

---

---

# **Government information citations in Canadian public policy and public administration scholarly literature**

---

---

Graeme Campbell, Queen's University  
Katharine Hall, Concordia University  
Michelle Lake, Concordia University

# Project Goals

1. How frequently do Canadian public policy and public administration researchers cite government documents?
2. How has this frequency changed over time?
3. How many of these documents were cited from online sources? Has that pattern changed over time?
4. Are these online documents still available?

# Literature Review

- Citations to government information in academic journals usually make up a smaller percentage of total citations [1-9]
- Increased availability of online government information has not resulted in an increase in government information citation [1,3,6,9]
- There is a gap in the literature in terms of scholarly citation of Canadian government publications analysis

# The citation analysis is dead, long live the citation analysis

2013: Original project

- Investigating use of Canadian government publications by political scientists, ahead of the end of the DSP....

2015: 2nd project iteration

- Completed coding and analysis of the reference lists from articles in 3 journals across 3 years

2023: Current project

- Dropped 1 journal, added 2 years
- Recoding, updating of codes, expanding our analysis

# Methodology overview

- Extract citations from each issue of *Canadian Public Administration* and *Canadian Public Policy* for all issues from 1994, 2004, 2009, 2014, and 2019
- Developed our codebook of document classification
- All citations independently coded by 2 researchers
- Coding conflicts resolved through discussion with all researchers
- Analyze the results!

# Our Codebook

## Government, print & online:

- Government of Canada publications
- Government of Canada records
- Publications from non-federal governments within Canada
- Records from non-federal governments within Canada
- International and intergovernmental organization publications and records

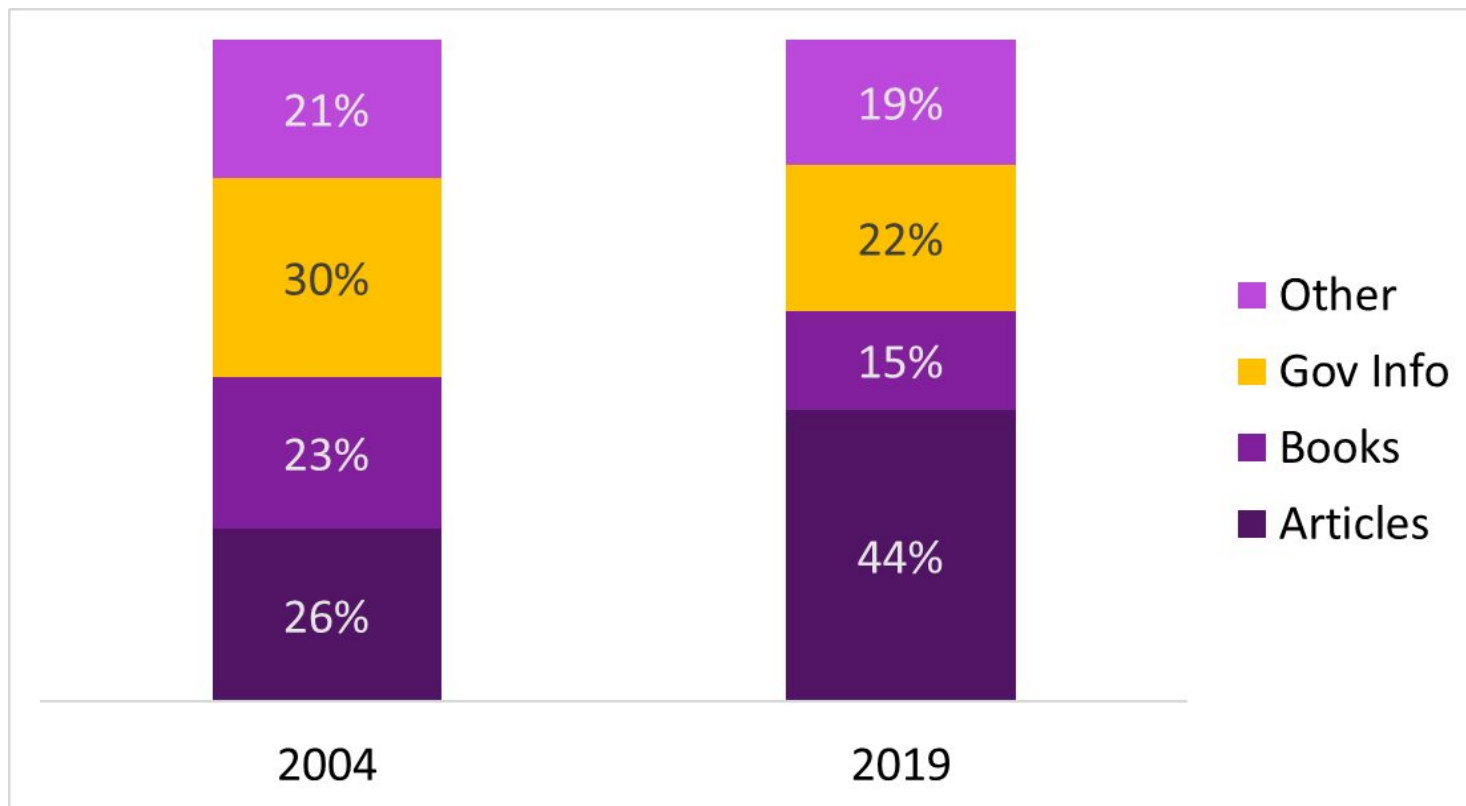
## Everything else:

