The Social History of Modern Canada  
History 458

Consider Resources

Primary Resources: diaries, letters, speeches, newspaper articles, documents, photos  
Secondary Resources: books, journal articles (scholarly vs. popular), theses, the Web  

Subject guides give you a starting point for research and will help you find resources on your subject. Go to: Research by Subject → History → by Region → Canadian  
→ Aboriginal Studies

Find Background Information

Check the following selected titles to provide definitions, introduction to key issues, dates, events, noted persons, and often bibliographic references:

Canadian Encyclopedia (Online)  
Dictionary of Canadian Biography (Online)  
Encyclopedia of Canada’s Peoples (Online)  
Historical Statistics of Canada (Online)  
Oxford Companion to Canadian History (Online)

Find Primary Sources

For general information about primary sources, go to: Research by Subject → Primary Sources

The primary source material in Stauffer Library will vary from topic to topic. It may be a diary, correspondence, letters, newspaper accounts, a law, a debate in Parliament, editorials, a photo, etc. from the period of study, as well as electronic, microfilm, and printed collections of these documents published at a later date.

1. Use QCAT

The Library catalogue is a good place to start your search for primary source materials. Search QCAT to find books and magazine/newspaper titles from the time period about which you are writing as well as published documents and collections. To find newspaper and journal articles, see Indexes below.

A. Search by Subject or Keyword

You can locate items in the library by searching QCAT by doing a keyword Boolean search and then adding one of the special subject terms to your search such as: correspondence, diaries, interviews, pamphlets, personal narratives, sources....
women and canada and sources
"world war" and women and canada and diaries

Also browse subject headings and look for these special subject terms.

Women--Canada--History--Sources
World War, 1939-1945--Personal narratives, Canadian

Also consider searching the words documents or papers in the title.

documents and canada and social and history

B. Look up Historical Figures, Organizations, and Agencies...

If you know of a person involved in the event or from the time period, look under that person's name as an author (or subject) for memoirs, diaries, and correspondence. For example:

mcclung nellie
douglas t.c. thomas clement

Look up groups or organizations as an author (or subject).

canada parliament

2. Use Journal and Newspaper Indexes Covering the Time Period

Newspapers are a good source of primary information. Stauffer Library has a good collection of Canadian newspapers from the 19th and 20th centuries on microfilm (located on the lower level).

To find out what newspapers the Library has, search QCAT by newspaper title or search by subject heading:

toronto ont newspapers
vancouver b.c. newspapers

We have access to the following full text newspapers via the link, Databases:

The Globe and Mail: 1844 - excluding the last 3-4 years
Toronto Star: 1892 - excluding the last 3-4 years
New York Times: 1851 - excluding the last 2 years
Times Digital Archive: 1785-1985
Paper of Record: collection of 18th and 19th century newspaper articles

Plus access to more American newspapers - for list, go to the tab, Databases and type in historical newspapers.
For more information and access to historical Canadian newspapers, check our Newspapers subject guide at: Research by Subject → Newspapers

Periodicals published at the time are another type of primary source. To locate 19th and 20th century periodical literature, consult the following indexes:

**Canadian Periodical Index:** 1920-1998 (REF AI3.C2 and Online)

**Humanities and Social Sciences Index Retrospective**
Indexing of articles as far back as 1907 to 1984 and covering a broad range of subjects, including art, family studies, music, performing arts and more.

**JSTOR**
Full text archive of core scholarly journal literature in the social sciences and humanities dating back to the 1850s.

**19th Century Masterfile**
Indexes English language journals published from the late 1700s to the early 1900s.

**PAIS:** 1915 - present
Covering all aspects of global public policy issues, public health, environment, housing, human and civil rights.

**Periodicals Archive Online**
Facsimile page images and full-text for approximately 500 international and scholarly journals in the humanities and social sciences from 1802-1995.

