

Bridging the Information Gap

Summary

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In 2003, the National Library of Canada will celebrate its 50th anniversary. Established by an Act of the Canadian Parliament in 1953, the National Library was intended to bridge the information gap in a country that was vast in size and limited in the information resources within its borders. Fifty years later, digital technology has helped to shrink the distance between and among Canadians, but the access to information remains uneven. The National Library of Canada is dedicated to putting knowledge within reach of all Canadians by addressing the issues which impede access: cost, literacy, language, distance, culture, and physical ability. The National Library alone will not solve these issues. Concerted, sustained attention is required, not only by libraries but also by partners within and outside government, in bilateral and multilateral fora, in Canada and around the world. To succeed is to create libraries for all, where the world's citizenry can see themselves, their published heritage, their cultural legacy, and their foundation for a future.