Early Encounters in the Americas
History 390-002

Consider Resources

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

Check subject guides under: Research by Subject → History → by Region → Canadian

Find Background Information

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

- Cambridge History of the Native Peoples of the Americas Vol. 1 North America (Online)
- Canadian Encyclopedia (Online)
- Dictionary of Canadian Biography (Online)
- Dictionary of National Biography (Online)
- Encyclopedia of Canada’s Peoples REF FC104 .E58 1999
- 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, 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 materials from the time period about which you are writing as well as published documents and collections.

A. Search by Subject or Keyword

You can locate items in the library by searching QCAT using a keyword Boolean search and then adding one of the special subject terms to your search: correspondence, diaries, interviews, pamphlets, personal narratives, sources...
American Beginnings the European Presence in North America, 1492
Also browse subject headings and look for these special subject terms.

Canada—History--To 1663--New France--Sources
Indians of North America--Government relations--Sources

B. Look up Historical Figures, Organizations ...

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.

champlain samuel
hudson henry

2. Search the Web

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

"primary sources" christopher columbus site:.edu

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
- Empire Online
- North American Indian Thought and Culture
- 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:

American Beginnings the European Presence in North America, 1492–1690
nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/amerbegin/index.htm

American Journeys www.americanjourneys.org/
18,000 pages of eyewitness accounts of North American exploration, from the sagas of Vikings in Canada in AD1000 to the diaries of mountain men in the Rockies 800 years later.

Canadiana.Org www.canadiana.ca/en/home
Canada in the Making www.canadiana.org/citm/index_e.html

Champlain Society Digital Collection link.library.utoronto.ca/champlain/search.cfm?lang=eng
The collection contains 101 of the Champlain Society's volumes dealing with exploration and
discovery over three centuries, e.g. first-hand accounts of Samuel de Champlain’s voyages in New France.

**Early Americas Digital Archive** [mith.umd.edu/eada/]
A collection of electronic texts and links to texts originally written in or about the Americas from 1492 to 1820.

**Early Canadiana** [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.

**France in America** [international.loc.gov/intldl/fiahtml/fiaabout.html]

**Historic Treaties (Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada)**
[www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100028653/1100100028654]

**Internet Modern History Sourcebook** [legacy.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook.asp]

**Colonial North America** [legacy.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/modsbook07.asp]

**Canada** [legacy.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/modsbook30.asp]

**Repertory of Online Collections of Primary Sources: Specific Topics in Canadian History**
[thenhier.ca/en/content/repertory-online-collections-primary-sources-specific-topics-canadian-history]

The library subscribes to a growing number of electronic databases that include primary source materials. For more sites, check the [Canadian History: Primary Sources](http://canadianhistory) subject guide as well as the websites section of the [Indigenous Studies](http://indigenousstudies) 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 about whether there are other terms that could also be used to describe the topic, including synonyms, related terms or other words that have a similar meaning.

Once you have done this, the next step is to connect them in a logical way that the database, e.g. QCAT will understand. This is accomplished with the use of Boolean operators: **AND**, **OR**, **NOT**

For a selection of books on British and French encounters with native peoples of North America during the early years of colonization, initially you could try this search:

encounters and native? and america

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.

(natives or indians) and (contacts or encounters) and (america or “new france” or “new world”)

Search by Subject

America--Discovery and exploration
Canada--History--To 1763--New France
First contact of aboriginal peoples with Westerners
Great Britain--Colonies [sub-divided by country]
Indians of North America--Canada
Indians of North America--Canada--Economic conditions
Indians of North America--First contact with Europeans
Indians of North America--History--16th century
Indians of North America--Canada--Politics and government
Indians of North America--Canada--Religion and mythology
Indians of North America--United States
Indians of North America--United States--Treaties
North America--History--Colonial Period

2. Articles

Use the following electronic journal databases to find scholarly articles:

→ America: History and Life
→ Bibliography of Native North Americans
→ Historical Abstracts

Also check out more indexes to search by going to the following subject guides, e.g. Indigenous Studies, History - American and Canadian 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 to present and indexes articles from 1,700 journals, selected books and dissertations.

For attitudes and behaviors by the French/British towards the native peoples, try this:

France or Britain
AND attitudes or behaviors
AND indians or natives

Refine results by limiting by Source type, language, and time period. To find out if Queen's
subscribes to the 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 or Journals A to Z to find specific titles. One collection that is of particular interest to history students is JSTOR, a digitized collection of articles from key periodicals, excluding the most current 2 to 5 years of a title. Access JSTOR via the tab Databases.

**Bibliographies**

*Oxford Bibliographies Online* is a resource that offers discipline focused guides to the essential literature in subjects across the humanities and social sciences. Check out the *Latin American Studies* and *Atlantic History* guides which list many resources with annotations.

### 3. Summon

With Summon, you can search, discover and access information on any topic from the Queen's Library collections which includes 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*.

**Search the Web**

Check our Search the Web guide: library.queensu.ca/research/guide/search-web
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 the library’s subscriptions).

For assistance on writing a historiographical paper, check the guide located 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. Go to **Evaluating Sources** 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*

[Image of Chicago Manual of Style]

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

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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