

FILE NAME: Quebec Asbestos Mining Association (QAMA)

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Notes of Albert Donnay on Visit to Biological Effects Library, Montreal, Quebec on Feb 26, 1980

Biological EFFECTS Library
Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health. (IOEH),
Québec Asbestos Mining Association (QAMA)
Montréal, Québec

report based on a visit to the library, February 26, 1980

submitted March 1, 1980.

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Biological Effects Library

Institute of Environmental and Occupational Health

Montréal, Québec

location: The library is located in the IOEH office (is the IOEH office); a small suite of rooms (almost identical to the Sherbrooke Informathèque) in a downtown Montréal highrise.

1130 Sherbrooke St. W. #410

Montréal, Québec H3A 2M8

telephone: (514) 844-4751

hours: Monday to Friday, 9:30-5:00pm. 'Open' to the public. All vistors are asked to sign in their name and affiliation. (Note - this is not all you will be asked. Cooperation depends on give and take.)

staff: Dr. Pelnar, scientific secretary of the IOEH Scientific Committee and 'father' of the library. (bilingual) He runs the show.

3 secretaries. They understand the library and helped explain the system to me.
(bilingual)

history: see enclosed zerox set #I.

The IOEH and its library are funded and overseen by the QAMA. The IOEH was founded by the QAMA in 1966.

*** Note - Dr. Kotin was the chairman of the IOEH Scientific Committee from 1966 until he quit to take his job as vice-president at Johns-Manville Corp. (Members of the committee, except the secretary Dr. Pelnar who has no vote, are not allowed to be employed by industry for conflict of interest reasons. The IOEH committee reviews international research proposals and decides how to alot the funds supplied by the QAMA.)

the library...

content: see enclosure #II for an excellent description.

catalogues: -The material is all extremely well cross referenced by author, year of publication, and subject (see subject-key code list in enclosure #2).

There is no title catalogue.

-In the cataloguing system (well up to date) are three classes of materials:

File #1 - 999 books (presently about 414 pieces).

#1000 - 1999 non-scientific publications, includes newspaper clippings (presently about 300 pieces).

#2000 - up scientific articles (presently about 4000 pieces).

90% of the catalogued material is on hand, most of it stored in filing cabinets, by 'file number'.

- Zeroxes of any material requested from the files are provided free of charge.
- Periodicals are shelved alphabetically by title. see enclosure #III for their periodical subscription list.
- Books are shelved in the stacks along with periodicals, but by current file number, and not by author or title.

Access to: The researcher, if given a free hand (which is likely if the library staff 'knows' him), has no trouble using the catalogue system or getting his own materials from the files. Everything is right out in the open in front of the secretaries, and they are most helpful. There is a conference room (where the the book and periodical shelves are found) which may be used for study. It was 'in use' at the time of my visit so I cannot comment on facilities or 'privateness'. I assume it is not anyone's office though, (it was in Sherbrooke).

visits: Dr. Pelnar asks that one call a day or to in advance of coming, to insure that someone will be there to help you (namely himself).