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# The Social and Economic Status of Franco-Americans

Madeleine Giguère

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UNIVERSITY OF MAINE AT PORTLAND-GORHAM

PROGRESS REPORT

May 31, 1974

THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STATUS OF  
FRANCO AMERICANS: PHASE I, A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY

A Study Partially Funded by  
A Research Grant of the University of Maine at Portland-Gorham

by

Marie GIGUERE

Report Submitted to the  
Advisory Committee for Research

To: Robert C. McMahon, Chairman  
Advisory Committee for Research

Date: 6/14/74

From: Madeleine Giguere *M.G.*

Re: Research Grant Report

I am enclosing a statement of the work done under the Research Grant and a statement of expenditures along with copies of the reports generated.

I have delayed making this final report since there is a refund coming from the Bureau of the Census (see Balance Sheet and attached letter) and I had hoped to include the refund check in this report. I now propose to transmit the check directly to the University Business Office with notification to the Committee. If that is not agreeable to you, please let me know.

It has been a productive year for me and the University of Maine at Portland-Gorham Research Grant was to a large extent responsible. It does seem to me that the University gets a very high yield from the funds invested in these research grants. For me there have been research yields, community service yields as well as instructional yields.

In my case, not only did I generate the first hard data on the French Mother Tongue Population of Maine (or for any state), I learned a good deal about using the Public Use Sample Tapes effectively and I developed my computer related skills.

There has been a good deal of interest on the part of the Franco-American Community, civic leaders, administrators, researchers and academicians. I was asked to present some of the data gathered in a Lewiston Public Library Lecture Series funded by the Maine Humanities Council and to the Franco-American Seminar at the University of Maine at Farmington. The two Maine Richelieu Clubs (French speaking service clubs affiliated with an international organization flung over four continents, similar to Rotary) asked me to speak to them in French on my findings.

I was also asked to present my data to a Graduate Seminar on French-Canadian Literature and Language at the University of Maine in Orono and to a CED Course in Counseling for the Franco-Americans offered in Auburn.

Finally in terms of community service, The Franco-American Resource Opportunity Group on the Orono campus used some of my preliminary data in their publication Vers l'evolution d'une culture.

As a result of the work done under the grant, I have been asked to serve as consultant to three program proposals: A Title IX of the Higher Education Act proposal on Ethnic Studies to the Office of Education from the University of Vermont; a proposal in Gerontology to the National Institute of Health from the University of New Hampshire; and for one of a series of TV programs on immigration to the Maine Humanities Council from the Maine Public Broadcasting Network.

Furthermore, the work done under the grant will be useful as instructional resources in two courses to be offered next year: Franco-American Studies I scheduled for next fall and the Sociology of the Franco-Americans scheduled for next spring.

In my judgement, these are very valuable outcomes from the 1973-1974 University of Maine at Portland-Gorham Research Grant of \$986 which was awarded me in May of 1973.

WORK DONE UNDER THE GRANT

1. The first social and economic data for the French Mother Tongue population of the State of Maine (or for any state) was generated and prepared for dissemination in the following:
  - a. "A Social and Economic Profile of French and English Mother Tongue Persons: Maine, 1970" Pp. 19 (mimeographed).

COPY ENCLOSED
  - b. "Sources of Quantitative Data on Franco-Americans," Vers l'evolution d'une culture, edited by Celeste Roberge. Orono: FAROG, 1974. Pp. 11.

COPY ENCLOSED
2. Substantial data for further analysis was produced. Some 2163 pages of usable computer output were generated of which approximately one tenth of the 922 pages from the household file and one sixth of 1291 pages from the person file were used in the above reports.
3. A computer program for the extraction of social and economic profiles from the 1970 Census was developed.
4. Purchase was made of Public Use Sample Tapes enabling the generation of social and economic profiles of French Mother Tongue persons in other areas: Rhode Island, Massachusetts and the United States as a whole.
5. In preparation for the continuation of the social and economic profiles for other areas, the published data on French Mother Tongue persons was compiled and percentages computed:

"Number and Percent of Persons with French Mother Tongue: States, Counties(Parishes), Places of 10,000 or more, SMSA's of 250,000 or more and Urban and Rural residence: New England States and Louisiana, 1970." Pp.54 (mimeographed).

