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# THE ROLE AND IMPACT OF LIBRARIANS IN THE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION IN CANADA

A Literature Review and  
Annotated Bibliography

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May 2008

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A Literature Review and Annotated Bibliography

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## Introduction

I believe that librarians are one missing link in the chain, the network, which will someday make legal information readily available and understandable to all Canadians (Richeson, 1980, p. 31).

Public legal education began as a movement within the law schools in Canada during the mid-1970s. Stemming from the anti-poverty social justice movement in the United States, public legal education (PLE) was spearheaded by a group of motivated lawyers, educators, and librarians. Lawyer Lois Gander (1999) writes about how “a few concerned individuals and agencies began to respond not only to the need for legal information and assistance but also to the challenge of using the law to remedy social injustice” (p.6). It would not be long before librarians drawn into that group of “concerned individuals” would begin to have an impact on the scope and value of public legal education in Canada. In a speech to the American Association of Law Libraries in 1979, Canadian librarian Gail Dykstra distinguished between the public legal educational approaches of Canada and the United States by explaining that in Canada “separate public legal education and information agencies have developed – separated, not divorced from the clinical service programs” (p. 2).

One year later at a public libraries conference held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, pioneering PLE librarian Meg Richeson spoke of the growing interest and demand of the Canadian public in law-related matters, and how the daily functioning of Canadians’ lives required some understanding of the law. In fact, “good citizenship demands that we know the law” she argued (1980, p. 35). Librarians proved to be well-suited for the development of that very citizenship engagement essential to public legal education.

The potential of PLE lay in the public being engaged with the Canadian legal system as a proactive measure against social injustice. PLE was seen to meet the legal education needs of non-lawyers in addition to helping the public understand the legal system well

enough to be able to actively participate in law-related activities. Librarians were passionate to explore those potentials as it appealed directly to the underlying tenet of librarianship to create access to information for all.

A national scope for public legal education in Canada was created in the 1980s through the formation by the federal government of the Canadian Legal Information Council (CLIC). CLIC developed a clearinghouse and assumed a coordinating role devoted exclusively to public legal education. With funding by the Department of Justice, every province and territory in the nation – with the exception of New Brunswick – became home to at least one sole-purpose PLE organization.

By the mid-1990s, huge challenges (in the form of a national recession) created funding cuts to all PLE organizations and resulted in the dissolution of CLIC and all of its research and coordination efforts. These cuts forced PLE enthusiasts to adopt creative measures. During this difficult time public legal educators, librarians among them, embraced an emerging avenue for the dissemination of information: the Information Highway or the Internet. Librarians, alongside lawyers and educators, would once again be at the forefront to move PLE into the exciting new medium.

Many PLE organizations today are part of a network called the Public Legal Education Association of Canada (PLEAC). Unlike the federally funded Canadian Legal Information Council, PLEAC is funded almost entirely by members' fees. These organizations continue to provide information about the law, educate the public about accessing legal resources, encourage active citizenship and advocate for plain language use in any writing about the law. Today, every sole-purpose PLE organization, many with librarians as part of their staff, utilizes the Internet as one more tool to create access to legal information for all Canadians, and as a democratizing agent for social justice.

## Methodology

Historical public legal education collections from the Legal Resource Centre of Alberta, the Canadian Legal Information Council, the Department of Justice Canada, and the Legal Services Society of B.C. were examined for this project to identify individual librarians and their published writings. Published writings from other authors were also studied when they recognized the public legal education work of those identified librarians.

The content for the literature review and annotated bibliography was gathered from the above-mentioned historical collections, and was then reviewed and analyzed using qualitative methodologies. My experiences and understanding of the field as a PLE librarian enabled me to interpret and make sense of what I saw and read. As one mode of qualitative research analysis used in this project, hermeneutics provided a way of understanding the textual data gathered from these collections. The aim of the hermeneutic analysis is to try to make sense of the whole, and the relationship between people, the organization, and information technology (Myers).

Additional resources were gathered through catalogue and Internet searches; while others were identified by contacting PLE librarians from across the country with a request for information. Both Gail Dykstra and Meg Richeson, the two librarians who feature prominently throughout this bibliography, were contacted via email, and in the case of Richeson, we met personally for a short preliminary interview. The gathered publications and writings were then scanned and read for content and relevance. Understanding that qualitative research is primarily exploratory in nature, I scanned and considered each resource for particular information that addressed the following areas of interest:

- The librarians themselves;
- Their unique roles and responsibilities; and

- Their role in creating public access to legal information over the course of 30 years.

The analysis examined the impact of librarianship and librarians on public legal education historically, through their relationships and contributions, and considered the relevance of that impact on the field today.

## The Librarians

Librarians have been critical to the successful delivery of public legal education to Canadians. PLE librarians across Canada have been dedicated to the ideas of increasing public access to legal information, as well as developing the skills of non-lawyers to use and to influence the legal system. These librarians often held (and still hold) non-traditional roles and responsibilities that push the boundaries of their profession.

Librarians involved in the public legal education field in its early days were a new breed. Sandra Garvie, librarian with the Legal Resource Centre in Edmonton until her untimely death in 1979, was an example of this versatile and passionate purveyor of information.

Sandra was a paralegal – a librarian who developed public law library service, trained legal information workers, and developed popular legal publications in order to bring legal information to the people of Alberta. Sandra was one of the new paralegals – teachers, librarians and other professionals contributing to public legal education and legal services in unique ways [...] Sandra Garvie's work in legal information defined one more facet of the paralegal picture (Richeson, 1980, p.42).

In fact, the preeminent collection of historical Canadian public legal education materials has been named the Sandra Garvie Memorial Collection, and is housed in the Garvie Reading Room at the Legal Resource Centre (LRC) in Edmonton, Alberta.

