to her hybrid method, *The Adaptation Industry* will prove valuable to literary and film scholars as well as cultural and book historians.

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With this book, British Columbia becomes the first province to produce an integrated history of its library development. It is a landmark in Canadian library history with all types of libraries being covered – legislative, public, school, and special – along with topics such as associations, censorship, regional libraries, and information technology. Although other provinces such as Ontario and Saskatchewan have fine histories of public library development – thanks to the efforts of Lorne Bruce and Donald Kerr – overviews of all library development are still awaited. Nationally, sufficient material for an overview of library development for the entire country can probably be pieced together from the three volumes of the *History of the Book in Canada/Histoire du livre et de l'imprimé au Canada*.

David Obee, a journalist and local/family historian and genealogist who dedicated the volume to the late Ruth Mould, who was a librarian at the Smithers Public Library, wrote this valuable study. The foreword and introduction were written respectively by Sara Ellis and the Honourable Iona Compagnolo, a former Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia. A “small army of people” assisted in its research, editing, and production including Jacqueline van Dyk, Basil Stuart-Stubbs, Marnie Swanson, and Paul Whitney – a virtual who’s who of British Columbia librarians and library supporters. The British Columbia Library Association published this volume, which marks its centenary and that of the British Columbia Library Trustees Association. It also honours the ninetieth anniversary in 2009 of the Public Library Services Branch; the fiftieth anniversary of the School of Library, Archival, and Information Studies, University of British Columbia; and the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Vancouver Island and Okanagan library systems.
The volume’s stated purpose is to celebrate and learn from the rich history of service provided by British Columbia’s libraries and librarians. Eighteen chapters are organized into three chronological sections: (i) James Strange, on a fur-trading mission, bringing books to British Columbia to Andrew Carnegie’s gifts from 1786 to 1926; (ii) revival of the Public Library Commission and genesis of regional public libraries from 1927 to 1959; and (iii) development of cooperative ventures from 1960 to 2011. Each section concludes with a helpful “Timeline” chronology. Scattered liberally throughout are boxed texts with important quotes and discussions of particular events and people. An appendix, with twenty-six topics, lists the heads of relevant associations, winners of provincial awards, and major surveys.

Despite its coffee-table format, the content of this book merits close attention for its description of how British Columbia became second only to Ontario among Canadian provinces in passing public library legislation, establishing a provincial library association, and developing a public library system. Particular attention is paid to British Columbia’s unique role as the world leader in developing regional public library systems, with the work of Helen Gordon Stewart and the Fraser Valley Regional Library being highlighted. Although pride of place is given to the development of major public libraries in Vancouver and Victoria, as well as academic libraries like UBC and the University of Victoria, attention is also paid to developments in scores of smaller communities and newer institutions. Leading lights of British Columbian librarianship with national and international profiles receiving mention include: E.O.S. Scholefield, John Ridington, W. Kaye Lamb, Lois Bewley, and Basil Stuart-Stubbs. Scores of figures with local and provincial reputations are also mentioned.

Many readers and researchers will be concerned by the volume’s handling of sources. Aside from a bibliography of twelve titles, and the acknowledgements mentioning that two thousand newspaper articles were consulted and listing the titles in which they were found, no footnoting or bibliographical apparatus is provided. One can only hope that a working version of the text, complete with sources, has been deposited in a local library or archive.

This important and readable history of British Columbia’s library development is necessary for anyone interested in the province’s cultural development, and in Canadian book and library history. The text is lavishly illustrated with black and white, and colour, photos. Cartoons by Adrian Raeside are interspersed throughout the volume.

In the foreword to this second edition of *Books as History: The Importance of Books Beyond Their Texts*, author David Pearson clearly states the work’s two aims: “Primarily, [this book] is about the various ways in which books can be interesting as artefacts, as objects with individual histories and design characteristics, beyond whatever value they have in the texts they convey. The ways in which books are made, owned, written in, mutilated and bound all add something to the documentary heritage which is central to the record of human civilisation. The second theme is around the importance of seeing this, at a time when the world of books is in flux, and the need for them is questioned as their traditional functions are increasingly undertaken by electronic media” (5). While the reference to “human civilisation” is a bit misleading considering Pearson focuses mostly on British book history, this work does generally accomplish both aims. Pearson is clearly passionate about his topic, and he succeeds in providing an engaging and informative introduction to books as meaningful cultural objects – as not only texts, but also “containers of texts.” Significantly, he does so through extensive use of photos of books: he shows the reader how these books matter in ways beyond the words they contain, by letting images of covers, bindings, illustrations, and marginalia prove it. While one is, of course, taught never to judge a book by its cover, Pearson suggests that covers, and all other paratextual elements, in fact have much to tell about a book’s history.

Pearson begins his work, which would be of interest to scholars of book culture, manuscript studies, and European cultural history, with a chapter on books in history, in which he also refers to the history of bibliography itself. This section offers a basic introduction to the topic; while Pearson’s mention of bibliographer Don McKenzie, who studied the sociology of texts and “how the material form in