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EXPENDITURES

July 23, 1973	Peter Lehman, U. of Mass. Computer Consultation	\$150.00
September 17, 1973	Ken Mellanthin Research Assistance	\$200.00
October 26, 1973	Peter Lehman, U. of Mass. Computer Consultation	\$100.00
February 15, 1974	Ken Mellanthin Research Assistance	\$100.00
March 3, 1974	Central Services Supplies	\$ 16.56
March 5, 1974	A.B. Dick Supplies	\$ 42.55
April 25, 1974	National Data Planning Public Use Sample Tapes	\$200.00
May 6, 1974	U.S. Bureau of the Census Technical Documentation	\$ 3.00
May 15, 1974	A.B. Dick Supplies	\$ 7.45
May 20, 1974	Mailroom Duplication and Binding	\$ 90.00
	TOTAL	\$909.56

BALANCE SHEET  
T 8719

Research Grant	\$986.00
Expenditures	\$909.56
	<hr/>
Unexpended	\$ 76.44*

\*Including \$73.00 being refunded by Bureau of the Census. See attachment #4.

My Copy

Report on the French Collection  
of the Lewiston Public Library

I. Objectives

The Advisory Committee on the French Collection identified four objectives for the French collection of the Lewiston Public Library:

- A. To improve the accessibility of the current collection;
- B. To direct the expansion of the collection with both the traditional French reader in mind and the new French readers, who are either learning the language or who have learned to read it as a second language;
- C. To make accessible the French experience in North America to the English reader;
- D. To increase the use of the collection.

II. Guidelines

A. Focus

The focus of the collection should continue to be fiction particularly popular fiction (romances, mystery and detective stories, adventures, science fiction, historical fiction, French translations of English best sellers, popular drama and fiction for the young).

B. Annual Purchases of Fiction

A small percentage of the acquisition budgets should be allocated yearly to the purchase of French books. Given the depth of our collection, it is the systematic buying rather than the size of the purchases which should be emphasized. Annual selections should be of two types:

1. Limited and selective buying of the most critically acclaimed works of fiction of the past year in the Francophone world.
2. The bulk of the purchase money should be allocated to the type of novels popular with our readers and with the best sellers in France and Quebec. See Source Lists 1 and 2.

C. Review of Basic Collection

1. Our holdings in French should be measured against the Basic Lists developed by the Committee. Author and title gaps in the French-Canadian fiction collection should be remedied by purchase.
2. The Franco-American fiction list should stand as a permanent want list to be actively searched for purchase or for donation.
3. The author gaps in the Metropolitan French Collection should be used as a focus for soliciting book donations for the French collection. See Basic Lists 1, 2, and

D. Non-fiction

Given the extensive collection of French Canadian and Franco-American non-fiction materials of the Centre d'heritage Franco-Americain, the LPL should probably not purchase any additions to its basic collection. Inquiries of a historical nature should be directed to the Centre d'heritage. A Basic List of Franco-American historical material is included with this report as a means of evaluating our Franco-American non-fiction collection.

Annual purchases should be limited to non-fiction titles appearing on LeSoleil's list of best sellers and to the critically applauded works listed each year in the Americana Yearbook's article on French-Canadian literature.

All current books in English or French on Franco-Americans should be purchased. Major works in English on French-Canada (Americana Yearbook) should be considered for purchase.