- Peer-reviewed journal articles
- Books and book chapters
- Grey literature (print & online)
- News media
- Personal communications
- Personal or non-organizational websites

# Citation overview

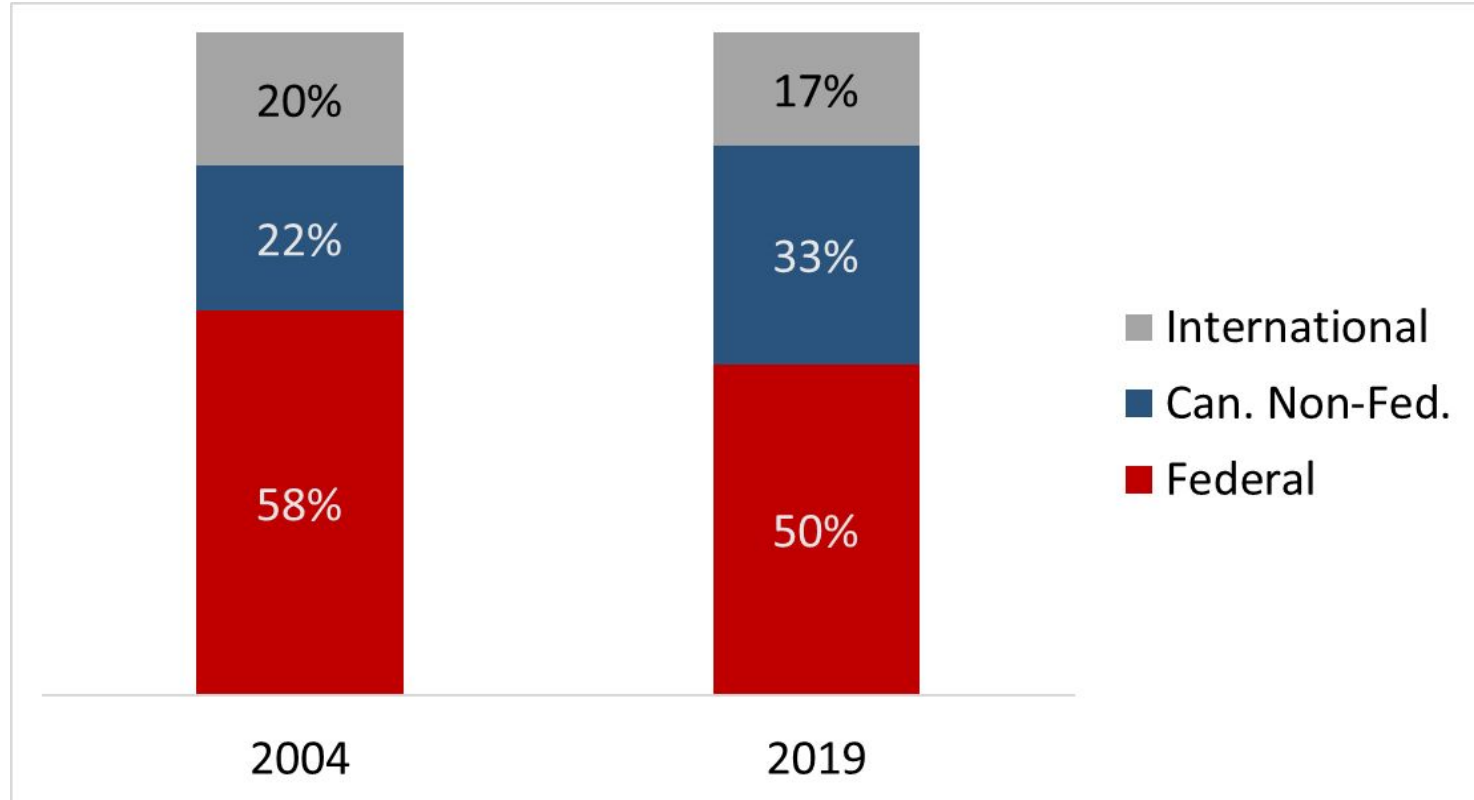
	2004	2019
Number of Articles	43	58
Number of Citations	1667	2763
Average citations per article	39	48

