

# Report on the *Directory of Music Collections in Canada*

By Carol Ohlers  
Scott Library, York University

I spent a six-month sabbatical (March-August 1997) compiling a directory of the major music collections in Canada. Over the last few years, there was discussion among CAML members about the need for a such a directory. My model was the National Library of Canada's *Music Resources in Canadian Collections*, published in 1980. I hope that the *Directory of Music Collections in Canada* will also prove useful to libraries and researchers.

## Background

A draft of the institutional survey form was posted on the CANMUS-L electronic discussion list in early 1996. I asked for comments and was pleased to receive many helpful suggestions. The survey was then distributed in print and online versions in both official languages. The print version was published in the CAML Newsletter in December 1996, and also mailed out to non-CAML institutions. Rob van der Blik developed the Web form of the survey, which was mounted on the CAML Web site in English in March 1997. The French form was delayed for two months because of the strike of the York University Faculty Association that coincided with my sabbatical.

My primary source for selecting institutions to contact was the *Directory of Libraries in Canada*. The initial response was not overwhelming, and it was necessary to follow up with many libraries to include them in the Directory. The information was compiled from responses received between January 1997 and December 1999.

Responses were received from 60 of the 122 institutions that were contacted. Of the completed surveys, two of the most important points of information—collection strengths and uncatalogued collections of note—were often overlooked or not expanded upon. This was disappointing since the information in these categories is not readily identifiable in library catalogues. In order to rectify the omission, I checked many of the Web pages and copied the relevant information into my database. I also tested the URL and made corrections when necessary. The site URL was also noted if it was not included on the original completed form. This was very time-consuming, but definitely worth the effort.

The database for the Directory was designed using Microsoft Access 97. I attended courses at York's Microcomputer Training Centre to learn how to design the tables, reports and queries that eventually resulted in the Directory. Wendy Drahovzal and Donna Smith of the Microcomputer Training Centre were of great assistance during the course of the project.

## Result

The Directory is arranged alphabetically by province and city, and indexed by institutional name and library type. It is published in looseleaf format in a binder to allow for updating. All of the institutions that participated in the survey received a complimentary copy. I wish to express my sincere thanks to CAML for providing the funds for publication. An Internet version is planned for the near future.