Public History
History 391

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. 
Research by Subject → History → by Region → Canadian

Find Background Information

Check dictionaries and encyclopedias to provide definitions, introduction to key issues, dates, events, noted persons, and often bibliographic references. For selected titles, check the appropriate subject guide and click the tab, Dictionaries and Encyclopedias. Selected titles include:

Canadian Encyclopedia (Online)
Dictionary of Canadian Biography (Online)
Blackwell Reference Online (companion introductions to various histories)

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....

“world war” and canada and diaries

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

Women--Canada--History--Sources
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
brock isaac

Look up groups or organizations as an author (or subject), e.g. parks canada

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 newspapers from various 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
london england 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: coverage varies

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 newspapers, check our Newspapers subject guide at: Research by Subject → Newspapers

Periodicals published at the time are another type of primary source. To locate historical periodical literature, consult the following indexes:

British Periodicals (Online)
    Facsimile page images and searchable full text for British journals from 1680-1930.

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)

3. Use Government Publications

Publications generated by a government body, public records, reports and statistics are excellent sources of primary materials. Located on the ground floor, the collection is especially strong in Canadian primary source material, for example, Debates of the House of Commons, Royal Commissions and the Census. 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 information about Canadian legislative documents, go to: library.queensu.ca/gov/canada

4. Use Special Collections and the University Archives

Visit the W.D. Jordan Special Collections Library located on the second floor of Douglas Library for resources in Canadian historical and literary studies pre and post Confederation. Contact Alvan Bregman for assistance at alvan.bregman@queensu.ca. Also consider visiting the Archives (in Kathleen Ryan Hall) - contact Heather Home for assistance at home@queensu.ca.

5. Search the Web

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

   “primary sources” women suffrage 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:

- ECCO (Eighteenth Century Collections Online)
- In the First Person: Index to Letters, Diaries, Oral Histories, and Other Personal Narratives
- North American Immigrant Letters, Diaries and Oral Histories
- North American Indian Thought and Culture
- North American Women’s Letters and Diaries: Colonial to 1950
- Oral History Online
- Women and Social Movements in the United States

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)

**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.

**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/)

**Peel’s Prairie Provinces**  [peel.library.ualberta.ca/index.html](http://peel.library.ualberta.ca/index.html)

  - Citations to and full text materials relating to the history of the Canadian Prairies.

### 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 the memorialization of the Canadian experience in the Great War, try this search:

“first world war” or “great war” and (memory or memorial?) and canada  [Keyword Boolean]
Select useful titles and look at the subject headings. Use them to provide more keyword ideas or as individual searches themselves.

"world war 1914" and (memory or memorial? or monuments) and canada
"world war 1914" and "war memorials"

Search by Subject

War and society
War memorials
World War 1914-1918 Art and the war
World War 1914-1918 Memorials
World War 1914-1918 Social aspects Canada
Vimy Memorial (France)

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
Canada--Social life and customs--20th century
Canada--Social conditions--1945-

2. E-Books

The library subscribes to a number of e-book packages. Packages that are of interest to history students are: ICLS 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-
→ Academic Search Complete: Coverage varies
→ 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. Art, History - Canadian, 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 memorialization of Vimy Ridge, try this search:
Search: vimy memorial*
Edit search: vimy and (memorials or monuments)
battle of vimy ridge

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

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, such as: History and Society; History and Memory; Material Culture; Material Culture Review; Museum and Society; Museum History Journal; Oral History Review; and Public Historian.

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.

Remember when you are searching Summon, you are searching approximately 88% of the Library's collection - not everything is included in Summon. Summon is a good starting point to find material for your research but advanced users 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.

Search the Web

For Public History resources, check Western University Department of History's page at: history.uwo.ca/public_history/resources.html

Google

Google 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.

**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 and online via Databases tab

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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