E. Periodicals and Newspapers

The library currently receives two French-Canadian newspapers (La Presse, LeSoleil) and two French periodicals (Paris Match, Realities). LPL should apply to be put on the mailing list of the Canadian Embassy for the free monthly Canada Today/Aujourd'hui. *Also Review of the St. Tech. the Baptist Society*

In addition, LPL should consider whether it should have a Canadian journal of opinion in its collection (Canada Month, Macleans or Le Macleans).

Finally, L'Express, a weekly source of Paris best sellers and a general review in a National Republic/Time/Cue format should be considered for acquisition.

#### F. Poetry and Criticism

The LPL collection should have a representative selection of French poetry normally in the form of anthologies, such as "The Oxford Book of Canadian Verse," "Anthologie de la poesie Canadienne-française," and "La poesie française au XXieme siecle." Criticism should be bought selectively as needed to enhance the usefulness of the collection.

#### G. Review

The applicability of these guidelines and recommendations should be reviewed in four or five years. Every ten years it should be ascertained whether the major works in French of the decade have been acquired by the Lewiston Public Library.

### III. Specific Recommendations

#### Objective A: Improve Accessibility

1. Label room "French Collection," or "Dr. Eustache N. Giguère Memorial French Collection."
2. In French room put signs, "Autres livres français - consultez le catalogue."
3. Indicate availability of catalogue of French books in vicinity of main catalogue, "Catalogue français →"
4. Put out new French books on shelf or part of shelf with new English books with sign, "Nouveaux et neufs."
5. Make a special display to coincide with "Franco-American Week" (1st week of May in 1976) or with the Feast of St. John the Baptist (June 24th) or other specially designated week or month.
6. Catalogue recent acquisitions (Giguère gift) as soon as possible.
7. Shelve French collection in attic by library call numbers.
8. Merge French catalogue into the main catalogue.

Objective B: Directed Expansion

Priorities for purchases with existing allocation from state stipends.

1. French Canadian Literature
  - a. Basic French-Canadian Literature (1860-1960), Basic List #1a.
  - b. Basic French-Canadian Literature (1961-1975), Basic List #1b.
2. Franco-American Materials
  - a. Literature, Basic List #2a.
  - b. History, Basic List #2b (no purchases).
3. Metropolitan French Literature
  - a. (1961-1975) Basic List #3a.
  - b. (1600-1960), Basic List #3b. (No purchases)

Objective C: English access to the French culture of North America

1. Buy translations of major French-Canadian works, Basic List #4a, Source List #3.
2. Ensure a basic collection of French-Canadian history in English, Basic List #4b.

Objective D: Increase Use

1. Publicize on a regular basis (monthly, bimonthly, quarterly) recent acquisitions of French books.
2. Publicize depth and variety of collection to:
  - a. French institutions.
  - b. Teachers of French in area in grades and high schools.
  - c. Teachers of French at colleges and universities in Maine.
  - d. Libraries in Central Library District.
  - e. Maine Library Association membership.

3. Solicit reading lists from the college and university professors of French for use as guides to reading and purchase.
4. Solicit donations of French books.

March 1976

Madeleine Giguere  
with the help of  
Marie Badeau  
Lucienne Lavoie  
Denis Ledoux  
Paul Pare  
Sister Solange, O.S.U.  
Rev. Raymond Laframboise, O.P.

Card File Appendices

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Source List #1 | Tools for selecting and ordering continuing purchases.  |
| Source List #2 | Recommended youth purchases.  |
| Source List #3 | Tools for locating French-Canadian fiction in English.  |
| Basic List #1  | French-Canadian Literature <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. (1860-1960)</li><li>b. (1961-1975)</li></ul>                            |
| Basic List #2  | Franco-American Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Fiction</li><li>b. History (no purchases recommended)</li></ul>          |
| Basic List #3  | Metropolitan French Literature <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. 1961-1975</li><li>b. 1600-1960 (no purchases recommended)</li></ul> |
| Basic List #4  | French-Canadiana in English <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Literature</li><li>b. History</li></ul>                                |