

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

Check subject guides under: **Research by Subject** → **History** → **By Region** → **Canadian**
→ **Aboriginal Studies**

Find Background Information

Search QCAT for these selected titles:

Oxford Companion to Canadian History (Online)
Canadian Encyclopedia (Online)
Dictionary of Canadian Biography (Online)

For more resources, check the Dictionaries and Encyclopedias section of the Canadian History subject guide, and the Encyclopedias section of the Aboriginal Studies subject guide.

Find Primary Sources

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

There is an abundance of primary source material in Stauffer Library. The form 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 find books, government documents, and magazine/newspaper titles from the time period about which you are writing as well as published documents and collections.

To find individual 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:

correspondence, diaries, interviews, pamphlets, personal narratives, sources....

women and canada and **sources**
"world war" and canada and **diaries**

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

Canada--History--To 1763 (New France)--**Sources**
Women--Canada--History--**Sources**
World War, 1939-1945--**Personal narratives**, Canadian

Collections of primary sources often have the word **documents** or **papers** in the title.

documents and "french canada"

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

C. Limit by Date

Using the Advanced Search tab, search QCAT by topic and limit your results to find materials published during the time period about which you are writing. Beside **Date** enter the desired date range. You can also sort results by publication date (earliest to most recent).

Date:	<input type="radio"/>	Current Material	▼		
	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	From	1900	To	1975

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 20th century 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: e.g. toronto ont 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 2 years
Toronto Star	1892 - excluding latest 3-4 years

For more information, check our Newspapers subject guide at:

Research by Subject → Newspapers

Journals published at the time are another type of primary source. To locate 20th century journal literature, consult the following index:

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 Canadian magazine titles from the time period:

Canadian Forum, 1920-2000

Canadian Magazine of Politics, Science, Art, and Literature, 1893-1939
(online 1893-1900, title: Canadian Magazine)

Chatelaine, 1928-

Maclean's, 1921- in print and on microfilm from 1905-

Saturday Night, 1887- on microfilm

Time Canada, 1948-1965

3. Use Government Documents

Publications generated by a government body, public records, reports and statistics are excellent sources of primary materials. Government Documents 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.

For information about the Canadian legislative documents, check the web page at: library.queensu.ca/webdoc/gov/canada_federal

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 Center for Research Libraries

For information about CRL and how to borrow resources, go to:

Research by Subject → Center for Research Libraries

This rich resource library holds over 4 million books, journals, newspapers and other primary source materials from all over the world.

CRL publishes topical guides, which gather in one place sources on a particular subject at: www.crl.edu/collections/topics/

Check the Canada guide at: www.crl.edu/collections/topics/canada

6. Search Databases and the Web

Access the following via Databases:

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

Web Resources

Canada in the Making www.canadiana.org/citm/index_e.html

Canada Year Book Historical Collection www65.statcan.gc.ca/acyb_r000-eng.htm

CBC Digital Archives archives.cbc.ca/index.asp?IDLan=1

Civilization.ca www.civilization.ca/splash.html

Visit the two museums online for archeological, ethnological, folk culture and historical collections, which highlight Canada's history.

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.

History OnLine www.history.ac.uk/ihr/Resources/Type/primary.html

This database links to hundreds of history Web sites, many of which contain primary sources. Browse, or search by keyword and limit by time period.

Libraries and Archives Canada - Collections 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.

WWV-VL History: Canadian History vlib.iue.it/history/CANADA/canada.html

A good portal for Canadian history on the Web.

Find Secondary Sources

Secondary sources comment upon, explain or interpret primary sources. They may include scholarly books, journal and magazine articles, biographies, reviews and textbooks.

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) **and** crown **and** relations **and** canada
(aboriginal **or** indigenous) **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--History
Indians of North America--Canada--Government relations
Indians 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
Canada--Social life and customs--20th century
Canada--Social conditions--1945-

Note the sub-headings, e.g. History....
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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-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 should directly go to these e-book packages and search them. Access is via **Databases**.

3. Articles

Use the following electronic journal database to find scholarly articles:

→ *America: History and Life*

Also useful:
Academic Search Complete
Canadian Periodical Index: 1920-1988 (REF AI3.C21)
Humanities & Social Sciences Retrospective Index: 1907-1984
Religion Database

Also check out more indexes to search by going to appropriate subject guide, e.g. *Aboriginal Studies*, *Canadian History*, *Gender Studies*, etc. and then clicking on the link, [Article Indexes](#).

To search indexes, click the **Databases** tab and enter the 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.

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

Search: women **and** (vote **or** suffrage) **and** canada
Revise search: women **and** suffrage **and** canada

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

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 (about 247 history titles are indexed), excluding the most current 2 to 5 years of a title. Access JSTOR via **Databases**.

4. Summon

With Summon, you can easily 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, to 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. 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. 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 at: library.queensu.ca/research/guide/search-web



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 results.



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.



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 webpage:

How-to & Help → How-To Guides → Finding ... → 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.

*Elizabeth Gibson
Learning and Research Services
Stauffer Library
Fall 2011*