Gail Dykstra and Marion/Meg Richeson (later Horn) dominate the literature from the mid-1970s onward. Their work and writings span not only decades of the public legal education movement in Canada but also across provinces. In 1980, Dykstra and Richeson were invited as keynote-speakers at the *Libraries and the Law* conference held in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The PLE movement, although still in its infancy had fired up both Dykstra

and Richeson with a passion and enthusiasm for the cause that was infectious. The “benign neglect” for the law by public librarians was instead fast becoming a “vigorous concern” (Dykstra, 1980, p. 17). This “vigorous concern” according to Dykstra was due not only to public demand and the increasing quality and quantity of available resources, but also to the strong impetus and will from librarians themselves. Richeson agreed and added that it was the responsibility not only of governments, bar associations, law societies and legal service agencies but also of *librarians* to inform citizens of their rights and responsibilities under the law – before those citizens were “slapped down by the presumption that they know the law” (1980, p. 35).

Dykstra and Richeson were joined by librarians in academia, some of whom were publishing research and studies on the legal information needs of the Canadian public (Dewdney, Jewett) while others focused on the needs of school libraries and students (Rhyason, O’Brien.) Recent retirees (Pearce, Sherman) spanned a variety of workplaces including the law courts, and provincial PLE organizations. The attached annotated bibliography contains additional Canadian librarians who were involved in the early parts of the movement, and whose influence in the form of publications, presentations, and participation in the field of public legal education had an impact on the development of the field through all of its successes and challenges.

The Report of the Law for the Layman Committee (a report prepared for CLIC, 1979) states: “Democracy itself presupposes the involvement of the nation’s citizens. If we are to participate actively, we must be informed” (as cited in Richeson, 1980, p.37). PLE librarians including Richeson, Dykstra, and Garvie were guided by the notion that good, responsible citizenship demands public knowledge of the law and legal system.

## Unique Roles and Responsibilities

Librarians in public legal education needed to develop critical skills that sometimes differed from the broader field of librarianship. The public user required legal information to be accessible and understandable at a time when the legal content was not being created for the public consumption or comprehension of the law. It became necessary therefore for librarians to develop innovative ways to provide reference and referral, as well as create resource materials specifically designed for the public and ultimately expand their role in numerous other ways.

Dykstra and Richeson again lead the way in their writings and presentations about providing reference and referral for legal information. They describe how referrals are a necessary component of public legal education and should not be seen as “an admission of defeat” (Dykstra, 1980, p. 103). It became critical then for PLE librarians to know their community well so that relevant and appropriate referrals could be made.

As libraries became more involved in creating access to legal information for the public, the need for reference training also grew more evident. The legal reference interview contained some unique characteristics and it became necessary to train librarians in the practice of legal advice versus legal information. Thomas Heitz wrote about this important and critical distinction in the early days of the movement (1977) and the topic has remained at the forefront of PLE librarianship. Richeson advised librarians to tell patrons that they were not legally trained and could therefore not give advice. She spoke about the “should” problem in a legal reference interview, where librarians must refrain from telling patrons what they “should” or “should not” do (n.d., p. 2).

In her article about the work of the Legal Services Society of B.C., Meg Richeson writes that “librarians are impeded in delivering legal information by the lack of materials available for the layman” (1977, p. 5). A key concern that arose during the *Access to*

*Law and Justice* workshop in 1983 was that there was an absence of “clear, easily understood information on what the law is and how it works” (Ministry of Justice, 1983, p.67). This concern would be raised again and again by public legal educators, including librarians during the 1980s and well into the 1990s. Librarians, in response and in collaboration with lawyers and educators began to create pamphlets, FAQs and later on, websites about the law written in ways that the public could understand. These materials would be geared to a number of different publics – immigrants, youth, women, and teachers among many others.

Examples of some of the many materials created by, or with the assistance of public legal education librarians include:

- Richeson’s work in the development of the *Divorce Law- Questions and Answers* pamphlet by the Department of Justice;
- another Richeson and Department of Justice collaboration with a pamphlet geared towards the public about Bill C-19 (“C.19 is tough...”);
- mock trials presented to public onlookers at the CNE in Toronto (Dykstra);
- puppet shows presented to students and children by the Legal Resource Centre of Alberta (Kayler);
- and legal information modules for immigrants called “Learning about the Law” (Sherman.)

While librarians within PLE were writing bibliographies and creating access to statutes, they were often also described as “field workers”, who visited schools, met with teacher-librarians and assessed the legal information needs of school library collections.

Librarians with organizations like Legal Services Society in British Columbia and the Legal Resource Centre (LRC) in Alberta were able to secure funding from provincial law foundations for schools to purchase resources (Dykstra, Gail. (Ed.), 1977, p. 6). One project with significant impact in training librarians was the Legal Materials Training Project coordinated by the LRC. It operated from 1977 through the 1980s. Outreach librarian Dani Pahulje described the Legal Materials Placement Project as one designed

to upgrade the legal collections in all public libraries in Alberta; to provide instruction to library staff on the use and maintenance of their collections; and to encourage libraries to become involved in public legal education activities (Legal Resource Centre, 1985).

PLE librarians sought to educate and share information with each other and part of Gail Dykstra's national role at CLIC was as editor of the *Legal Materials Letter*, described as the essential guide for selecting Canadian legal materials. This guide provided articles for libraries, teachers, and service organizations on a variety of topics relating to legal materials and libraries. In the 1985 edition, Dykstra points out that "a library is not just a repository of written information, it is also a valuable source of information on the community and for the community it serves. Information on the law and legal services must never be an exception to that rule" (p.25).

Training other librarians became a critical role for many of the early PLE librarians, and is a role that continues today. Dykstra saw the importance of training librarians to overcome the "fear and loathing syndrome" exhibited towards legal information in libraries (1980, p.78). Nationwide workshops and training sessions were held for teachers and public librarians and, while energetic, enthusiastic and passionate, librarians admit they were also sometimes naïve about how much and what they could realistically accomplish alone (Richeson, Meg, (Ed.), 1981, p. 7). This need for training of public librarians is still an issue today as evidenced by the CALL 2007 presentation by Joan Cavanaugh of the Ottawa Public Library. Cavanaugh explained that reference staff in public libraries would like to receive training about: the best websites for legal information; the basic legal sources to use; and the ways to improve the referral process to legal organizations that could help (Sheppard). Mona Pearce in her role as Head of Legal Information Services with the Department of Justice, Newfoundland and Labrador presented at the *Change: A Time for Reflection* conference in 1982 about an additional need for teacher-training. Pearce argued that while Canada must provide more comprehensive law-related programs, it was even more essential that any law program

introduced in schools contain a teacher-training component (Legal Resource Centre, 1982).

