Quarterly*. Ten years later the collection has grown to 127 volumes and the number of chargeouts to the Ryerson community surpasses the number to the Toronto chapter membership. Figures for 1989-90 show that 152 chargeouts were made to Ryerson students and 32 to ARMA members. In contrast, the *ARMA Quarterly*, also kept in the reserve collection, has had 206 chargeouts to ARMA members and only 21 to students.

The collection, originally established at Ryerson to give ARMA members better access, has proven to be of equal value to Administration and Information Management students, Business students and other students and users of records management materials. ■



Liz Bishop, 5th Floor Librarian and Jerry Good, RTA.

Contributors

■ The following people have been instrumental in the production of this NEXUS issue:

Liz Bishop
Claude Doucet
Janis Ford
Sue Giles
Diane Granfield
Lucia Martin
Sue Renzullo-Ross

■ Please address all comments and correspondence concerning this publication to:

**Daniel Phelan, Editor, NEXUS
Library & Archives
350 Victoria Street
Room L-1058
(416) 979-5084**

Published May 1991
Ryerson Polytechnical Institute
350 Victoria Street, Toronto, Ontario M5B 2K3
Member: Council of Ontario Universities (COU)
Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC)
Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU)