



ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF MAINE CULTURAL RESOURCES

MAINE CHILD WELFARE TRAINING INSTITUTE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE

By
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Black, R.M., ed. (2005). *Maine diversity manual*. Portland, ME: University of Southern Maine, Lewiston-Auburn campus.

Students at the Lewiston-Auburn campus of the University of Southern Maine, who are majoring in occupational therapy, developed this interesting compendium of different cultural sub-groups in Maine, collected in a tabbed three-ring binder. This resource is not available on the web, but is available by subscribing to the service through USM. The subscription fee also includes periodic updates, as more diverse groups are profiled. This resource is specifically designed for health providers and social workers. Copies of the Manuals have been purchased through the Recruitment and Retention Committee and are placed in all Child Welfare Offices within the state. The current edition of this resource includes profiles on various ethnic groups, on different religious groups, on the elderly, on various Maine Native American tribes, and on lesbians and gays. The listing of the various groups profiled is fairly comprehensive, although suggestions have been made to include other groups in the manual, such as Jehovah's Witnesses. In general, the information presented in each profile seems accurate in the presentation of the culture, but is limited in scope, due to dealing in generalities. Obviously, there are individual differences among people of different cultures, which need to be considered to avoid stereotyping. This manual is a good starting point for learning something about another culture, but does not replace the direct contact method of learning about clients of the culture.

Endreson, L., ed. (2003). *Maine international resources directory*. World Affairs Council of Maine website available online at <http://www.wacmaine.org>.

The Maine International Resources Directory is an update of the original 2000 Directory, and now that it is online, can be continuously updated. The Directory is a listing of internationally involved organizations that are based in Maine or have Maine representatives. Organizations are listed alphabetically with contact information and a basic description of the work of the organization. Included are religious, civic, educational, and business entries with international ties. The Directory is easy to access and easy to use. It can also be printed in its entirety by different alphabetical sections. This resource might be a good starting point for learning more about a culture or a good way to help new refugees connect with people of their culture for support. A sampling of some of the diverse entries includes the Asian-American Heritage Foundation, the Center for Cultural Exchange, the Ethnic Minority Coalition, the Governor's Academy for

Language and Culture, the Killing Fields Survivors' Society, the League of United Latin American Citizens, the Maine Friends of Tibet, the Maine Khmer Council, the True Buddha Society of Maine, the Volunteers for Geographic Awareness, and the Watt Samaki Temple. While the information about each entry is limited, contact information is available for all the resources listed, which makes any of these groups very accessible.

Franco-American Center at the University of Maine & the Department of Geography at Laval University, Quebec. (1999). *Maine's French communities*. Available online at http://www.francomaine.org/English/Pres/Pres_intro.html.

This website is a collaboration between the two universities and is available in both English and French with a presentation of the research gathered by scholars about the dispersment of French Canadian settlers in Maine. In addition to historic information, facts about the historic roadways used to immigrate to Maine and the extent of French settlers still found in many parts of Maine make up the majority of this presentation. Also included is a section on recent, unpublished research, maps, charts, and pictures. Of particular interest is the Chaud-Bec project, which has enabled several hundred people to attend French language immersion classes in Quebec. Included is the contact information for this project.

National Park Service. (1994). *Acadian culture in Maine*. Available at <http://acim.umfk.maine.edu>.

The National Park Service embarked on a very ambitious task of cataloging Acadian French culture, particularly in the Upper St. John River Valley. Unfortunately, the book the Park Service produced went out of print shortly after its original publication. However, the University of Maine at Fort Kent decided to make the book available online, and it is now available with permission from the National Park Service. The web version is an enhanced version of the original publication with the addition of color photographs not available in the print edition. The website is large with an extensive amount of information, including aspects of the cultural identity of the Acadians, the historical background of the Acadians, including the deportation of Acadian people in the 1700's, the influence of Catholicism in Acadian life, and cultural traditions of the Acadian people in their language, storytelling, music, food, textiles, and architecture, to name but a few of the topics covered. This is the most extensive, accessible resource known about the French people of Maine. The website is very user-friendly and gives so much background information that it is a resource even for those working with people of French culture in other parts of the state. Each chapter is summarized and well defined, so that only chapters of pertinence to the reader need be accessed directly. This resource is highly recommended for its comprehensiveness and for gaining insight into French culture in general.