That enthusiasm, energy and knowledge of librarians was channelled into a series of Public Legal Education and Information (PLEI) Futures meetings facilitated by Richeson and the Department of Justice in sessions held across the country. Richeson met with lawyers, provincial government officials, law school deans, law students, directors of PLE organizations, and other librarians. The sessions focused on the future of PLEI and the role of the Department of Justice in that future.

This type of national leadership role exhibited by librarians like Gail Dykstra and Meg Richeson meant that they were asked often to participate in conferences and study groups across the country. At the *People's Law Conference (What Canadians want from the Law)* held in Ottawa in 1983, Dykstra was one of 450 lay and professional people invited by the Ministry of Justice because of her concern for the law in Canada. Participants were asked to help determine what the *people* wanted. Minister Mark MacGuigan stated in his invitation to Dykstra that “this conference is an attempt to move beyond the perspective of the legal profession and reach the basic concerns of those the law is intended to serve” (Ministry of Justice, 1983, p.3).

Further cementing the librarian influence on the national PLE stage, Richeson and fellow librarian Linda Jewett both sat on the advisory board of the *Canadian Community Law Journal* representing British Columbia and Ontario respectively.

## Creating Access

Creating access to information is a primary component of librarianship and one that remains true in the field of public legal education. However to create access, the obstacles of legal language and text-heavy resources had to be overcome.

A key aspect of the creation of access to the law for Canadians was developing materials written in plain language. This push for plain language began almost immediately and perhaps unconsciously, just as the PLE movement itself began. The more formal push towards plain language appeared in the 1980s and has continued to present-day where PLE organizations often employ plain language handbooks or editors to ‘decode’ the legal text. Dykstra through her work with CLIC passed a motion to endorse the plain language approach to legal writing at CLIC’s 1986 annual general meeting. The plain language resolution was introduced by librarian Mona Pearce representing at that time the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. The motion was passed unanimously.

In 1989, *Plain Language: Clear and Simple* was published as a combined effort of the Department of Justice and nine other federal departments. Meg Richeson and other librarians sat on this committee to create the guide to show people how to write using plain language techniques. These techniques were then incorporated into the creation of legal information resources like pamphlets, posters, and guides. Since 1989, plain language has been adopted not only for producing materials about the law, but also within other industries wishing to be understood and engaged with an educated public (insurance, health, etc.).

It was determined that access to information need not only be through print or face-to-face interviews with a librarian. In their report *Telephone Legal Information Services: A Canadian Perspective*, librarians Nancy Hannum and Anna Visy explored public legal education organizations across the country that utilized a telephone service that allowed

access for rural and urban users. Hannum and Visy identified those PLE organizations with librarians on staff and wrote an additional report that focused solely on the telephone services of the Legal Services Society of B.C. which “demonstrated how the skills of librarians benefit the giving of legal information to the public” (Visy, 1992, p.104). This use of telephone access for public legal information would pave the way for librarians and public legal educators to explore other innovative ways to create access to information (like the Internet.)

In the early days of public legal education Gaylen Duncan, Director of CLIC spoke of the future and what it would hold for librarians. He spoke of a future that some may have perceived as “science fiction” but one which CLIC had already embraced. The future Duncan spoke of was one of automated legal retrieval, or computers and the law (Creech, 1983, p. 64.) He beseeched the profession of librarianship to “guide the public from the hopelessly dated and inefficient research methods and tools used today to the modern systems available now and being developed” (p. 75). And while “the concept of a citizen demanding access to the statutes of Canada through a computer terminal in a public library may sound like science fiction today” (p.71), Duncan explained that even in 1980, computer technology was already being incorporated as a unique experiment for PLE in the Saskatoon Public Library. Richeson would identify the achievement of getting all federal statutes online as one of her proudest accomplishments while she was part of the team at the Department of Justice in the mid-1980s (Horn, 2007). Today we take that access for granted.

Although there was support for the idea of electronic access within the field, it was the national recession of the 1990s and the subsequent dramatic funding cuts to public legal education that forced organizations and their librarians to set off on a new approach, that of the Internet and the information highway. Since that time, and the popularization of the World Wide Web, the Internet has become an essential means for delivering public legal education.

Ahead of many other professions, by the early 1990s a group of PLE librarians and educators had instigated the evolution of PLEI-Net, or the Public Legal Education and Information Network. Spearheaded by the Department of Justice's Meg Richeson, PLEI-Net provided a forum for discussion which "transcended distance and time", and where participants did not need to be in one place at the same time for interaction to occur. This was "science fiction" brought to life. In one transcript, Richeson requested feedback from the network on information and services available to rural, farm women who were experiencing abuse or needed legal information. Within one week, Richeson (and the rest of the forum) received three responses from three different organizations representing a remarkable turnaround time not seen before PLEI-Net was developed. The PLEI-Net forum involved public legal educators and librarians, and broached subjects like plain and clear language, as well as the multi-lingual provision of legal information. Richeson would refer to librarians Nancy Hannum in British Columbia and Peter Webster in Nova Scotia not only as those who provided the important "service" of public legal education but who taught others how to do it as well (PLEI-Net, 1993).

In her *Libraries Without Walls* report of 1997, new-generation PLE librarian Val Footz wrote about the Access to Justice Network (or ACJNet.) Footz described how ACJNet launched its Internet site in 1995 as a full public domain that offered free information on law and justice. She wrote that "the development of the ACJNet Libraries Without Walls was the logical progression in the evolution of libraries" (p. 18). ACJNet continues to exist today under the responsibility of a professional librarian providing access to legal information to all Canadians in both official languages.

In 1998, Gail Dykstra was again called upon to participate in a Department of Justice Canada brainstorming session. The session looked into the role of Justice Canada in supporting access to legal information on the Internet. A group of Internet experts and representatives of social justice and legal information organizations were consulted to better understand the needs and gaps related to online legal information as well as

identify priorities and obtain advice on the role of Justice in supporting access to legal information on the Internet.

