



Press Release

[Ottawa, April 1, 2008]

Canadiana.org and AlouetteCanada merger announced

Ottawa – On March 6, 2008 the Boards of the **Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions (CIHM)** and the **Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL)** concluded an historic agreement to merge the **CIHM** and the **AlouetteCanada** initiative to create a new body with the official name of **Canadiana.org**. All parties declared their commitment to a coordinated and sustained program to digitize Canada's information and knowledge resources and to provide easy online access to the extraordinary wealth of written and other resources by and about Canadians

President of the Board for the new organization, John Teskey, University Librarian at University of New Brunswick says, "Imagine a country where every citizen has the opportunity to access its online cumulative cultural heritage; a country able to harness the will and energy of every library, archive, gallery, museum, historical society or institute of record to create a comprehensive collection of digital resources for the benefit of its citizens; a country committed to eliminating barriers of access, not only physical but geographical... through the work of our new organization, that country is Canada. Today, through the merger and work of **Canadiana.org** and **AlouetteCanada**, Canada is the country with that vision and **Canadiana.org** is now able to play a major role in realizing a coherent, national vision."

Canadiana.org is a member-supported nation-wide alliance of high level organizations including provincial and national level representative bodies such as provincial libraries, archives, museums and associations, the publishing and broadcasting communities and more, as well as an alliance of those holders, creators and contributors of content. **Canadiana.org** is a non-profit organization governed by a board of directors composed of distinguished Canadian scholars and directors of major cultural institutions. There is an open invitation for everyone who is willing and able to come and play their own unique part in developing our collective Canadian online memory.

Canadiana.org's Executive Director Magdalene Albert says, "For 30 years, the former **CIHM** has been one of the leading services of its kind in the world. The expertise of its staff in researching, locating, cataloguing and digitizing Canada's published heritage for preservation as well as discovery and use by Canadians is widely recognized". New Co-Director Brian Bell states, "The merger with **AlouetteCanada** brings with it the commitment to creating, disseminating, preserving and sustaining the Canadian memory knowledge base in digital form for the benefit of all Canadians".

Canadiana.org will act in concert with the Canadian Digital Information Strategy presently being developed by Library and Archives Canada.

The Board of **Canadiana.org** calls on governments and funding bodies to support this new organization and its vision, to ensure that Canadians will know themselves and that the world will know Canada - now and for generations to come.

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