
Dr. Charles Roland, Hannah Professor of the History of Medicine, McMaster University and Vice-President of the Canadian Society for the History of Medicine, has presented the researcher with a valuable resource. This is the first bibliography solely devoted to secondary materials in the history of Canadian medicine. The citations are arranged into three listings: a 'Biographical Listing' that contains more than 1,600 entries under 1,000 names, a 'Subject Listing' that contains more than 2,000 entries under 116 subject headings and more than 940 subheadings / divisions; and an 'Author Listing' that arranges the entries from the previous two listings by author.

The scope and definitions of this bibliography are clearly outlined at the outset. As well, information is provided concerning the contents of the bibliography and subject classification. The way in which the material has been spatially arranged with its headings and divisions is both visually pleasing and adds to its efficient use. Obvious effort has been made to include diverse subjects such as aerospace medicine, human development and growth, state medicine and medical legislation, and radiology. The bibliography is quite comprehensive, especially in the expanded classification of 'Diseases & Injuries' which contains 164 subheadings.

Four aspects of this bibliography merit specific discussion. First, the methodology used in the bibliography relies largely upon computer searching. However, from a random check of twenty-one references (eleven journals and ten books), it would appear that these entries were not checked manually. Fourteen references (eight journals and six books) were complete, without error and beyond reproach. The remaining seven entries illustrate some areas where improvement is needed. For example, there is incorrect pagination in two instances (p. 31 under Hellstedt and p. 87 under Fallis); a typographical error occurs in the year of one journal (p. 189 under White, J.J.); an article by D.A.E. Shepard was not found in the *New England Journal of Medicine* as per the citation found in the 'Author Listing' (p. 179); a punctuation error occurs in one book citation (p. 43 under Tupper, C.: *Recollections* ...); there is an incomplete title in one book citation (p. 120 under Barr, M.L.: *A Century* ...); and 'edit' is omitted in the citation for a book of collected essays (p. 172 under Ray, A.J.: *Opportunity* ...).

Secondly, as a rule the classified subject bibliography is logical and easy to use. The subject classification that is used in this bibliography is a modified version of the National Library of Medicine (NLM) subject headings. In the 1983 edition of the *Annual Bibliography of the History of Medicine*, the heading 'Chiropractic' is used for the first time. The heading 'Chiropractic' was adopted because of concerns expressed by the Association for Chiropractic History (ACH) and the American Chiropractic Association (ACA). Previously, chiropractic references had been set out under the ignominious heading 'Therapeutic Cults.' The one chiropractic entry that appears in Dr. Roland's bibliography can be easily missed because it is found in the 'Subject Listing' under 'Therapeutic Cults' and there is no cross-reference in the
‘Subject Classification Codes Table’ leading to ‘Chiropractic.’ This NLM subject classification change would be important to updated versions of Dr. Roland’s bibliography since the ACH began publishing materials in 1981, and one might expect that in the future there would be more Canadian references to ‘Chiropractic.’

Thirdly, although each citation follows good bibliographic form, at the end of each citation there appears a number in brackets. If this number was intended to benefit the researcher, it would have been helpful if an explanatory note was placed in the introductory section. Without an explanation, this bracketed number is meaningless and clutters the bibliographic form.

Lastly, an ‘Abbreviations’ list appears in the introductory section and contains ten journals that have been referred to frequently within the bibliography. As well, a ‘List of Journals Examined’ enumerates seventy-six journals which were systematically searched. Not all of the journals included on the ‘Abbreviations’ list appear on the ‘List of Journals Examined.’ Such is the case with the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA). If JAMA was excluded from the ‘List of Journals Examined’ because it was not systematically examined, then the fact that articles were missed is explained. For example, Philip Cash’s article, ‘The Canadian Military Campaign of 1775-1776: Medical Problems and Effects of Disease,’ published in JAMA in 1976 would have been an appropriate inclusion in the bibliography. A systematic examination of JAMA, a major medical journal, would have been an enormous help to the researcher. Otherwise, JAMA’s exclusion from the ‘List of Journals Examined’ suggests an unfortunate typographical oversight and articles unexplainably missed.

Despite the imperfections of the bibliography, it is, nonetheless, an important contribution towards the pursuit of a Canadian history of medicine. Prior to the appearance of this volume, there was not a single work devoted to Canadian secondary sources in the history of medicine. This work reveals the breadth of the literature on this topic through its subject classification, provides valuable references that might not have been found so readily, and identifies those areas where little has been written. Indeed, this bibliography should encourage more research in the history of Canadian medicine.

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A cynical conception of library history is that it is written by librarians, for librarians, and about librarians. If this conception has validity, then library history is the amateur depiction of internal events within the library profession, its institutions, and administrative activity. Who would want to write such history? Who would want to read it? Only librarians.

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