Robert St-Laurent, Manager, Litigation, Information Management and Technology Directorate of Justice Canada identified further the rich influence of librarian Meg Richeson in his presentation entitled *Justice on the Electronic Highway*. The session was presented during a Justice Canada conference held to teach participants how to use the Internet and to make the justice system more accessible and responsive to the needs of the public. In his presentation, St-Laurents listed his top ten reasons to adopt ACJNet. One of these reasons was that it was “hot” with Meg Richeson’s recent gold medal win for her leadership work with ACJNet (St-Laurent, 1995). Richeson would be further identified as the mover and shaker of ACJNet and that it was “through her creativity and unshaken persistence that ACJNet was conceived and created” (Access to Justice Network, 1994, p.3).

## Conclusion

Many of the battles fought by librarians like Dykstra and Richeson over the past 30 years remain relevant in public legal education librarianship today. Issues of funding remain critical, cooperation and networking is still needed across the country, and the lack of research in the field is evident. While there is an identified need for more research in public legal education (Sherman, 2007), there exists also the need for more research by the women in PLE (Gander, 2007). Just as women are disproportionately represented in librarianship, so too are they in public legal education. This literature review and accompanying bibliography act as a starting point for further research and writings to give voice to those librarians who helped to define the practice of public legal education in Canada.

In a 1982 session entitled “Public Legal Education: Formats for Tomorrow”, Meg Richeson cautioned that while new technologies could be of great use to public legal education, PLE providers (and librarians) must also be able to answer questions like: *how* to do it, *why* to do it and *for whom* are we doing it (Legal Resource Centre, 1982). Sixteen years later, it remains prudent for public legal educators and librarians to heed Richeson’s words.

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# Annotated Bibliography

## Introduction

In her speech to librarians gathered at the Atlantic Provinces Library Association Conference in 1980, Gail Dykstra said:

I am involved on a day to day basis, and committed to the idea that the public has a right to demand access to information on the law – increased, improved and widely available access to information – which is a right and not a privilege – to be granted or withheld by governments, or by our social and cultural institutions (p. 10).

I too, am a librarian immersed in the day to day work of public legal education, and deeply committed to the ideal that the public's right of access not only to information but to *legal* information is a right inherent to the free society in which we live. Through the course of gathering, reading, and organizing the following books, articles, and resources into this annotated bibliography and accompanying literature review, I was struck more than once by the passion and commitment of those librarians who have gone before me.

This annotated bibliography is not meant to be completely comprehensive but rather a selected list of resources relating to the role and impact of librarians in the field of public legal education (PLE) in Canada. The annotations are meant to be introductory, and often the text was taken directly from the resources themselves.

Two librarians, Gail Dykstra and Meg Richeson appear frequently in this bibliography – having written and been written about more predominantly in the literature. There remain, however many other librarians who have had an impact on the field, including many who will continue to do so. This bibliography attempts to identify those librarians and the important work they accomplished.

The resources found in this bibliography range from print documents to published books, pamphlets to presentation notes, and audio taped interviews to podcasts. In some cases, an entire magazine or publication is entered as one resource in the bibliography while in other cases, specific articles from those magazines or publications are entered individually.

Many of the resources in the bibliography can be found in the Sandra Garvie Memorial Collection housed in the Garvie Reading Room of the Legal Resource Centre in Edmonton, Alberta. This bibliography and the accompanying literature review are meant to be the preliminary research of a much larger project that would involve personal interviews with the librarians listed here. Interviews would delve deeper into their impact and relevance in the fields of public legal education and librarianship.

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Access to Justice Network. (1995). *ACJNet News – Spotlight on Meg Richeson*. [Pamphlet]. San San Sy (Ed.).

This newsletter featured a spotlight about Meg Richeson and her gold medal award for her work with ACJNet. The honour was awarded through the Federal Awards Program and presented at the second annual celebration of Excellence in the Management of Information Technology.

Canadian Law Information Council. (1983). CLIC Papers on Public Legal Education and Information (No. 2). *Atlantic Regional PLE Conference: summary of proceedings and resource material*. Canadian Law Information Council.

This conference was held following the *Change: A Time for Reflection* conference presented in Edmonton the previous year. The conference was held based on the realization that a regional meeting of persons interested in public legal education could accelerate the legal information network in the Atlantic region. The conference was organized by a planning committee comprised of representatives from PLE organizations in all of the Atlantic provinces including Mona Pearce from Newfoundland and Labrador. There was an opening address and overview of PLE in Canada by Gail Dykstra and a presentation about the work of PLE in Newfoundland and Labrador by Pearce.

Community Law Program. (1978). *Canadian Community Law Journal*. Faculty of Law, University of Windsor.

Librarians Marion (Meg) Richeson and Linda Jewett sat on the advisory board of this publication on behalf of British Columbia and Ontario, respectively. The two main purposes of the publication were to: inform those persons conducting community legal education programs of what written and audio visual materials were available as well as the services provided by other organizations and how to access these; and to draw upon the experience and ideas of others currently working in the field of community legal education. The Journal was discontinued in 1985.

Creech, Heather. (Ed.). (1983). *Libraries and the Law. Proceedings of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association Conference*. Dalhousie University Libraries and Dalhousie University School of Library Service: Occasional Paper 31.

Creech compiled and edited these proceedings of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association Conference held in 1980. The theme of the conference was “Libraries and the Law” and its purpose was to accommodate the need expressed by

librarians in the Atlantic region for information about the use of legal materials, and to underline the role that librarians should be playing in providing access to legal information. Papers and workshops were delivered by many different librarians including Gail Dykstra, Meg Richeson and Mona Pearce.

Currie, Janet & Roberts, Tim. (n.d.). *An Evaluation Resource Book for Public Legal Education and Information Organizations*. The Canadian Law Information Council.

Gail Dykstra as Director of the Legal Information Secretariat for CLIC conceived of and secured funds for this project and assisted in the development of this resource book. The book was created for and with direct input from public legal education and information groups to help them understand and perform better evaluations. This resource guide was designed to deal with the evaluation needs of staff ranging from large quasi-government PLE organizations to small experimental programs to short-term focused projects. To meet these varying needs, the book was broken up into a series of modules, each focusing on an aspect of evaluation, and each module divided into specific subject areas.

Department of Justice. (1995). *Justice on the Electronic Highway. Proceedings from the Conference hosted by the Legal Education Division*.

