First Nations of North America
History 467

Consider Resources

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

Go to the **Research by Subject** link on the library's home page to find subject guides which will help you begin your research in history through the library's collections and beyond. Guides to check out include: **Indigenous Studies**; **History by Region: Canadian.**

Find Background Information

Check the sections in the Research by Subject guides under the sections labelled **Dictionaries and Encyclopedias.** These titles will help you find definitions, introduction to key issues, dates, events, noted persons, and often bibliographical references.

Find Primary Sources

For general information about primary sources, go to the **Research by Subject** guide, **Primary Sources** and also check the **primary sources** link on the Canadian History subject guide.

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.

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**….

indians and (canada or manitoba) and **sources**

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

Indians of North America--Canada--Government relations, 1830-1860--**Sources**

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: riel louis

2. Use Journal and Newspaper Indexes Covering the Time Period

To find out what newspapers the Library has, search QCAT by newspaper title or search by subject heading, e.g. Winnipeg man newspapers

We have access to the following full text electronic 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 latest 3-4 years
Paper of Record: a collection of 18th and 19th century newspaper articles

For more information re historical Canadian newspapers, check our **Newspapers** subject guide.

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 (time period from 1907-1984)
JSTOR - an archive of core scholarly journal literature dating back to the 1850s.
19th Century Masterfile - indexes journals from the late 1700s to the early 1900s.
Periodicals Archive Online - indexes international and scholarly journals fom 1802-1995.

3. Use Government Documents

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 an especially strong repository of Canadian primary source material, for example, Debates of the House of Commons, Royal Commissions and the Census. Reference assistance is available by contacting Graeme Campbell at graeme.campbell@queensu.ca

4. Use Special Collections and the University Archives

Visit the W.D. Jordan Special Collections Library located in Douglas Library for resources in Canadian historical and literary studies pre and post Confederation as well as the University Archives in Kathleen Ryan Hall.

5. Search the Web

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:

Aboriginal Studies: Websites library.queensu.ca/research/guide/indigenous-studies/websites
Aboriginal Heritage www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/aboriginal-heritage/Pages/introduction.aspx
Canada in the Making www.canadiana.org/citm/index_e.html

Canadian History Websites (Carleton University Library) – see section on First Nations
www.library.carleton.ca/research/subject-guides/canadian-history#websites

Early Canadiana canadiana.org/ECO
Full-text books/pamphlets published from the 1600s up to the 1940s.

iPortal Indigenous Studies Portal Research Tool iportal.usask.ca/

First Nations and Treaties Map of Ontario
www.ontario.ca/document/first-nations-and-treaties-map-ontario
Use map to find treaty name/number and then look it up in other treaty sites.

Treating Making in Canada www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100028574/1100100028578

Treaties, Surrenders and Agreements (Library and Archives Canada)
www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/aboriginal-heritage/first-nations/treaties-surrenders-agreements/Pages/introduction.aspx

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 information, check the Canadian History: Primary Sources subject guide as well as the websites section of the Indigenous 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 example, your topic is: How are aboriginal women portrayed in movies?

There are many different words used to indicate and describe First Nations so it is important to use a variety of words in your search. For this search, you could search:

(aboriginal or _____?) and (women or _____?) and (movies or _____?) and (portrayal or _____?)

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

Search by Subject

Indians of North America Canada
Indians of North America Canada Claims
Indians of North America Canada Economic conditions
Indians of North America Canada Government relations
Indians of North America Canada History
Indians of North America Canada Land tenure
Indians of North America Canada Legal status, laws
Indians of North America Canada Politics and government
Indians of North America Canada Religion and mythology
Indians of North America Canada Residential schools
Indians of North America Canada Social conditions
Indians of North America Canada Social life and customs
Indians of North America Canada Statistics
Indians of North America Canada Treaties

The following subject headings can also be further broken down geographically or by nation:

Cree Indians
Indian land transfers
Indian women
Indian women Crimes against Canada
Indigenous peoples
Inuit
Metis
Metis women
Native peoples
Native women

More subject headings for First Nations

Native art
Indian reservations
Indian boarding schools
Indians in literature
Indians in popular culture
Indians in motion pictures

2. Articles

Use the following electronic journal database to find scholarly articles:

→ America: History and Life: 1954 – present
→ Bibliography of Native North Americans: 1954 – present

Also Useful: → Ethnic NewsWatch: 1959-
→ First Nations Periodical Index: coverage varies
→ AnthropologyPlus: Late 19th century-
→ Religion Database: 1949-

Also check out more indexes to search by going to the following subject guides, e.g. Indigenous 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. For example, search BNNA for articles of intermarriage and metissage:

("first nations" or aboriginal* or indian* or indigeneous or metis) AND (intermarriage or metissage)

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

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.

Search the Web

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

Google Advanced Search www.google.ca/advanced_search

Google Scholar scholar.google.ca/

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.

Evaluate Websites

Anyone can create a webpage so it is particularly important to analyze and assess information that one finds 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 and Cite Sources

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