



Jessica MacQueen <jlmacqueen@gmail.com>

October 29th Consultation at the Provincial Archives of Alberta

Denise Daubert <denise.daubert@shaw.ca>
To: jlmacqueen@gmail.com

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Hello Jessica,

I appreciated being invited to and being able to attend the consultation on October 29th.

It was recommended that if participants wanted to share comments that they do so by sending them to you.

I am a freelance writer by profession (advertising/public relations background) and I am a genealogist by hobby. I reside just outside of Edmonton.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACROSS CANADA:

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I feel that libraries are doing a good job of offering the general public both traditional printed materials and also digitized materials. They draw a broad range of people into the libraries with programs such as senior reading clubs, children's programs and presentations on topics including travel etc. Children, in particular (as evidenced by the story that was shared at the consultation about the little fellow going to the library) love visiting the library. The libraries are also well used by students for study and research purposes.

It would be a shame if libraries were reduced to places where only computers and digitized resources were offered.

ARCHIVES ACROSS CANADA:

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Archives (small, big and medium) have a bit more of a challenge as traditionally they cater to a specialized audience: those who are interested in history and those who are genealogists. I believe the key here is involving young people and educating them about archives and what they have to offer. Archives are for everyone! In Alberta, for example, the grade six curriculum in Social Studies includes a segment on family ancestry; perhaps the concept of field trips could be explored to bring young people to an archives. A number of childrens' books exist that may spark interest (an example being *Something to Remember Me By* by Susan V. Bosak).

I think archives need to be strong messengers about preservation of our history through documents, microfilms and items and to broadcast the message that "not everything about history and genealogy is on-line". Certainly, digitization of records has been a wonderful thing (and will continue to be) but nothing replaces holding an original church register or community history book in your hands.

Archives have a social/networking aspect that is indeed important. Archivists can point someone in the right direction on a one-on-one face-to-face basis.

I feel it is integral to retain what we have at archives and continue to continue to add to the holdings. To complement that, on-line resources should also continue to be offered as we move into the future.

It is also important to recognize that all Canadians are not familiar with/comfortable with on-line resources; I speak here of Canadian seniors.

If archives across Canada do not continue to receive funding, there will be a loss of jobs for archivists and preservation technicians.

Thank you for allowing me to offer my comments.

Denise (Juchli) Daubert

217, 52450 Range Road 222

Ardrossan, Alberta T8E 2G3

[780-922-4600](tel:780-922-4600)

Denise.daubert@shaw.ca