This resource draws together the conference proceedings and materials from the Department of Justice conference held on January 31 – February 1, 1995 in Hull, Québec. The conference was intended to help attendees learn how to use the ‘Electronic or Information Highway’ as a way to make the justice system more accessible and responsive to the public. Seminar materials include a presentation by Robert St Laurent (manager, Litigation Information Management and Technology Directorate) about ACJNet (Access to Justice Network) with specific reference to the work of Meg Richeson.

Department of Justice. (1991). *PLEI futures consultations (held in Yellowknife, Vancouver, Ontario, Nova Scotia, Yukon and Saskatchewan.)* Tapes and transcripts. Department of Justice Canada.

These tapes and transcripts are part of a series of consultations held across the country facilitated by Meg Richeson and funded by the Department of Justice. The conversations focused on the future of public legal education and information (PLEI), and the role of the Department of Justice in that future. Among the many topics discussed, they focused on the financial relationship between the federal government and the provincial PLEI organizations; the roles of Justice and PLEI organizations to create access to legal information; and new and emerging technologies.

Dewdney, Patricia & Stackhouse, Eric. (1988). *Education for legal information service in public libraries: final report*. University of Western Ontario. School of Library and Information Science.

This report was written by Dewdney, Research Associate and Stackhouse, MLIS student at the School of Library and Information Science, University of Western Ontario. The purpose of the study was to describe the educational opportunities available to librarians who provide legal information service in Ontario public libraries. The results identified that many Ontario librarians felt a need for more or better education in order to deliver legal information services in public libraries. This however was also met with the dilemma that although public librarians provide legal information services often enough to experience routine problems, it is not often enough to justify specialization in legal information service. A framework to link Ontario public libraries with other organizations and individuals to create a specialized resource centre for legal information service was suggested by the authors.

Dewdney, Patricia , Coghlan, Sam, Chan, Christine-Sue, & Ross, Catherine S. (1987). *Legal information services in Ontario public libraries: final report of a research study funded by the libraries and community information branch, Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Culture*. Ontario. Ministry of Citizenship and Culture.

The purpose of this study was to examine in some detail the types of problems encountered by Ontario librarians in providing access to legal information and to determine the need for special training or other kinds of assistance. A related objective was to generate and document the ideas of Ontario librarians as to how their problems could best be solved. Recommendations of the researchers included that: educational and training needs should be addressed by organizations like library associations, graduate schools of library study and PLE services; publishers should be encouraged to improve the organization, indexing and delivery system for existing publications; library associations should advise of gaps in literature; professional development materials about the provision of legal information services should be published; and funding should be sought to enhance the quality of legal information services.

Dykstra, Gail. (1977). Answering Questions on the Law: Opinions. *Special Issue: The Law. Emergency Librarian*, 4(3), 18-20.

Dykstra attempted to gather opinions about the proper response to a request from the public for information on the law. She contacted librarians, lawyers, library administrators and law book publishers and asked them to respond to a case study with their impressions on the proper response by a librarian in a non-law library.

Dykstra, Gail. (1977). How and Why: Legal Information Referrals. *Special Issue: The Law. Emergency Librarian*, 4 (3), 14-15.

In this special issue of *Emergency Librarian*, Dykstra presented detailed steps for legal information referral. She wrote that every referral must be tailored to meet the specific demands of individual queries and the available resources of each community.

Dykstra, Gail. (1980). Law and the Practising Librarian: Access to information on the Law. In H. Creech, (Ed.), (1983). *Libraries and the Law. Proceedings of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association Conference*. Dalhousie University Libraries and Dalhousie University School of Library Service: Occasional Paper 31.

Dykstra presented the keynote address at this conference held in Halifax in 1980. Dykstra believed that libraries had a significant and vital role to play in the provision of access to information on the law. In her address, she spoke of the growing public demand for legal information, the quantity and quality of available resources, and the impetus for change for libraries in Canada. Dykstra also provided an overview of the types of actions, programs and plans that libraries had already implemented in their delivering of public legal education and information.

Dykstra, Gail. (1981). Lockers, the Strap, Liability and the Law. *Youth and the Law. Emergency Librarian*, 8 (3-4), 20-22.

This bibliography focused on the rights and responsibilities of students and teachers under Canadian law.

Dykstra, Gail. (1986). *Plain Language and the Law – CLIC’s Background Documents*. The Canadian Law Information Council.

These documents represent the endorsement of the Canadian Law Information Council (CLIC) for a plain language approach to legal writing. The documents were presented as part of a motion at the May 1986 annual general meeting. Dykstra called upon CLIC to make a plan to meet Canada’s need for a centre to coordinate plain language activities by providing communication, training and research programs to help organizations communicate more effectively with the public. The publication set the stage for the plain language materials that CLIC planned to produce as it clarified the language and design of legal documents and forms to help the public to learn about the law.

Dykstra, Gail (Ed.) (1985). *Selecting legal materials and what to do with them once you've got them*. The Canadian Law Information Council.

This publication pulled together a series of articles originally published between 1980 and 1983 in CLIC's *Legal Materials Letter*. The articles were gathered to meet the need for advice by public and school librarians on how to purchase law-related materials, where to put them on the shelves, how to handle reference questions and how to ensure that the materials were known about and used by library patrons. Articles included: those by Dykstra herself on book selection tools, and how to weed a collection; those by Meg Richeson on location of PLE resources in a library, and providing legal information versus advice; and an article by Grant Kayler on cataloguing and classification of PLE materials.

Dykstra, Gail.(1977). Sources of Canadian Legal Materials. *Special Issue: The Law. Emergency Librarian*, 4(3), 8-10.

This is a brief guide to publishers of legal materials. Dykstra included in the guide sources like: commercial law book publishers, smaller commercial law book publishers, special interest groups and governments.

Dykstra, Gail. (1980). The Care and Feeding of Canadian Legal Materials. In H. Creech, (Ed.), (1983). *Libraries and the Law. Proceedings of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association Conference*. Dalhousie University Libraries and Dalhousie University School of Library Service: Occasional Paper 31.

The aim of this workshop was to make public librarians comfortable working with legal materials. Dykstra emphasized that legal materials need not be intimidating if librarians organize the materials and apply basic principles essential to any collection building.

