

Book review: *A guide to scholarly publishing in Canada/ Guide de l'edition savante au Canada* by Michael J. Carley

Johanne Rivest

1996

Fermata

UVic Libraries ePublishing Services

© 1996 Rivest.

Original citation:

Rivest, J. (1996). [Review of book *A Guide to Scholarly Publishing in Canada/ Guide de l'edition savante au Canada* by Michael J. Carley]. *Fermata*, 2, 47-50.

Downloaded from UVicSpace Research & Learning Repository

dspace.library.uvic.ca



**University
of Victoria**

Libraries

BOOK REVIEW

A Guide to Scholarly Publishing in Canada / Guide de l'édition savante au Canada. 5th edition. (Ottawa: Aid to Scholarly Publications Programme: Canadian Federation for the Humanities, Social Science Federation of Canada / Programme d'aide à l'édition savante, Fédération canadienne des sciences sociales, Fédération canadienne des études humaines, 1995.) 174 pp. ISBN 0-9698103-0-X.¹

A main concern for every scholar is to have his or her research published; therefore, the publishing process, unfamiliar to many, needs to be explored. *A Guide to Scholarly Publishing in Canada*, produced by the Aid to Scholarly Publications Programme (ASPP), is intended to assist prospective authors in finding a suitable publisher for their needs, and to provide a guide to the process of producing a book. Part 1 of the publication deals with all aspects of publishing a book, from submitting a manuscript to sales and promotion. The many references placed in footnotes are collected in the important bibliography that follows in Part 2. The last part of the book consists of a detailed list of Canadian book publishers and university presses engaged in scholarly publishing. This *Guide* is concerned exclusively with books and not with articles. Therefore, the reader will not find in it any information regarding scholarly journals or associations.

ASPP was founded in the early 1940s by the Canadian Social Science Research Council and the Humanities Research Council of Canada to promote Canadian scholarship by supporting books with limited readership. After changing their names in the 1970s to the Social Science Federation of Canada (SSFC) and the Canadian Federation for the Humanities (CFH), they are still jointly responsible for the administration of ASPP.² ASPP promotes Canadian scholarship by publishing the *Guide* and by awarding book prizes.³

ASPP is to be commended for producing a bilingual guide. Part 1 is offered in English (pp. 1-54) and then translated into French (pp. 55-99), while the bibliography (pp. 100-114) and the list of publishers (pp. 115-174) contain both French and English entries. In Part 1, the footnotes are the same in English and in French versions, except the first one, where the French edition proposes one more reference concerning the problem of formatting footnotes (*Guide de*

¹The *Guide* may be ordered directly from the Aid to Scholarly Publications Programme; telephone order: 613-234-1269, fax: 613-238-6114.

²In April 1996, SSFC and CFH merged into a new corporation, the Humanities and Social Sciences Federation of Canada.

³Previous editions of the *Guide* appeared in 1971, 1973, 1979 and 1986. Another book was published for ASPP by the University of Ottawa Press in 1988, edited by Patricia Demers after a bilingual conference held at the University of Alberta in 1987: *Scholarly Publishing in Canada: Evolving Present, Uncertain Future / L'Édition savante au Canada, tendances actuelles et perspectives d'avenir*. This book is listed in the bibliography of the *Guide*.

Book Review: *A Guide to Scholarly Publishing in Canada*

la présentation des manuscrits. Québec: Ministère des communications, 1991). This added reference is not included in the bibliography, an omission which occurs elsewhere in both English and French versions, for example, in the case of the second footnote (Eleanor Harman and Ian Montagnes, eds. *The Thesis and the Book*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1976).⁴ These are, however, minor errors considering the scope of the book. The first part, entitled "To publish a book", contains the following subjects: (1) Submitting a manuscript; (2) A note on theses; (3) Finding a publisher; (4) Evaluation; (5) Revisions; (6) Publishing costs; (7) Production; (8) A note on indices; (9) Costing; (10) The publishing budget; (11) Subsidy; (12) Contracts; (13) Copyright; (14) Book production; and (15) Sales and promotion.

