



Ongoing Access to Unique Materials at Library and Archives Canada

Library and Archives Canada (LAC) ended its interlibrary loan (ILL) program in December 2012. LAC's goal going forward is to maintain access to the unique materials in its collection.

Ongoing Services

Clients can continue to access the full range of LAC's holdings through on-site services and reading rooms at 395 Wellington Street in Ottawa.

- For a complete list of services to the public, please visit:
<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/the-public/005-7000-e.html>

Clients also can continue to request digital reproductions of LAC's holdings through existing reprography services.

- For general information about LAC's reprography services, please visit:
<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/reproduction-requests/Pages/reproduction-requests.aspx>
- For LAC's price list and services standards, please visit:
<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/reproduction-requests/Pages/price-list-service-standards.aspx>

Digitization of High-Demand Material

The majority of LAC's ILL requests are for archival materials on microfilm. LAC's goal going forward is to make this high-demand content accessible online through an aggressive digitization agenda. As part of this ongoing digitization initiative:

- Approximately 40,000 high-demand microfilm reels have been identified for digitization.
- Approximately 7,000 reels have been completed.
- Approximately 13 million images have been digitized and made available online.

To ensure clients are aware of the content and progress of this initiative, LAC is preparing a digitization schedule and will make this available in early 2013. In order to make this popular content more discoverable and accessible, LAC also is looking at new approaches to linking the digital images directly to online descriptions.

Many of LAC's archival and published records have already been digitized and made available online.

- For a complete list of LAC's databases, research aids, and virtual exhibitions, please visit:
<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/discover/product/index-e.html>



Lender of Last Resort

New processes based on a “lender of last resort” approach will be in place in September 2013 in order to support access to unique materials only available in LAC’s collection. LAC currently is convening discussions with the ILL user community to define the principles and options for this approach.

Aspects of currently under discussion include:

- The approach likely will apply primarily to monographs, as well as some newspapers and serials that are unique to LAC’s holdings.
- Where there are copies available for free or through paid services via other institutions, LAC will not loan material.
- The onus will generally be on the user or user community to demonstrate LAC is the only source of the required material.
- LAC will facilitate this requirement through an improved National Union Catalogue, and through further discussions with the ILL user community.

While materials will continue to be accessible on site at 395 Wellington Street in Ottawa, off-site clients should expect access delays for published materials between December 2012 and September 2013 as the “lender of last resort” approach is developed and implemented.

Support to Canada’s ILL Network

LAC will continue to facilitate interlibrary loan activities among other institutions through ongoing administration of Canadian Library Symbols, and through the ILL form in AMICUS. Users of the ILL form will be required to ensure the information submitted is accurate, and to conduct follow-up activity as needed on behalf of their institution or clients.

LAC has made available a list of key databases most commonly used by LAC for location searches. Support to the ILL community also will be provided through an initiative to improve the National Union Catalogue (NUC). For new Canadian Library Symbols, updates to entries in the directory of Symbols and Interlibrary Loan Policies in Canada, or questions about AMICUS ILL accounts, contact:

National Union Catalogue
Telephone: 819-934-5851
E-mail: union.catalogue@bac-lac.gc.ca

Contact

For any questions about access to LAC’s collection, please contact: reference@bac-lac.gc.ca