Dykstra, Gail S. (1983). Public Legal Education: The Canadian Approach. In Robert S. Peck & Charles J. White (Eds.), *Understanding the Law: A Handbook on Educating the Public* (pp. 29-38). American Bar Association.

This article describes how Canada and the United States while both committed to legal literacy, they go about achieving it in different ways. Dykstra discussed in detail the concepts of Public Legal Education and Information (PLEI) in Canada and outlined what makes an effective PLEI program. Dykstra also outlined the Canadian Law Information Council (CLIC) as central to the PLE I Information Network. The article concludes with some tips gleaned from Dykstra and her Canadian PLEI experience.

Dykstra, Gail S. (1979). Speech to the American Association of Law Libraries in San Francisco, July 3, 1979. Gail Dykstra.

In this speech, Dykstra identified herself first as a participant in the legal system and next as a law librarian who spends all of her time involved in public legal education and information. She spoke of the differences between the United States and Canada with regard to public legal education. Throughout the speech, Dykstra spoke also of the underlying importance of libraries and librarians and their roles in PLE. In fact, she identified that *all* libraries are included in the PLE market (not just public libraries) because all libraries handle information on law; all libraries are places where the non-lawyer goes for access to information about the law; and all libraries are able to act as a community resource in the area of law and law-related information.

Dykstra, Gail S. (1984). *Your day in court: Department of Justice 1984 CNE Exhibit: report*. The Canadian Law Information Council.

In 1984, the Department of Justice contracted with the Canadian Law Information Council to act as the on-site administrator of the Department's "Your Day in Court" exhibit at the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) in Toronto. The report describes their unique method of reaching out to the public with PLE and the critical elements involved in putting together such an exhibit. As well, Dykstra provided the script for the mock trial, descriptions of how the event went, and recommendations for future mock trials of this kind. The focus of the event was on how the public could actively participate *in* justice rather than have it be something that was instead done *to* them. Over the twenty days, over 15,000 people saw 285 performances of two mock trials.

Dykstra, Gail & Richeson, Meg. (1980). Reference and Referral Techniques. In H. Creech, (Ed.), (1983). *Libraries and the Law. Proceedings of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association Conference*. Dalhousie University Libraries and Dalhousie University School of Library Service: Occasional Paper 31.

Dykstra presented a session for librarians about referral techniques when providing legal information. She stressed that a patron should be referred to another agency if he/she is asking for some kind of direction to take or for advice. A librarian should help the patron narrow down the choices by describing the services of each agency but should never advise the patron as to which agency to use. Richeson spoke later on in the session about specific reference techniques in handling law-related questions including awareness of questions requiring advice, being familiar with jurisdictional powers, having a good legal dictionary at hand, and ensuring the patron is aware that you are not a lawyer and the limitations of your library collection.

Dykstra, Gail. (Ed.). (1977). Special Issue: The Law. *Emergency Librarian*, 4 (3).

This special issue of *Emergency Librarian* focused on the law with guest editor Gail Dykstra. Contents include articles by librarians Gail Dykstra, Marion (Meg) Richeson, Linda Jewett, Margaret O'Brien and Tom Heitz.

Footz, Valerie & Dubois, Marc. (1997). *ACJNet: Library without Walls*. Legal Studies Program, University of Alberta.

This publication was written by Val Footz of the Legal Studies Program and Marc Dubois of the Department of Justice, Canada. In it, the authors describe the uniqueness that is the Access to Justice Network (ACJNet.) ACJNet was (and is) unique in that it continues to be the only library without walls on the Internet devoted exclusively to Canadian law and justice. The authors argued that ACJNet could serve as a model for all libraries without walls.

Fortin, Marc B. (1983). *Public legal information manual*. Canada. Department of Justice. Programs and Law Information Development.

With an introduction by Gail Dykstra, this guide is a collection of articles depicting trends and ideas of public legal education and information in Canada. The guide was meant to develop the skills and expertise of students working on Justice public legal information projects.

Friedland, M.L., Jewett, Peter E.S., & Jewett, Linda J. (1975). *Access to the law: a study conducted for the Law Reform Commission of Canada*. Carswell/Methuen.

This book provides the results of a Law Reform Commission of Canada study which looked at where Canadians go for information about law and legal advice. The authors looked at the legal questions being asked by the public; at the search for legal information; at libraries disseminating legal information; and finally, at providing better access to the law through libraries (as one option). At the time it was published it was an important resource for those who were involved in the information services and for those who wished to learn about legal information specifically. Ontario librarian Linda Jewett was co-author of both the book and the national study.

Garvie, Sandra, Urschel, Joan, & Fritz, Linda. (1977). *Proposal for a provincial court house library system*. University of Alberta.

This proposal worked on the recommendation of a previous survey regarding the situation of court house libraries in Alberta. The authors identified that the aim of the court house library system is to provide an extensive working library to the legal profession of the province. They also explained how a court house library system could not exclude non-legal users. They argued that funding must be

contingent upon allowing public access to these legal collections. The authors concluded with a tentative schedule for implementation of a court house library system for the province of Alberta.

Heitz, Tom. (1977). *Legal Information vs. Legal Advice. Special Issue: The Law. Emergency Librarian. 4( 3), 20-21.*

Heitz tackled the critical issue of legal information versus legal advice, and warned that there is a distinct danger that an individual will fail to recognize that his/her need is not simply for legal information but rather for legal advice. Heitz also warned there is an equal danger that public reference librarians may miscalculate a user's need and fail to recognize that the problem demands a lawyer rather than the limited resources of the public library.

Hessing, Melody and Linda Thompson. (1984). *Evaluation report: the telephone legal information service of the Legal Resource Centre of British Columbia.* Legal Services Society, Library Services Program.

This report describes the telephone legal information service that was delivered by the Legal Resource Centre program within the Legal Services Society in British Columbia. The purpose of the report was to describe and assess the service as well as be a vehicle for informing others about the telephone service. The authors explained that this service was staffed by librarians (in contrast to other services which utilized para-legals and law students.) The authors identified the importance of using librarians and their specific skills in providing legal information to the public in this manner.