Portland Public Schools, Office of Multilingual and Multicultural Programs. (2000). *Longitudinal study*. Available from the Portland Public Schools website at <http://www.portlandschools.org/schools.multilingual/longitudinal>.

The Portland Public Schools website has information about their own office of multiculturalism, that names of people on staff who can assist with communications and culture questions regarding certain ethnic populations, particularly recent immigrants. Of interest is their Longitudinal Study that shows how students best learn the English language. This website is useful for the contact information of the resources available through the school system. The Office of Multilingual and Multicultural Programs offer technical assistance and training to ESL (English as a Second Language) teachers, and diversity training to the school department and to collaborating agencies. They also do the initial intake, assessment, and placement of all English language learners in the schools and have a parent outreach program. They maintain a native language library, and provide a theater project for elementary level language enhancement.

Rost-Banik, C. (1997-2007). *The pluralism project at Harvard University: Religious diversity and civil society in Maine*. Available online at <http://www.pluralism.org/affiliates/rost-banik/index.php>.

This website contains many links to information about most religions in this state or in America. The website references the World Affairs Council of Maine and has various links to resources described in the Maine International Resource Directory around religious diversity. In addition to concentrating on religious resources in Maine, the Pluralism Project website connects to news, online resources, research, and events, as well as religious centers throughout the country, by state and by religion. The description of the project in Maine includes information about Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Program in Maine. Some of this information is a duplication of that already available through the World Council of Maine's website, but it is in a much more concentrated form, dealing with only religious resources. In her research, Rost-Banik found a significant connection between Maine's religious communities and the ties to civic groups. This tie distinguishes Maine from other areas of the country, and shows that Maine religious communities are having a greater impact here than they do in other localities.

Scott, V.A. (2003-2004). *Immigrant and refugee/multicultural activity reports*. Available from the City of Lewiston website at <http://www.ci.lewiston.me.us>.

Despite Lewiston being a center of Somalian refugee activity, there is very little information on their website. Victoria Scott is no longer the Refugee Resettlement Coordinator for Lewiston, but her reports live on, although they are now several years old. They do provide a glimpse into some of the activity in Lewiston surrounding the immigrant population, but there is very little information here. Generally not a very useful website.

Troop, M., ed. (2005). *Multicultural resources*. [Electronic Version]. Available from <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/MulticulturalResources/Contents.html>.

This guide, compiled by the Maine State Office of Multicultural Affairs, is a comprehensive guide to services and people within the state that have anything to do with other cultural groups, including any diversity, such as people with disabilities. In over 170 pages are hundreds of resources that are grouped together by type, such as education, health, interpreting, etc., for the entire state.

While published in the past, this resource is now only available online, due to the high printing costs, and to enable easier updating. Also included in the introduction are detailed explanations of the different types of legal and undocumented immigrants, migrant workers, and interesting statistics about refugees coming to America and to Maine. The appendices included in this resource guide also contain a wealth of information about national origin discrimination in a variety of settings, glossaries of diversity and sexual orientation terms, additional Internet resources, a form for Maine Care reimbursement for interpreters, and the Code of Ethics for interpreters.

University of Southern Maine. (1996-2007). *Franco-American Resources*. Available from the USM website at <http://www.usm.maine.edu/lac/francoresources>.

This website has limited information, but does give some direction to those who wish to research more about French Canadian history in the Lewiston-Auburn area. While it is an attractive website, not much information is actually online. Most of the website is devoted to information about the various Franco collections, programs and events that the Lewiston-Auburn College of USM offers. It also appears from the various listings, that while the website lists dates of 1996-2007, very little has been updated on the website in the past three years. The information, what little there is, is not timely, and could be beefed up, and updated with more current offerings. This website is not recommended except as a resource tool for scholarly research on a Franco-American topic.