**Readers’ Guide to Periodical Literature:** 1900 - present (REF AI3.R2)

**Some Popular Magazine Titles from the Time Period:**

Canadian Forum, 1920-2000 in print and on microfilm
Canadian Magazine of Politics, Science, Art and Literature, 1893-1939 in print, microfilm and online
Chatelaine, 1929-1998 in print, microfilm and online
Maclean's 1921- in print, microfilm and online
Saturday Night, 1887- in print, microfilm and online

3. **Use Government Publications**

Publications generated by a government body, public records, reports and statistics are excellent sources of primary materials. Government publications reference assistance is available Tuesday through Thursday from 2-4 p.m. or by appointment. You can also reach Graeme Campbell by email at graeme.campbell@queensu.ca

For more information, go to: [library.queensu.ca/gov/canada](library.queensu.ca/gov/canada)
4. Search the Web

To search the web for primary source collections, do an “Advanced Search” in Google:

“primary sources” women rights canada

Primary source materials and related websites can be freely searched on the Web as well as the links below that lead you to websites for which the Library pays.

Access the following via the Databases tab:

- Early Encounters in North America: Peoples, Cultures and the Environment
- North American Indian Thought and Culture
- North American Immigrant Letters, Diaries and Oral Histories
- North American Women’s Letters and Diaries: Colonial to 1950

Some websites provide access to online versions of primary sources which may be digitized images, facsimiles or full text. See below for a selection of websites:

Canada in the Making  [www.canadiana.org/citm/index_e.html](http://www.canadiana.org/citm/index_e.html)

Canada Year Book Historical Collection  [http://www65.statcan.gc.ca/acyb_r000-eng.htm](http://www65.statcan.gc.ca/acyb_r000-eng.htm)

Canadian History Websites (Carleton University Library)  
[www.library.carleton.ca/research/subject-guides/canadian-history#websites](http://www.library.carleton.ca/research/subject-guides/canadian-history#websites)

Civilization.ca  [www.civilization.ca/splash.html](http://www.civilization.ca/splash.html)
Access to archeological, ethnological, folk culture and historical collections.

Early Canadiana  [canadiana.org/ECO](http://canadiana.org/ECO)
Provides access to full-text books and pamphlets published from the time of the first European settlers up to the early 20th century.

Early Chinese Canadians, 1858–1947  
[www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/chinese-canadians/index-e.html](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/chinese-canadians/index-e.html)

Indian Affairs Annual Reports, 1864-1990  
[www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/indianaffairs/index-e.html](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/indianaffairs/index-e.html)

Libraries and Archives Canada – Collections  [www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/website/index-e.html](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/website/index-e.html)
Links to many of their digital collections and exhibitions, such as The Canadian West, War Diaries of the First World War.

Our Roots: Canada's Local Histories Online  [www.ourroots.ca/e/](http://www.ourroots.ca/e/)
Access to rare books and primary sources describing many aspects of Canadian history.
Peel's Prairie Provinces  [peel.library.ualberta.ca/index.html](peel.library.ualberta.ca/index.html)
Citations to and full text materials relating to the history of the Canadian Prairies.

The library subscribes to a growing number of electronic databases that include primary source materials. For more information, check the Canadian History: Primary Sources subject guide as well as the websites section of the Aboriginal Studies subject guide.

Find Secondary Sources

1. Books

To find books on your topic in QCAT, think of the words that best describe your topic and then connect them with Boolean operators: **AND, OR, NOT**.

For a selection of books on aboriginal crown relations, try this search:

```
aboriginal? and crown and canada
```

Search by: Keyword Boolean

Select useful titles and look at the subject headings. Use them to provide more keyword ideas or as individual searches themselves.

```
(aboriginal? or indigenous or indians) and crown and relations and canada
(aboriginal? or indigenous or indians) and "self government" and canada
```

Search by Subject

- Canada--Race relations--History
- Indigenous peoples--Alberta
- Indigenous peoples--Canada--Claims
- Indigenous peoples--Canada--Government relations
- Indians of North America--Canada--Government relations
- Indians of North America--Canada--History
- Indian of North America--Legal status, laws, etc.--Canada

Other useful subject headings for an overview of the historical period include:

- Canada--Economic conditions--1945-
- Canada--History--1914-1945
- Canada--Politics and government--1945-1980
- United States--Social life and customs--20th century
- United States--Social conditions--1945-

Note the sub-headings, e.g. History...
2. E-Books

The library subscribes to a number of e-book packages. Packages that are of interest to history students are: ACLS Humanities E-Book, Cambridge Histories Online, Canadian Electronic Library, and Ebrary. Records for these e-books should be in QCAT or Summon but one can directly go to these e-books packages and search them. Access is via Databases.

