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George Young, comp. *The Researcher's Guide to British Columbia Nineteenth Century Directories: A Bibliography & Index*. Edited by John S. Lutz. Victoria, B.C.: Public History Group, University of Victoria, 1988. [6], iv [i.e. p. iv], [1], 162 pp.; \$14.95 (spiral bound). ISBN 0-92127800-4.

The Researcher's Guide to British Columbia Nineteenth Century Directories is a commendable first offering from the Public History Group at the University of Victoria in its regional historical research tools series. The goal of the project was to make directories more accessible to researchers by providing a comprehensive listing of relevant publications and an index to their contents. To this end, Mr. Young and his assistants undertook an extensive search of the directory holdings of the province's principal research libraries and archives, the National Library of Canada, the National Archives of Canada, and several other Canadian institutions which held one or more volumes. These efforts were supplemented by inquiries addressed to the major research libraries of neighbouring Washington state and the Library of Congress, a worthwhile approach in light of the settlement and trade patterns in the area in the nineteenth century. The result is a ten-page bibliography of provincial and regional directories arranged chronologically from the first in 1860 to the project's cut-off date of 1900, supplemented by a combined place and topic index and set off by an introductory essay.

Although most of the directories in this listing were published as serials rather than as one-time-only items, the compiler elected to list each volume individually rather than to create series entries. The exceptions to this approach are three entries for serials which are of national scope, *The Merchantile Agency Reference Book for the Dominion of Canada* (1872-1900, p. 18), *The Canadian Almanac* (1874-1900, p. 19) and *The Canadian Mining Manual* (1890 / 91-1900, p. 22). The project's style of bibliographic description is particularly appropriate when the overall number of entries is not great (seventy-five in total) and the irregularities of title from one year to the next are many. By providing full title, subtitle, statement of responsibility, imprint, and pagination information for each volume, confusion is greatly reduced as to whether the item found is definitely the one described. This method is also expeditious for displaying holdings information, especially in view of the fact that repositories often hold less than a complete set of any one serial. Despite these obvious strengths, however, the user of the printed bibliography is confronted with two difficulties connected with this method of presentation. The first is that it is impossible to see at a glance which library collections contain the greatest breadth of holdings of interest to a particular researcher. He / she is left with pencil and paper to extract information from the printed bibliography on each library's holdings. A repository index showing a brief title and a publication date could easily have elim-

inated this situation. It is not readily apparent where the most complete run of a particular series is located. A uniform title index would have been an asset in this case. Both of these indices can be easily produced when working in a database format.

The value of this bibliography as a research tool rests in the comprehensiveness of the listing and the holdings statement. Clearly an excellent effort has been made to identify as many relevant directories as are publicly accessible. The compiler's determination to include all relevant directories means that he has rightly listed regional (western Canada or the American West) and national as well as provincial items. Ingenuity in identifying sources is evident in entries such as Alexander G. Findlay's *A Directory to the Navigation of the North Pacific Ocean* published in London in 1886 (p. 20). The tantalizing nature and yet somewhat unclear relevance of some of these entries prompt one to wish that the project's designers had undertaken to annotate each entry by clearly identifying the scope of its British Columbia content. With respect to holdings information it is regrettable that the bibliography does not include the findings of the Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions, particularly in light of CIHM's mandate to create microform copies of all items listed. An online search of the University of British Columbia's version of CIHM produced forty-seven hits on the seventy-four citations in the bibliography. Since, as the compiler notes, the largest holder of directories is the British Columbia Provincial Archives with fifty items (p. 1), reference to CIHM findings would have enhanced accessibility to the directories.

The final and most lengthy section of the bibliography is the index, which runs from pp. 29-162. It is a combined single index which primarily lists place names and secondarily subject headings and corporate names. The number of discrepancies in the form of place names leads one to assume that the place names were taken exactly as shown in the directories. How else can one account for separate entries for Bella Collie, Bella Coolie and Bella Coola (pp. 36-7)? Similarly, no entry can be found in G.P.V. and Helen Akrigg's authoritative *British Columbia Place Names* (Victoria, B.C.: Sono Nis Press, c1986, 1988) for Annierville (p. 32), but Annieville is well-known to Fraser Valley residents. Queries also arise in connection with the subject headings. Looking up 'Bar,' readers are advised to see 'Lawyers, Law Society' (p. 34) but not 'Law.' The heading 'Law' directs users to 'Barristers' but not 'Lawyers,' which also exists. Should the Public History Group decide to expand its efforts to include the provincial directories published after 1900, the obvious strengths of this first publication could be enhanced by refining the index and augmenting the main listing with annotations.

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Helen Craig, comp. *New Brunswick Newspaper Directory, 1783-1988 / Répertoire des journaux du Nouveau-Brunswick, 1783-1900*. Fredericton: Council of Head Librarians of New Brunswick, 1989. xxiv, 254 pp.; \$30.00 + \$2.75 handling charge (paper). ISBN 0-9690287-3-3.

Suzanne Ellison. *Historical Directory of Newfoundland and Labrador*