Consider Resources

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

Check subject guide under: Research by Subject → History → By Region → Canadian → Aboriginal Studies → Primary Sources

Find Background Information

The following are selected titles that may help you understand the broader context of your research and about your topic.

Canadian Encyclopedia (Online)
Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online
Encyclopedia of Canada's Peoples (Online)
Encyclopedia of North American Indians (Online)
Oxford Companion to Canadian History (Online)

For more resources on Canada, check the Dictionaries and Encyclopedias section of the above subject guides.

Find Primary Sources

For 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

Search QCAT to identify and locate primary sources. Certain words included in the Library of Congress Subject Headings indicate the work is a primary source. These special subject terms include: sources, diaries, correspondence, pamphlets, description and travel, personal narratives …
A. Search by Subject or Keyword

Do a keyword Boolean search and add one of the special subject terms to your search. women and canada and sources
(letter? or correspondence or diaries or narrative?) and "british columbia" and history

Browse through your results and see if anything is appropriate since not every hit will be a primary source. When you find suitable books, look at the subject headings and see if they can lead you to other books.

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

British Columbia--Description and travel
Women--Canada--History--Sources
World War, 1939-1945--Personal narratives, Canadian

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.

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

Stauffer Library has a number of newspapers available from this time period. To find out what newspapers the Library has, search QCAT by newspaper title or search by subject heading, e.g. vancouver b.c. newspapers

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

The Globe and Mail 1844 - excluding latest 3-4 years
New York Times 1851 - excluding latest 3-4 years
The Toronto Star 1894- excluding latest 3-4 years

Freely available on the Web:

Alberta Newspapers http://peel.library.ualberta.ca/newspapers/
Early Alberta Newspapers http://www.ourfutureourpast.ca/newspapr/
The British Colonist (1858-1910) http://www.britishcolonist.ca/
Southern Alberta Newspapers http://www.uleth.ca/lib/digitized_Collections/sanews.asp
For more information, 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:

**Libris Canadiana**

Index to articles published in various Canadian journals (1867-1978)

**19th Century Masterfile**

Provides indexing to nineteenth century periodicals, books, newspapers, and government documents. The main index is *Poole's Index to Periodical Literature* (1802-1906).

**Periodicals Archive Online**

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

Also consider:

*Canadian Periodical Index*: 1920-1998 (REF AI3.C2)
*Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature*: 1900 - present (REF AI3.R2)
*Humanities and Social Sciences Index Retrospective*: 1907 - 1984 (Online)
*PAIS*: 1915 - present (Online)

Some journal titles from the time period:

*Advertising Age*
*Busy Man's Magazine* (See Maclean's 1905-1911)
*Canadian Architect*
*Canadian Forum*
*Canadian Journal of Industry, Science and Art*
*Canadian Magazine of Politics, Science, Art and Literature* (Canadian Magazine)
*Canadian Monthly and National Review*
*Chatelaine*
*Grain Growers' Guide*
*Maclean's*
*Saturday Evening Post*
*Saturday Night*
*Time*

Also refer to our selected list of illustrated magazines and check QCAT for their holdings and location:  [http://library.queensu.ca/files/illustrated_magazines.pdf](http://library.queensu.ca/files/illustrated_magazines.pdf)
3. Use Government Documents

Located on the ground floor, the government documents collection is an especially strong repository of Canadian primary source material. For example, you will find the Debates of the House of Commons, Royal Commissions and the Census of Canada, historical sheet maps and atlases. Reference assistance is available Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 2-4 p.m. or by appointment. You can reach Jeff Moon by email at moonj@queensu.ca

4. Use Special Collections

Visit the W. D. Jordan Special Collections Library located on the second floor of Douglas Library. The collection is especially strong in Canadian historical and literary studies pre- and post-Confederation. Contact Lucinda Walls for assistance: lucinda.walls@queensu.ca.

5. Search the Web

Search the web for primary source collections:

Primary source materials and related websites can be freely reached on the web as well as well as the links below that lead you to websites for which the library pays.

Access the following via Databases:

- British and Irish Women’s Letters and Diaries
- Early Canadiana Online
- Early Encounters in North America: Peoples Cultures and the Environment
- Empire Online
- North American Immigrant Letters, Diaries and Oral Histories
- North American Indian Thought and Culture

A selection of freely available websites:

- Ad Access
  http://library.duke.edu/digitalcollections/adaccess/
  Advertisements printed in U.S. and Canadian newspapers and magazines between 1911 and 1955.

