

KNOWLEDGE  
IS HERE

# Metadata Strategy at Library and Archives Canada

**New Directions in Description / Canadian  
Metadata Forum 2005 Joint Session**

**Monday, September 26, 2005**



Library and Archives  
Canada

Bibliothèque et Archives  
Canada

Canada

# Outline

KNOWLEDGE  
IS HERE

- LAC: A Whole New World
- Metadata Strategy Catalytic Initiative
- Metadata Framework
- Integration of Metadata from External Sources
- Standardizing Names
- Rationalizing Descriptive Terminology
- The Future

2



Library and Archives  
Canada

Bibliothèque et Archives  
Canada

Canada

# LAC: A Whole New World

KNOWLEDGE  
IS HERE

## Chronology

- April 2004: proclamation of the Library and Archives Canada Act
- June 2004: Catalytic Initiatives established
- September 2004 : Metadata Strategy Catalytic Initiative underway
  - Core Team
  - Budget
  - Projects identified
  - Timelines defined

3



Library and Archives  
Canada

Bibliothèque et Archives  
Canada

Canada

# Metadata at LAC

KNOWLEDGE  
IS HERE

Result of all descriptive activities related to LAC's published and unpublished resources regardless of support medium.



# Metadata Strategy Catalytic Initiative

KNOWLEDGE  
IS HERE

## Purpose

Develop and implement a strategy for a collaborative approach to description facilitating integrated access to published and unpublished resources in all media

**Access is the driver**

5



Library and Archives  
Canada

Bibliothèque et Archives  
Canada

Canada

# Metadata Framework

KNOWLEDGE  
IS HERE

MCI "flagship" deliverable, bringing coherence to institutional metadata activities, beginning with descriptive metadata

## Deliverables

- Policy and "user's guide".
- Definition of common minimum descriptive metadata sets dependent on user needs.
- Mappings between descriptive metadata standards used at LAC.
- Clusters of elements from different standards to inform federated search.



# Metadata Framework Impacts

KNOWLEDGE  
IS HERE

## External

- Public is better able to identify, select and locate the resources they need.

## Internal

- A coherent approach to description of all LAC resources.
- Greater portion of the documentary heritage is described in accordance with appropriate standards.



# Integration of Externally-produced Metadata

KNOWLEDGE  
IS HERE

- From Publishers
- From Subject Experts
- From Government Departments and Agencies





# Metadata From Publishers

KNOWLEDGE  
IS HERE

Building a mechanism for publishers to communicate with LAC using their metadata “language” (ONIX, the **ON**line **I**nformation **eX**change standard).

## Deliverables

- Automation of the Canadian ISBN Agency communication with publishers in multiple formats, including ONIX.
- On-line, real-time updateable ISBN logbooks for publisher use



# Publishers' Metadata Impacts

KNOWLEDGE  
IS HERE

## External

- Enhanced relationship with Canadian publishers.
- Descriptions enriched with publisher-produced metadata

## Internal

- Integration of Canadian ISBN Agency operations with other LAC systems.
- Studies of publisher processes and internal process impacts
- Identification and implementation of workflow re-engineering opportunities (operational efficiencies)



# Metadata from Subject Experts

KNOWLEDGE  
IS HERE

Developing methods of acquiring and re-using description information from individuals and groups about LAC unpublished holdings.

## Deliverables

- Policy on acceptable minimum quantity (core metadata requirements) and quality (internal verification levels required) for externally-produced metadata.
- Processes for incorporating externally-provided metadata into LAC systems.



# Subject Experts' Metadata Impacts

KNOWLEDGE  
IS HERE

## External

- Metadata describing more LAC items and collections.
- Increased client access to unpublished materials.
- More Canadians engaged with their documentary heritage.

## Internal

- Corporate policy decisions based on user needs
- Operational efficiencies

12



Library and Archives  
Canada

Bibliothèque et Archives  
Canada

Canada

# Metadata From Government Departments and Agencies

KNOWLEDGE  
IS HERE

Records Management Metadata Standard for the Government of Canada (GoC) aligned with GoC and ISO standards

## Deliverables

- Core set of metadata elements for use in describing records through their life cycle.
- Metadata set aligned with GoC core metadata standard (TBITS 39) and with LAC requirements for archival records transfer.
- To be incorporated into the functional requirements of the RDIMS shared solution (PWGSC).

13



Library and Archives  
Canada

Bibliothèque et Archives  
Canada

Canada

# Government Metadata Impacts

KNOWLEDGE  
IS HERE

## External

- More consistent approach to IM across government institutions
- Enhanced capacity of government to serve Canadians and achieve better business results through sound information management
- Heightened awareness of LAC leadership role in GoC records management

## Internal

- Increased capacity in metadata standards related to government information

14



Library and Archives  
Canada

Bibliothèque et Archives  
Canada

Canada

# Standardizing Names

KNOWLEDGE  
IS HERE

Integrated controlled name authorities for published and unpublished materials.

## Deliverables

- A single standard
- A single process



# Standardizing Names Impacts

KNOWLEDGE  
IS HERE

## External

- Public is better able to identify, select and locate documentary heritage materials.
- Greater portion of the documentary heritage is described in accordance with appropriate standards.

## Internal

- Efficiency gains from a single process
- Highly visible integration effort





# Rationalising Descriptive Terminology

KNOWLEDGE  
IS HERE

Making sense of varying descriptive practices related to use of controlled subjects and keywords to improve client information discovery.

## Deliverables

- Policy for application of subjects (by types of material, etc)
- Defined relationships between full text index terms (keywords) and controlled subjects.
- Study of possible search engine configuration using automated techniques for transparent clustering of terms around concepts.



# Rationalizing Terminology Impacts

KNOWLEDGE  
IS HERE

## External

- Public is better able to identify, select and locate documentary heritage materials.

## Internal

- Increased understanding of the ways in which clients want to search for LAC holdings.
- Improved alignment between descriptive practices and user needs.



# Leadership in Metadata

KNOWLEDGE  
IS HERE

Sharing research results and leading the way.

## Deliverables:

- Participation in descriptive standards development for new domains
  - NISO MetaSearch Initiative, Dublin Core Metadata Initiative
- Sponsorship of IM community events
  - New Directions in Description, Canadian Metadata Forum



# Metadata Leadership Impacts

KNOWLEDGE  
IS HERE

- Canadian perspective represented on emerging standards bodies
- Increased knowledge sharing by LAC in the Government of Canada, national and international metadata communities

20



Library and Archives  
Canada

Bibliothèque et Archives  
Canada

Canada

# Future of the MCI

KNOWLEDGE  
IS HERE

- Deliverables due by June 2006.
- Only the beginning of a new orientation for LAC
  - Role of Intellectual Management Office
  - The way forward...



Deane Zeeman  
Lead, Metadata Strategy Catalytic Initiative  
Library and Archives Canada

[deane.zeeman@lac-bac.gc.ca](mailto:deane.zeeman@lac-bac.gc.ca)

(819) 934-4358

