

Assignment 1: Digital Collection Development
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Introduction

For this critique, I'm examining Canadiana. Some of the criteria are difficult to know how to evaluate because there are several websites associated with this project, beginning with canadiana.library.ualberta.ca, but this contains links to partners including canadiana.ca and the Internet Archive. It's not clear on the original site where the boundaries of one stop and another starts, so I have, for instance, found copyright information on canadiana.ca and logging and statistical information on the Internet Archive.

Analysis

Evaluation Criteria	Critique
1. Explicit collection development policy	This Canadiana project digitized "mostly non-serial CIHM materials up to 1920", which might seem like a broad time range but it is limited to items that the CIHM had already preserved on microfiche (University of Alberta Libraries, n.d). I had to read more about CIHM, what they did, and what their collection included, to understand what this Canadiana project included (Canadiana, n.d.1). The target audience is primarily libraries and archives in Canada.
2. Collections should be described so that a user can discover characteristics of the collection, including scope, format, restrictions on access, ownership, etc.	<p>The scope of the project is described under criteria #1. The format they use are scans of text converted from microfiche. Individual pages can be saved as images. The whole files can be downloaded as PDFs, ePub files, Plain Text files, DAISY files, and Kindle files. Some files have other options such as OCLC and Torrent. Full catalog records in MARCXML format are also available.</p> <p>As for access and ownership, the collection is available to anyone with an internet connection and the content seems to be in the public domain but Canadiana.ca owns and provided the microfiche files to convert.</p>
3. A good collection is curated (preservation), preservation policy/strategy	<p>The very existence of this collection of the Canadiana project seems to be evidence of their attempt to preserve their holdings, updating them from microfiche to digital formats. The Internet Archive provides recommendations about managing, cleaning, and disclosing information, but it is up to organizations to provide confirmation to users about how they do this (Berkley, n.d.). The University of Alberta Libraries' CIHM Monograph Collection may follow these guidelines but they don't provide any information about whether or how they do so, though Canadiana does have a preservation policy that presumably covers this as well as their other collections (Canadiana, n.d.2).</p> <p>Regarding end user support, there's an extensive FAQ section and Q&A forum at the Internet Archive (Internet Archive, n.d.2). There doesn't seem to be a way to contact someone directly with a question. There is a contact email on the University of Alberta Libraries page (n.d.).</p>

4. Accessibility and usability (user interface etc.)	<p>The information regarding how to access the archive documents and metadata are relatively straightforward but minimum browser and bandwidth requirements, if they are needed, are not provided. As for accessibility, DAISY talking book files are provided.</p> <p>As far as finding what you want goes, browsing is a bit tricky because if you sort by the options they provide on the Internet Archive, the results are quite long. Using the filters along the side helps, but there are 50 pages of subject options to use as filters, which is overwhelming. Searching is easier, and it seems clearer on Canadiana than the Internet Archive, however the Internet Archive will provide more results for the same search terms, for reasons I can't discover.</p>
5. Respects intellectual property rights. Collection managers should maintain a consistent record of rights holders and permissions (copyright statements and disclaimers)	<p>Canadiana.ca owns the whole collection, including the CIHM archive but it is accessible to anyone (Canadiana, n.d.1)</p>
6. A good collection has mechanisms to supply usage data and other data that allows standardized measures of usefulness to be recorded.	<p>The Internet Archive provides basic graphs and view numbers by region (Internet Archive, n.d.3). The only statistics for collections that the Internet Archive provides are numbers of views and month-to-month comparisons of views and new users, as well as lists of top forum posters and top posters for the Internet Archive as a whole (Internet Archive, n.d.2; Internet Archive, n.d.3).</p>
7. Interoperable collection (standards) Any standards followed.	<p>The documents and the metadata attached to those documents are freely available to any library. Marc records and Dublin Core formatted metadata are available (University of Alberta Libraries Dataverse, 2016; Open Archives Initiative, n.d.).</p>
8. A good collection integrates into the users own workflow. Any information available on the educational and pedagogical use of the library.	<p>The whole collection can be shared and favorited. Individual items can be favourited, shared, flagged, and commented on/reviewed. If users work with the collection in any other way, it would be up to them to link to it.</p>
9. A good collection is sustainable over time. Any information about the sustainability and long term access to the collection.	<p>Long term access must depend on conversion to future technologies which I would think can only be broadly planned and budgeted for. The current sustainability plan involved converting files from microfiche to other formats like PDF. The collection was archived on the Internet Archive. Canadiana provides a preservation policy including a succession plan in case they become unable to continue managing the collection (Canadiana, n.d.3).</p>

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