- British Columbia Archives Visual Records
  http://www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca/visual/visual.htm

- Canadian Illustrated News: Images in the News, 1869-1883
  http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/cin/index-e.html

- Canada in the Making
  http://www.canadiana.ca/citm/index_e.html
Canadian History Websites (Carleton University)
http://www.library.carleton.ca/subjects/canhist.html

Canadian Pamphlets and Broadsides
http://eir.library.utoronto.ca/broadsides/search.cfm

A collection of over 20,000 pamphlets which provide a rich resource for the study of Canadian society from the 18th century to the present. The Broadsides collection consists of posters on such topics as War bonds, conscription, Canadian poetry, politics, art and travel.

Images Canada
http://www.imagescanada.ca/index-e.html

Library and Archives Canada
http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/index-e.html

Manitoba History

Peel’s Prairie Provinces
http://peel.library.ualberta.ca/index.html

Find Secondary Sources

1. Books

To find books on your topic, 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 native treaty rights in British Columbia, try this search:

native and treat? and ("british columbia" or canada)

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

(aboriginal or indigenous or “first nations” or indians) and (treaties or land) and “british columbia” and history

Search by Subject

Indigenous peoples Land tenure Northwest Pacific History
Indigenous peoples Canada History
Indians of North America British Columbia Government relations
Indians of North America Canada Treaties History
Indians of North America Land tenure British Columbia
Indians of North America Legal status, laws, etc Canada
Other useful subject headings for an overview of the historical period include:

- British Columbia History
- Canada western Economic conditions
- Canada Western History
- Canada Western Description and travel
- Manitoba Social life and customs
- Northwest Canada
- Pacific coast (B.C.) History
- Pioneers Canadian
- Saskatchewan Social conditions
- Women pioneers Canada

2. E-Books

The library subscribes to a number of e-book packages. Three packages that are of interest to history students are: ACLS Humanities E-Books, Canadian Electronic Library, MyiLibrary, Cambridge Histories Online, and e-Duke Books Scholarly Collection (via ebrary)

Records for these e-books should be in QCAT but one can directly go to these e-books packages and search them. Access is via Databases.

3. Articles

Use the following database to find journal articles:

→ America: History and Life: 1954 - present

Also useful:  Canadian Periodical Index: 1920-1998 (REF AI3.C21) online from 1977-

Humanities and Social Sciences Index Retrospective: 1907-1984

Academic Search Complete: coverage varies

Also check out more indexes to search by going to appropriate subject guide, e.g. Aboriginal Studies, Gender Studies, etc. and then clicking on the link, Article Indexes.

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

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

Search:    japanese internment and (canada or british columbia)
Revise search:    japanese and (imprisonment or evacuation) and (canada or british columbia)

To find out if Queen's subscribes to the journal, click on Get It! @ Queen's if full text not readily available. To determine whether a journal is scholarly check our guide: http://library.queensu.ca/inforef/tutorials/qcat/qeval.htm.
4. Summon

Summon is a library search engine that helps you discover information on any topic from the Queen's Library collections. It searches books, journals, newspapers and provides you with several ways to narrow your search results.

Summon is good for broad, initial searches but it is not totally comprehensive. 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, try searching other library catalogues, using Worldcat. Worldcat is 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. Under Services, click Borrowing From Other Libraries, and then RACER. For more information, consult the brochure: RACER, Our Interlibrary Loan System.

**Search the Web**

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

http://www.google.ca/advanced_search?hl=en

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

http://books.google.ca/

...searches for books on your topic. In many cases, a limited preview of the book is available - you can then search QCAT, the library catalogue to see if Queen's owns a copy. In other instances, the complete book is available in digital form from Google Books.

http://scholar.google.ca/

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

...searches a variety of academic publishers, professional societies, preprint repositories and universities, as well as scholarly articles available across the web.
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 web page:

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

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.

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

Writing a Research Paper

Some guides to consider:

Dartmouth Writing Program: Writing the History Paper
http://www.dartmouth.edu/~writing/materials/student/soc_sciences/history.shtml

University of Toronto: Writing About History
http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/specific-types-of-writing/history

Reading, Writing and Researching for History: a Guide for College Students
http://www.bowdoin.edu/writing-guides/

Elizabeth Gibson
Learning and Research Services
Stauffer Library
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