Horn, Meg.(n.d). *Developing a law library.* Personal papers.

These notes contain information and advice about creating a law library, answering legal question, and the history of public legal education across the Canadian provinces.

Horn, Meg. (personal communication, November 30, 2007).

This informal meeting was held as a preliminary interview for the literature review and bibliography. Horn was able to provide names and information pertaining to the history of librarianship within the sector of public legal education in Canada. As well, she was able to provide some insight into her own role as one of the more influential librarians within PLE in Canada.

Jewett, Linda. (1977). Libraries and access to the law. *Special Issue: The Law. Emergency Librarian*, 4(3), 11-13.

Based on the book *Access to the Law* (Methuen / Carswell, 1975), and on unpublished data collected as part of that study, this article described the status of library activity in providing access to legal information, the means used in 1977 to improve library performance, and identified areas that still needed improvement.

Justice Canada. (1998). *Brainstorming Meeting on the Role of the Department of Justice in Supporting Access to Legal Information on the Internet*. Meeting notes.

The Department of Justice consulted a group of internet experts and representatives of social justice and legal information organizations in order to better understand the needs and gaps related to legal information on the internet; to identify priorities; and to obtain advice regarding the role of the Department of Justice in supporting access to legal information on the internet. Included in this group of experts was librarian Gail Dykstra.

Kayler, Grant. (1981). Alberta Legal Resource Centre. *Youth...and the Law. Emergency Librarian*, 8 (3-4), 11.

Kayler wrote about the Alberta Legal Resource Centre (LRC) and its focus on law-related education for youth. He introduced readers to the various youth-focused programs like the LRC touring puppet shows, mock trials, bibliographies and the Centre's weekly radio programs.

Legal Resource Centre Ltd. of Alberta. (1982). *Change: A Time for Reflection. A National Invitational Symposium on Public Legal Education*. Sponsored by the Legal Resource Centre and the Canadian Legal Information Council,

This conference drew together invited public legal educators and librarians from across the country to discuss public legal education in Canada. The symposium brought together senior public legal education practitioners to discuss the changes that were taking place in the field and examine responses to these changes. Through the process of the development, presentation and discussion of symposium papers, the organizers hoped that participants would be better prepared to face the issues confronting the sector and to influence those which would arise in the future. Sessions conducted by librarians included: the Changing Faces of Networks by Meg Richeson and Diane Rhyason; the Role of Education by Mona Pearce; and Formats for Tomorrow by Richeson and Gail Dykstra.

Legal Resource Centre Ltd. of Alberta. (1985). *Legal Materials Placement Project*. Legal Resource Centre.

In the introduction to the Legal Materials Placements Project, Outreach Librarian Dani Pahulje described the project, which began in 1977, with the following objectives: to upgrade the legal collections in all public libraries in Alberta; to provide instruction to library staff on the use and maintenance of their collections; and to encourage libraries to become involved in public legal education activities.

MacPherson, Lillian Bjarnason. (1995). *Final report of the study of law libraries serving the bar and public in Alberta*. Alberta Law Foundation.

This report was prompted by what MacPherson (law librarian at the Weir Law Library at the University of Alberta) saw as an apparent crisis in the Alberta libraries' funding base. The study was commissioned and funded by Alberta Justice, the Alberta Law Foundation, and the Law Society of Alberta.

MacPherson included the following recommendations in her report: that there be a move to a collection that integrated electronic and print resources; that there be financing for the transition year; that a client-centred organization be created that operated in a business-like way; that a new library corporation be created; and that a location be determined.

Ministry of Justice, Canada. (1983). *The People's Law – What Canadians want from the Law. Report from the People's Law Conference*. Ottawa, Ontario.

This conference brought together 450 lay and professional people concerned with the law in Canada. Participants were asked to help determine what *people* wanted from the law and law reform in Canada. The conference was organized by the Ministry of Justice, Canada and Gail Dykstra was one of the invited participants.

O'Brien, Margaret. (1977). *Managing Legal Materials. Special Issue: The Law. Emergency Librarian, 4(3), 16-17.*

O'Brien's article concentrated on practical aspects of managing legal, judicial or governmental materials. She provided concrete suggestions for creating and maintaining an up-to-date law collection for the layperson.

O'Brien, Margaret. (1981). *School Libraries and the Law: Compatible or Incompatible? Youth and the Law. Emergency Librarian, 8 (3-4), 7-8.*

Based on her experiences with the Legal Resource Centre of British Columbia working with school resource centres, O'Brien wrote about the development and maintenance of creating legal materials collections. She spoke about scope of the collection, correct jurisdiction, and the sheer expense of maintaining a law collection.

Pearce, Mona. (1980). Practicum on Legislative Research. In H. Creech, (Ed.), (1983). *Libraries and the Law. Proceedings of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association Conference*. Dalhousie University Libraries and Dalhousie University School of Library Service: Occasional Paper 31.

This talk was designed as an introduction to researching with Canadian legislative materials. Pearce emphasized the need for all librarians to understand how laws are made in Canada and to know which jurisdictions govern them. The talk was intended for librarians with little or no experience in law librarianship and focused on the elementary principles of legal research.

Pearce, Mona. (2007). *The Ultimate End-User: the Public's Access to Law Libraries and Legal Information*. Participant on the panel session at the Canadian Association of Law Libraries (CALL).

Participating on this CALL panel, Pearce described the Law Information Centres (LInC) Initiative in Alberta. The initiative is intended to assist self-represented litigants to help them through the system, thus reducing the time needed to deal with the increasing number of cases being litigated by often unprepared non-professionals in the province's courts.

PLEI-Net. (1993). Written transcripts from of the PLEI-Net Forum.

These transcripts written for the Department of Justice's Meg Richeson illustrate the accomplishments of PLEI-Net (precursor to ACJNet.) PLEI-Net is described as providing "a forum for discussion which transcends distance and time." This was a groundbreaking forum for communication amongst public legal educators and librarians across the country.

Public Legal Education Society - The People's Law School. (1984). *Expressions of support for the People's Law School (now The Public Legal Education Society) by lawyers, teachers, librarians, editors and others*. People's Law School.

