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.

Peter F. McNally, who is an associate professor with the Graduate School of
Library and Information Studies at McGill University, rightly maintains that this cynical view is mistaken. In June 1980 at the Canadian Library Association’s conference in Vancouver, he submitted a petition to form a Library History Interest Group. Not only did CLA support McNally’s petition but the Interest Group met the next year in Hamilton, and the eleven papers presented at that day-long workshop were published in *Canadian Library Journal* in December 1981. The Interest Group has continued to hold its annual meetings at CLA under McNally’s careful direction.

*Readings in Canadian Library History* is chiefly an accumulation of papers that were read at meetings of the Interest Group from 1982 to 1984. The anthology contains eighteen essays. Four essays that were not read at meetings of the Interest Group have also been included. The essays are grouped into four main categories which ‘reflect something of the breadth and depth of current research’ [p. iii]. These categories are: historiography or guides to the literature; methodology; public libraries; diverse perspectives; and biography. Two weaknesses of the anthology are the lack of an index and inconsistency in bibliographical citation from one essay to another.

McNally’s Introduction and his own two essays, which survey and evaluate Canadian library historiography in English and French between 1964 and 1984, set the tone for this volume. In his Introduction he cogently argues that Canadian library history is of relevance both to the library profession and to the larger context of Canadian social history. When written with zest and with an understanding of intellectual and socio-economic conditions, library history, he argues, is capable of appealing to a large readership. Yet, in his analysis of Canadian library historiography in English, McNally concludes that it is indeed characterized by amateur writing and by a failure to integrate research. No single monograph has been written on English-Canadian library history, on its public libraries, or its academic libraries. Moreover, Canadian library schools have not always been favourably disposed to the teaching of this subject. Even more disturbing from the point of view of conducting original research is the fact that little has been done to alert librarians and archivists to the need to preserve and to collect primary materials. The latter problem is discussed in more detail in Betty Carnie’s essay, ‘Board Minutes as a Source of Library History with Particular Reference to the Saskatoon Public Library.’

In contrast, French-Canadian library historiography, McNally observes, has a scholarly research base: ‘For integrated studies, within a strong social-cultural context of bibliography and the history of books, printing, and libraries, no other part of Canada surpasses Quebec’ [p. 39]. Readers who would like to follow up McNally’s research into Canadian library historiography should consult his recent article, ‘The Historiography of Canadian Library History, or Mapping the Mind of the Canadian Past,’ *The Journal of Library History* 21 [Spring 1986]: 445-55.

Do the essays of this anthology live up to McNally’s standards of library historiography? In fact most of the contributions are interesting, well written, and well researched. John A. Wiseman’s two articles, one on Ontario’s public-library movement and the First World War and the other on E.A. Austin, show an experienced historian at work who knows his subjects and how to relate them to a cultural environment. Stephen Cummings provides an excellent portrait of the colourful career
of Angus Mowat. Angus's son, Farley, is mentioned only in passing by Cummings, however, and one cannot help but wonder about the relationship between the father and son. Debra Lindsay's essay on Peter Fidler's philosophical and scientific library in Rupert's Land presents some plausible conjectures on the importance of the library in Fidler's life, but her Appendix, which lists extant books under various categories, is inconsistent in the use of capitalization and italics.

There are five essays on public libraries. Perhaps the most perceptive essay of the five is Don Kerr's recounting of the crisis that ensued in 1913 when the Saskatoon Public Library was offered forty books by the local branch of the Rationalist Press Association. Kerr's skillful analysis shows how this battle of books prefigured the recurring debate over intellectual freedom. In his narrative of public library service in Winnipeg from 1880 to 1980, Jim Blanchard gives a frank account of the successes and setbacks in that city. In Blanchard's opinion, lack of funds, the periodic absence of a supporting library board, and the indifference of politicians greatly hampered the development of library service in Winnipeg. Blanchard has another contribution to this anthology on quite a different topic — a bibliographical essay on the Mechanics' Institutes with an emphasis on Ontario.

In a similar vein to Blanchard's essay on the public libraries of Winnipeg, Lucile Freynet's incisive history of French public library service in western Canada does not shy away from controversy or statements of embarrassing fact. The changing architectural fashions in Canadian public library buildings is the subject of an essay by David R. Conn and Barry McCallum. The authors capably document these changes while demonstrating a clear understanding of the developments in both fields. The most conventional article in the section on public libraries is Barbara Myrvold's survey of Toronto Public Library's first hundred years. Myrvold's account, though nicely illustrated, has been overshadowed by Margaret Penman's A Century of Service: Toronto Public Library 1883-1983. In fact Penman has her own essay in this anthology in which she engagingly tells how she was commissioned to write the authorized history of Toronto Public Library.

The section entitled 'Diverse Perspectives' contains several noteworthy essays. The former chief librarian of the University of Toronto, Robert H. Blackburn, discloses how the University of Toronto Press began as a department within the university library. Leslie D. Catling, the librarian of the Rare Book Collection for the Manitoba Legislative Library, admirably pieces together the brief history of the Red River Library from its founding in 1848 to the Library's dispersal in the 1860s. Other essays in this section concern the Icelandic Collection at the University of Manitoba and the development of school libraries in Alberta.

An underlying claim of McNally's anthology is that library history can only come of age in Canada if it aligns itself with social history and adopts a more rigorous approach to writing and research. A corollary of this claim is that library history also needs to be interpreted as a form of historical bibliography. From a purely bibliographical perspective, however, much work still needs to be done. The checklists in the recent issues of the SLIS Library History Interest Group Newsletter, for example, are certainly useful, but we need a more definitive tool along the lines of Denis F. Keeling's British Library History: Bibliography, 1962-1980 and Michael H.
Harris's and Donald G. Davis's *American Library History: A Bibliography*. McNally's *Readings in Canadian Library History* is definitely a step in the right direction.

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Canadian library history is a comparatively new field of study, with a handful of researchers spread across the country. It is therefore both timely and appropriate for it to possess its own newsletter which is not, despite the suggestion in the title, for local consumption only, but is intended to 'provide a forum for others both inside and outside the School.' In fact, the editorial office has been moved to Dalhousie University, following one of its editors, and will continue its work there.

In terms of content, the newsletter reports on meetings of the interest group, and includes summaries of papers presented; it draws attention to upcoming conferences and meetings, publicizes doctoral dissertations, lists current publications, abstracts conference papers, and notes recent reviews in the field; it also outlines ongoing research projects in library history, and provides short feature articles.

The Canadian Library Association also has, of course, an active library history interest group which was contemplating producing its own newsletter, but the appearance of the University of Western Ontario library school publication rendered it unnecessary, as the work of both groups will now, by mutual agreement, be incorporated in the publication under review.

Although the newsletter is published under the rubric of 'library history,' it is clear from the contents that the term is being interpreted as broadly as possible, and includes reading, readership, and the booktrade, etc., which is logical, as libraries are much more than simply bricks and mortar. This approach is quite in keeping with views that have been expressed in meetings of the CLA Library History Interest Group where it has been suggested that perhaps its terms of reference should be broadened to embrace 'print culture,' or at least the history of the book in Canada in all its manifestations.

As this new newsletter is fulfilling an important need, it is hoped that it will receive wide support and continue to appear well into the future.

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