
This special issue of *Primary Sources and Original Works*, entitled *Bibliographical Foundations of French Historical Studies*, was published to celebrate the bicentennial of the French Revolution. The articles are drawn from the conference proceedings of the Association for the Bibliography of History, and the collection was edited by the Association's president.

The scope of the book is broad, and the contents are organized under four headings, dealing with bibliographic methods, particular French archives, connections between French and North American libraries since the Revolution, and changes in French archives themselves. It is this range that makes the collection particularly useful as an overview to the current state of the field. Archival research in general has undergone its own revolution in the past ten years, and it can be difficult to keep up. New computer resources and the major changeover in Paris from the Bibliothèque nationale to the Bibliothèque de France are the most important and obvious changes, and those are thoroughly discussed here. The collection manages to keep a balance between practical, informational articles and examples of new research; most of the articles have valuable appendices.

The first section, 'Bibliographic Methods and French Historical Studies,' concentrates on technology, from computer databases to machine-readable texts to film. Susanne F. Roberts's 'Bibliographic Access to French Studies - A Revolution in Progress' is a timely review of database sources useful for scholars in this field, including the newly available sections of the microform catalogues of the Bibliothèque nationale, and European CD-ROM periodical databases. As Roberts notes, with these new resources scholars can get much work done before they even reach France. Pierre Boulle's 'Canada Looks at the French Revolution: An Analysis of Canadian Imprints, 1889-1989' describes the results of a computer analysis of a bibliography of Canadian writing about the French Revolution. Boulle notes the rise and fall of publishing on this subject in the 1970s and 1980s, and discusses the causes and implications of the changes in Canada's two linguistic communities. Mark Olsen's 'The French Revolution of the Library: The *Trésor de la langue française* describes a database available in North America that contains 1,760 different texts, making all kinds of new analysis possible. For example, Olsen cites a study he performed of the changing use of the word *femme* from 1600 to 1950, as well as other more complex kinds of analyses. Robert M. Maniquis's 'The French Revolution and the Cinema: Problems in Filmography' explores the problems — technical, historical, and conceptual — of putting together an accurate filmography of the French Revolution, which is now on its way to publication.

The second section, 'French Archives and Libraries: Historical Perspectives and Research Possibilities,' concentrates on things one might find when one actually
gets into the archives. It begins with two anecdotal pieces: John D. Rudd's 'Searching Pre-Revolutionary Archives in France: A Personal Experience,' which gives some suggestions for focusing one's topic amid the mass of material, and W. Gregory Monahan's 'The Archives of Lyon: Opportunities and Challenges for the Study of Eighteenth-Century France,' which gives tidbits about what it's really like to sift through the archives in Lyon. Nancy Bartlett's 'Respect des fonds: The Origin of the Modern Archival Principle of Provenance' takes a term that refers to an archival principle (respect des fonds) and brings it into focus by tracing the term's history; it is an interesting exercise in the history of how we conceptualize archival material. Bland Addison, Jr.'s 'The Bibliographie liégeoise: From Jansenism to Sans-culottism in the Book Industry of Eighteenth-Century Liege' traces the development of an important publishing centre outside Paris and of its printers and booksellers. Outside the reach of French censorship, Liege's book industry published everything from Jansenist texts to pornography to philosophy. Gary Kates's 'D'Eon's Books: The Library of an Eighteenth-Century Transsexual' investigates the curious case of one of Europe's most famous transvestites; during his lifetime, people thought he was a woman who sometimes dressed as a man, but when it was later discovered that he was a man who voluntarily gave up male status and privilege to dress as a woman, he was considered very bizarre indeed. His library, as Kates shows, demonstrated his long-standing interest in books about women and about feminism.

The third section, 'Post-Revolution French Bibliographic Connections with the New World,' explores some of the ways in which books and the book trade with France affected various regions of North America, from Canada to Louisiana. This is important socio-historical work that gives a deeper understanding of the material ways in which ideas were disseminated in the culture. Louis-Georges Harvey's 'Books and Culture in French Canada: The Library of the Institut-Canadien de Montréal, 1852–1880' begins with the dramatic case of a Montreal man who was denied burial in consecrated ground because he had borrowed books from a library — books on the Catholic Church's Index. Harvey analyzes the circulation records of that library to show how library borrowing fitted into the religious and ideological battles of the day. Lawrence J. McCrank's 'The Trans-Canadian French Connection with the Pacific Northwest Frontier: Missionaries, Books, and Media in Oregon, 1835–1855' discusses the impact of printed matter on the societies it penetrated, especially missionaries' use of it. The work of Catholic and French-derived missions has been left especially unexplored, and McCrank here begins the study. Carl A. Brasseaux' 'French-Period Archival Resources in the Lower Louisiana Territory' explores French influence in another under-examined area of the United States, and describes the kinds of materials available for the study of this field. The importance of this work is that it leads to a more complex, rich understanding of just how pluralistic colonial North American society was. Jane McLeod's 'The Bordeaux Book Trade to the West Indies at the End of the Ancien Régime' looks at one of the more neglected types of trade across the Atlantic: books. McLeod documents reading and publishing patterns in the eighteenth-century West Indies as the trade grew, and then ended with the Revolution.
Section four, 'The French Revolution of Archives and Libraries: from Royal to National and from Private to Public Institutions,' discusses some ideological questions raised by the physical changes under way in French libraries. The library as an institution will soon be very different thanks to technology, and the place of researchers in that future remains undecided. This is a section that asks more questions that can yet be answered, and points toward the future. Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie, administrateur général of the Bibliothèque nationale, explains the changeover to the new Bibliothèque de France, calming some fears about the future accessibility of the collection. The whole Bibliothèque nationale collection will be computerized before removal, which should bring joy to the hearts of those who have struggled with the old library's antiquated cataloguing system. Ladurie also insists that researchers will still have access to actual books, not only to electronic images of them, as had been predicted.

Ladurie's address is followed by a series of commentaries. Carol Armbruster, in 'France's New Library: What Does This Mean for American Researchers?', describes some problems of the old library and ways in which these may soon be improved in the new location. Nancy Bartlett, in 'France's Archives: The Library's Counterpart,' discusses differences between European and American approaches to archival sources. Pierre Boule, in 'Use and Preservation: Concerns for France's National Library,' worries about centralization of the system, and about access to the new library: how will greater public access be achieved without harm to the collections? Lawrence J. McCrank, 'The Library of France: Old and New Revolutions,' describes the change from the old concept of a Royal Library to the modern idea that a library preserves documents for the use of all, into the future. There has been a revolution in the library, and all eyes will be on Tolbiac to see the results.

This collection will be of interest to all scholars in historical studies who have done research at French archives and libraries. It is a timely overview of the changes that are taking place, from computers to new buildings, and an example of the kinds of work that such research can produce.

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Voici un livre grâce auquel les études balzaciennes ne seront plus les mêmes et vont pouvoir bénéficier des résultats de la recherche spécialisée la plus poussée à travers un ouvrage facile à consulter et éminemment lisible.