3. Articles

Use the following electronic journal database to find scholarly articles:

→ America: History and Life: 1954 - present

Also Useful: → Canadian Periodical Index: 1920-1998 (REF AI3.C2)

→ Historical Abstracts: 1954-
→ Humanities & Social Sciences Retrospective Index: 1907-1984
→ Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature: 1900- (REF AI3.R2)

Also check out more indexes to search by going to the following subject guides, e.g. Aboriginal Studies, History - Canadian, Gender Studies, etc. and then click the link, Article Indexes.

To search indexes, click the tab Databases and enter the title of the database.

America History and Life covers the history of Canada and the United States from prehistoric times - present. It indexes articles from 1,700 journals, selected books and dissertations.

For articles on the struggle for the women's vote, try:

Search: women and canada and vote
Modify search: women and canada and (suffrage or vote)

To find out if Queen's subscribes to the specific journal, click Get It! @ Queen's if full text not readily available.

Journals

Queen's Library subscribes to about 90,000 full text e-journals via various publishers' packages. Search QCAT (by journal title search) or Journals A to Z to find specific titles.

4. Summon

With Summon, you can search, discover and access information on any topic from the Queen's Library collections - print and electronic books, single articles to entire e-journals, newspapers, theses and more.

You can limit your results to peer-reviewed materials, filter by year and format, narrow by additional subject terms and then save, print or email references.
Summon is a good starting point to find material for your research but if you are doing higher level research, you will want to search relevant subject specific databases.

**Search Other Library Catalogues**

If you don’t find what you need in QCAT and Summon, try searching other library catalogues, using WorldCat, a database of library catalogues around the world. It can help you identify materials in other libraries, which you may then request through Interlibrary Loan. To access, click on Find Information and then on Other Library Catalogues.

**Request an Interlibrary Loan**

Use interlibrary loan (ILL) to obtain loans or copies of items that Queen’s libraries do not own. Click RACER on the library homepage. For more information, consult the brochure: [RACER, Our Interlibrary Loan System](/library/research/guide/ill-system).

**Search the Web**

Check our Search the Web guide: [library.queensu.ca/research/guide/search-web](library.queensu.ca/research/guide/search-web)

**Google**

Google Advanced Search [www.google.ca/advanced_search](www.google.ca/advanced_search)

... offers a variety of ways to structure a more precise search and improve the efficiency of your search results.

Google Scholar [scholar.google.ca/](scholar.google.ca/)

... searches for scholarly materials including journal articles, theses, books, preprints, abstracts and technical reports from broad areas of research.

**TIP:**

By searching Google Scholar through the Queen’s Library website the "Get It! @ Queen’s" citation linker is activated (which allows you to click through to the Library’s subscriptions). To import citations into RefWorks choose Scholar Preferences, then Bibliography Manager. Select RefWorks - Save Preferences.

For assistance on writing a historiographical paper, check our [guide](/library/research/guide) or go to the link under Writing Help on the History Subject guide.

**Evaluate Websites**

Anyone can create a webpage so it is particularly important to analyze and assess information that you find on the Web before using it in a research paper.
Go to our Evaluating Web Sources page for a checklist of points to consider when analyzing a webpage:

How-to & Help → How-To Guides → Finding ... → Web: Evaluate

Evaluate Sources

Evaluating all of your sources is a crucial step of the research process. Check our Evaluating Sources page for criteria on how to judge information sources.

Cite Sources

Check our Citation and Style Guides page at: How-to & Help → How to Cite Sources

Chicago is the preferred style of documentation in history. Check QCAT for print copies in the library system. It is also available online, via Databases.

Since there are many different citation styles, always check with your instructors to determine which style is expected for your courses.

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