Towards a Canadian Digitization Strategy

Janine Schmidt  
*McGill University*

Louis Houle  
*McGill University*

http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/iatul/2008/papers/8
Towards a Canadian Digitisation Strategy

Janine Schmidt and Louis Houle, McGill University, Canada.
Ph: +1 514 398 4677
Email: director.libraries@mcgill.ca

Canada, like most other nations, has been experimenting with various approaches to digitization. Although the way forward may still seem chaotic, unstructured and not easy to find, there have been some recent regrouping strategies to bring together the various stakeholders such as academic institutions, national libraries, public libraries, archives and museums, along with a digitization strategy. Is it possible in Canada to unite the various disparate approaches which had developed like AlouetteCanada, BAnQ, CHIN, CIDL, LAC, Synergies and other ones so they can work collaboratively within a common framework or is this just another chimera? In 2005, Library and Archives Canada held discussions across Canada and has also brought forward a national strategy for further discussion. Again in 2005 (Fall), a meeting of CARL (Canadian Association of Research Libraries) stimulated the establishment of AlouetteCanada in order to promote regional synergies and to contribute to the development of Canadian unity. Academic libraries have been involved in digitization to support research and teaching activities as well as digitization of materials to maintain, sustain and succour Canadian heritage. This paper outlines the current stage of developments and indicates possible future directions.