Digitization of Historical Statistics Canada Publications

Government Information Day 2014
University of Ottawa
The Recommendation

Digitization of our print-only Statistics Canada publications was recommended in the Strategic Review of the Library (2009-10)

Benefits to clients:

- Preservation
- Improved access
The Scope

- **Officially** published publications from Statistics Canada and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics that were never published in digital format

- Canada Yearbooks were digitized in a previous initiative
The Proposal

- Digitize the Census series of official, print-only publications using in-house technology and resources
- Raw TIFF files (high speed scanner) or JPEG files (book scanner) generated
- Files subjected to quality control and turned into searchable PDFs using scanner software
- Business Case was approved in the fall of 2010
The Process

- Phase 1: October 2010 – March 2011
  - Census collection completed
    - 2788 publications (402K pages)
    - Available on the Internet Archive and upon request from the Statistics Canada Library
  - Success of project warranted its extension to include the non-census publications as and when funds arise
The Process: Phases 2 to 4

- Between Oct. 2011 and present
- Started with 90-series and working down to 10-
- In phase 3 alone we estimate that 65,000 publications were digitized
- Digitization of the non-census collection
- Individual documents are available upon request from the STC Library
- Check our catalogue: shelving location of DONE = available in PDF
Current Status

- We are digitizing the 10- and 20- series now plus any missed items
- Solutions for digitizing very small number of oversized materials are being considered
- Expect digitization to be completed by March 31, 2015
The Challenges

- Poor condition and single copy publications
- Centralizing digitization efforts within the Agency
- Workload from increased donations
- Incomplete catalogue records for older items
- Scope: what is an official publication?
Next Steps

- Complete digitization of remaining and oversized items

- Dissemination
  - Actively working with colleagues in IT to come up with the best solution
  - Dissemination phase to occur in 2015-16
  - In discussions with DLI to see if an interim solution can open up access to DLI members sooner
Thank you – Questions?

- Jennifer Pagnotta
- Chief, Library Services
- Statistics Canada
- Jennifer.Pagnotta@statcan.gc.ca
- 613-951-6803