Each of the first nine subsections is generally quite short but give invaluable information on how to select and approach a publisher. For example, the scholar seeking to publish his/her thesis is advised: "publishers are reluctant to consider unrevised theses, mainly because they can seldom be published without extensive rewriting and editorial work"; moreover, "SSFC and CFH will not consider unrevised theses for a publication subsidy".⁵ For the benefit of post-graduate students, there is an entire book on this particular subject (*The Thesis and the Book*) that clearly explains how to revise a dissertation, describing what parts which should be eliminated and how to edit the remainder.

The estimation of costs, the budget, and possible subsidies are equally important matters to consider in the realization of scholarly publishing. The book recommends enquiring about the possibility of obtaining an ASPP publication grant at the same time as the initial approach to a publisher is made, bearing in mind, however, that the ASPP will assist only the publication of works of advanced scholarship. Application for a grant may be made by either the author or the publisher. The decision process for grants and subsidies is broadly described in subsection 11. Subsection 12 gives two different samples of typical contracts, one in English (Wilfrid Laurier University Press) and the other in French (Les Presses de l'Université d'Ottawa)--both in the English section--that give precise information on the main clauses contained in those agreements.

A long and very detailed explanation of copyright follows. It describes what works are protected by copyright, the ownership of copyright, the question of registration, internal protection, what constitutes a publication, the duration of a copyright, fair dealing regarding copy and reprography, the divisibility and transfer of copyright, publishing agreements, and the

⁴Two more books are cited in the main text (on p. 53 in the English section and on p. 98 of the French section) but are not listed in the bibliography: *Procedures for Handling Manuscripts Prepared on Computers and Word Processors* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press [no date]); *Author's Guide*, rev. ed. (Waterloo: Wilfrid Laurier University Press, May, 1993). The title of this second one is not even given in the French part (p. 98).

⁵*Guide*, 3, 4.

Book Review: *A Guide to Scholarly Publishing in Canada*

permissions an author must obtain in order to reproduce a substantial part of a work in his/her own book.

The last subsections of Part 1 are concerned with matters that arise after the book is printed. Factual matters are accompanied by more subjective views on the subject, from either psychological or even philosophical standpoints. For example, in describing ways of disseminating research, it is said that:

People tend to want what they call a "real book" and after centuries of having "real" books, this reaction is understandable. Nonetheless, the quick and inexpensive way is often the only means to publish the results of research which need to be made available relatively quickly, but to a limited audience. . . . Again, where unrevised theses are concerned, it does not make sense to publish them in the normal way: microfilm, microfiches, or publishing on-demand from the print-ready text are the best ways of disseminating such works. Theses rarely gain, or deserve, immortality. Revised theses sometimes do, but they are books.⁶

These last two sentences are not part of the French translation, probably in order to be more consistent with the objective tone of this *Guide*.

Many items in the bibliography are articles from *Scholarly Publishing: a Journal for Authors and Publishers*, which is devoted to this very specific subject and published by the University of Toronto Press. French sources are also included, even if they are not mentioned in the text itself. This can be explained by the fact that the French version of Part 1 is a translation, not an adaptation, while the English version was understandably made with the aid of English sources only. From a bibliographic point of view, it would have been preferable if the French version of Part 1 had been revised so as to give appropriate footnote references to French-language sources.

Part 3, which lists in alphabetical order publishers and university presses engaged in scholarly publishing, gives for each its name, full address, persons to whom correspondence may be addressed, areas of interest, existing series, some additional information, and an average number of titles per year. There is, unfortunately, no index of areas of interest and no index by province at the end of the book. My own calculations from this list indicate thirty-one publishers in Ontario, twenty-seven in Quebec, only four in British Columbia, three each in Manitoba and Newfoundland, two in Alberta, and one each in Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

⁶*Guide*, 50-51.

Book Review: *A Guide to Scholarly Publishing in Canada*

Many publishers indicate their general areas of interest, but music is specifically listed for only five of them, of which four are in Quebec⁷ and one is in Ontario.⁸

In summary, *A Guide to Scholarly Publishing in Canada* is a very practical instrument for any prospective author, experienced as well as new, in the field of the humanities and the social sciences. No other Canadian guide is as comprehensive.

Johanne Rivest
University of Montreal

⁷Éditions Hurtubise HMH Ltée, Les Presses de l'université Laval, Les Presses de l'Université de Montréal, and Trois—the only one which specifies "musicology".

⁸University of Toronto Press Incorporated.