The People's Law School would occasionally request letters of support from various groups for use in funding applications. Those contacted were those who assisted in the provision of PLE services, as well as those who benefited from those services including teachers and librarians. Those expressions of support by librarians benefiting from the People's Law School services are included in this publication.

Rhyason, Diane & McCosh, John. (1980). *Legal education for Youth in Canada*. Dept. of Justice, Canada: Canadian Law Information Council.

Funded by the Department of Justice and presented at the Canadian Bar Association conference in 1980, this book is divided into two parts. The first part

by Rhyason describes the rationale and overview of public legal education in Canada. The second part by McCosh discusses the state of the art of PLE in Canada.

Rhyason, Diane. (1994). *Post-secondary student legal issues: an introductory, annotated bibliography for Canadian student services practitioners*. Legal Resource Centre of Alberta.

This bibliography was designed to provide student services practitioners with an introduction to current Canadian writing and case law related to student legal issues in post secondary institutions in Canada. While issues covered in the bibliography reflected the content of the current writing in the field, the author regretted that it did not reflect the broad range of knowledge and experience in the field that had not been committed to paper. Rhyason hoped the resource would contribute to the efforts of people in the field when they needed information about the law.

Rhyason, Diane. (1980). *A Survey of the use of the revised Statutes of Alberta 1970 in selected high schools*. Alberta Law Foundation.

The purpose of this survey was to determine the extent to which schools were making use of The Revised Statutes of Alberta 1970, and to draft a sample request form which could be filled out by those schools wishing to receive the new Revised Statutes of Alberta 1980. The author identified the lack of use of the Statutes; the related training (or lack thereof) of teachers; the widespread misuse of the Statutes; the difficulty in using the Statutes; and the urgent need in schools for teaching materials and reference materials relating to the law.

Rhyason, Diane and Kirsten Wurmman. (2004). Power to the People: The Legal Studies Program Pamphlet Collection, 1976-1995. *Feliciter* 50(2), 68-70.

This article was featured in the official publication of the Canadian Library Association. It describes the collection of 6,000 PLE pamphlets housed at the University of Alberta Archives. The pamphlet collection is now accessible for librarians, researchers and legal professionals and reflects how legal information was presented verbally and visually in the period from the mid-1970s to 1995.

Richeson, Marion E. (1977). Legal Information Services in British Columbia. *Special Issue: The Law. Emergency Librarian*. 4( 3), 5-7.

In this special issue, Richeson wrote about the structure and accomplishments of the Legal Services Commission of British Columbia. With public access to legal information as part of the Commission's mandate, Richeson described programs including public workshops and courses, sponsorship of legal collections in public libraries, radio programs, and the Commission *Newsletter*.

Richeson, Meg, (Ed.). (1981) Youth...and the Law. *Emergency Librarian*, 8 (3-4).

This special double issue about “Youth and the Law” was published by *Emergency Librarian* with a guest editorial by Meg Richeson. The issue provided comment on recent research on the law as it applied to children and reported on legal education projects for young people and educators, new legal education curricula as well as a rationale for developing library collections and programs for children and the law. Richeson introduced legal information materials and research that was published in Canada following up on the work undertaken during the International Year of the Child in 1979.

Richeson, Meg. (1980). Law and the Practising Librarian: Public legal education and information. In H. Creech, (Ed.), (1983). *Libraries and the Law. Proceedings of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association Conference*. Dalhousie University Libraries and Dalhousie University School of Library Service: Occasional Paper 31.

Richeson was one of the keynote speakers at the Atlantic Provinces Library Association conference in 1980 and discussed the reasons why the public needs access to legal information. In addition to insisting that there be more legal services for the lay person, Richeson also spent time differentiating between the provision of legal advice versus legal information, and clarifying the role of libraries in providing legal information.

Sherman, Ann. (1993). *Learning about the law: legal information modules for immigrants*. Community Legal Information Association of Prince Edward Island.

This practical tool is a good example of the materials being created by librarians in the field of public legal education. Created for a specific audience (immigrants), the resource contains many practical and useful components for hands-on learning about the law in Canada: role plays; case studies; and quizzes.

Sherman, Ann. (2007). Podcast with Ritchie Eppink. Retrieved April 11, 2008 from <http://plei.wordpress.com/2007/04/02/podcast-3-featuring-ann-sherman>

This half hour podcast with the recently retired executive director and librarian of the Community Legal Information Association of PEI is one of a series of conversations with PLE educators and service providers. Sherman speaks to Fulbright Fellow, Ritchie Eppink about community development and PLE, about reaching low literacy groups and about the need for more research in PLE.

Sintenis, Sabine. (1984). *Legal referrals: a guide to handling legal questions the non-law librarian cannot answer*. Masters thesis. University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada.

This thesis was submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research at the University of Alberta in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Library Science in the fall of 1984.

Visy, Anna and Nancy Hannum. (1992). *Telephone legal information services : a Canadian perspective Services telephoniques d'information juridique : une perspective Canadienne*. Canadian Legal Information Centre.

This comprehensive, detailed directory is arranged by province and includes statistical data regarding the telephone services offered by each PLE organization. The directory includes all PLE organizations in Canada that offer such a service and details how many librarians work for those organizations.

Webster, Peter M. (1989). *Approaches used by public legal information telephone services in maintaining community referral information*. Public Legal Education Society of Nova Scotia.

This publication was funded through the Sandra Garvie Memorial Fund (created following Garvie's death in 1979) by the Legal Resource Centre of Alberta. The report looks at the problems that public legal information telephone services encounter in maintaining up-to-date community referral information. To meet the challenges of this type of PLE service, Webster argues that legal information services need to continue to develop better approaches to collecting and maintaining referral information and making it available to the public.

Youth Justice Education Partnership. (1995). *Saskatchewan Study Circle*. Meeting Notes.

The Saskatchewan Study Circle was one of a series of study circles held across the country at the invitation of the planning Committee of the Youth Justice Education Partnership. Meg Richeson facilitated one of the two groups that dealt with the need for Youth Justice Education from various perspectives. Issues and strategies regarding Youth at Risk, Youth Generally, and the Community were addressed. This report contains a compilation of the notes recorded at the study circle. Concluding remarks focused on the need for educational programs about the law to be integrated into the curriculum in Saskatchewan's schools.