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Book Review of Canadian Association of Law Libraries Newsletter/Bulletin

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536. Canadian Association of Law Libraries
Newsletter/Bulletin. Association Canadienne
des Bibliothèques de Droit, Vol. 1- , No. 1-.
Downsview, Ont., Canadian Association of
Law Libraries, 1970- . 5 issues/yr. $60.00/yr.
Published in English five times a year, this
newsletter/bulletin is the official publication of
the Canadian Association of Law Libraries
(CALL). Each issue includes professional news
and developments, articles, reports of commit-
tees and special interest groups, and book
reviews. Statistical surveys prepared by CALL
committees and special interest groups are
periodically published. The proceedings of the
annual conference are published yearly, as is an
annual index.

The news and developments section in-
forms CALL members of activities of the
national and regional Canadian library associa-
tions and of other law library-related develop-
ments. Feature articles range from one thousand
to five thousand words and address such
disparrate topics as public legal education in
Canada and early courts in Alberta. Book
reviews averaging about five hundred words
critique scholarly legal treatises as well as
literature on law librarianship. Surveys may be
limited in scope (e.g., salaries of law firm librar-
ians) or very broad (e.g., comprehensive data on
academic, courthouse, and law association li-
braries). Each issue also lists CALL officers and
chairs of committees and special interest groups.

The newsletter/bulletin has the dilemma of
trying to be both a vehicle for informing the
more than four hundred CALL members of
professional activities and a scholarly journal.
Compounding this problem is the historical dif-
ficulty the editors have had in getting pub-
ication copy from members. Recent changes, how-
ever, have led to a more professional and useful
publication. Issues are now planned one year in
advance, resulting in a tighter and better de-
defined publication. Other recently implemented
table includes regular columns on regional
membership news and reviews of databases.
Furthermore, contracting with a desktop pub-
lisher has improved the style and editorial
oversight.

The newsletter/bulletin succeeds quite well
as the sole publication of the Canadian Associa-
tion of Law Libraries. Substantial progress has
been made in the past year which should make it
even more valuable to CALL members and to
others wanting to keep abreast of developments
in Canadian law libraries.

James S. Heller