# Percentage of citation types, by year

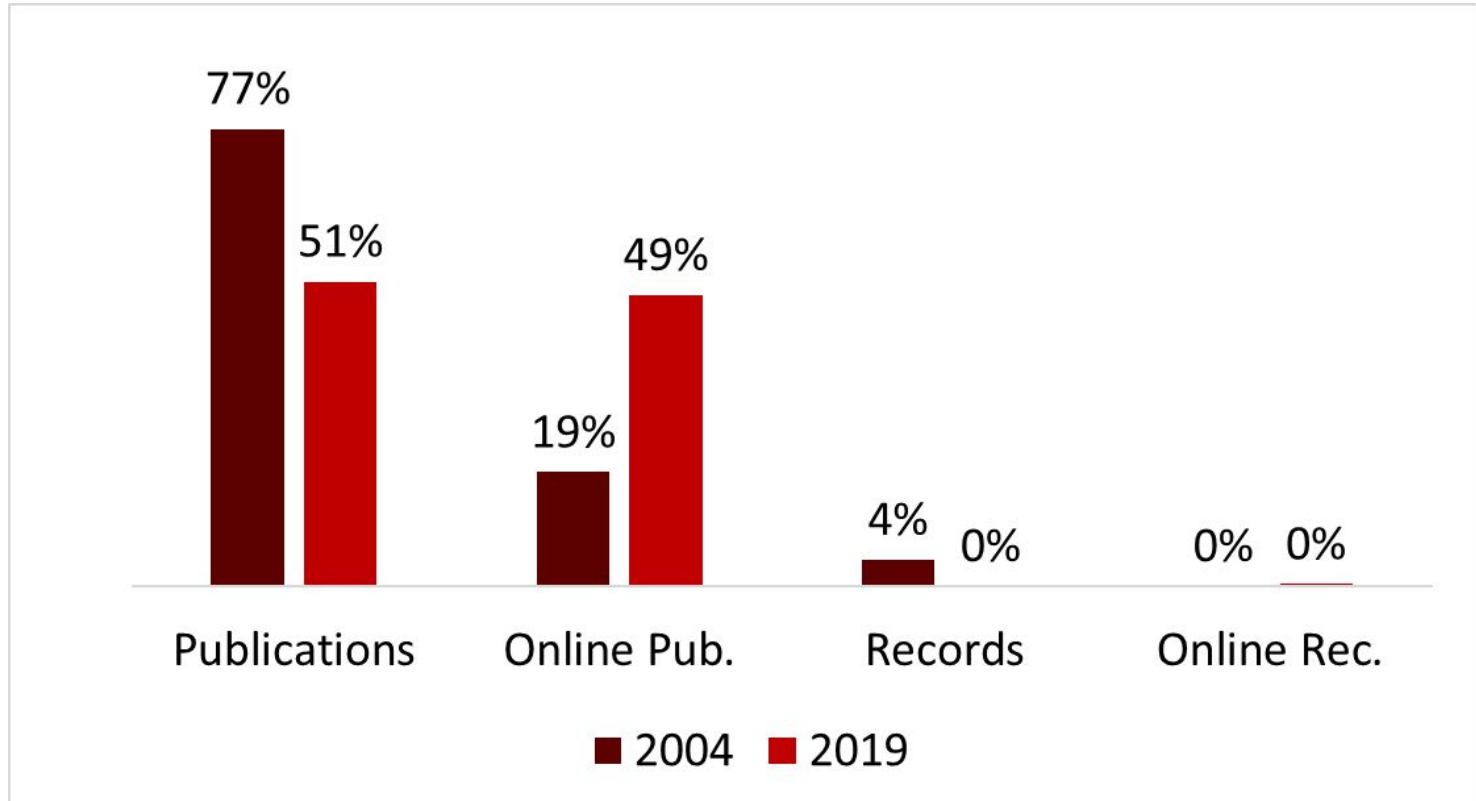




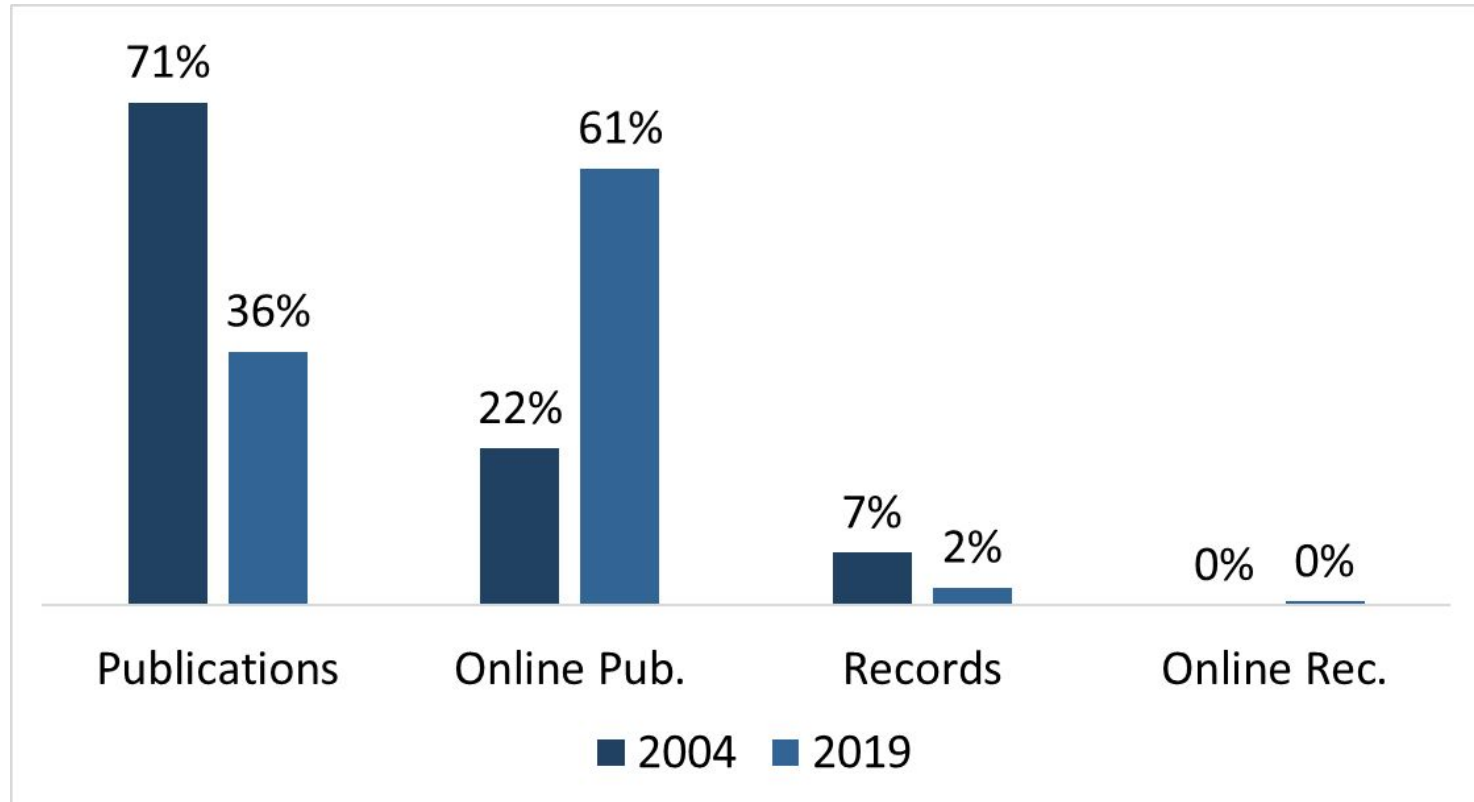
# Government information types, by year



# Federal government documents, print & online



# Canadian, non-federal gov't documents, print & online



## Next steps

1. Finish coding & conflict resolution
2. Perform further analysis
3. Write article

# References

1. Barnes, N. (2006). The use of U.S. government publications as bibliography references in doctoral dissertations. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship* 32(5), 503-511. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acalib.2006.05.004>
2. Brill, M.S. (1990). Government publications as bibliography references in the periodical literature of international relations: A citation analysis. *Government Information Quarterly* 7(4): 427-439. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0740-624X\(90\)90065-V](https://doi.org/10.1016/0740-624X(90)90065-V)
3. Chen, C, Wang, P., Liu, Y., Wu, G. & Wang, P. (2013). Impacts of government website information on social sciences and humanities in China: A citation analysis. *Government Information Quarterly* 30, 450-463. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.giq.2013.05.008>
4. Goehlert, R. (1979). A citation analysis of International Organization: The use of government documents. *Government Publications Review* 6(2), 185-193. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0093-061X\(79\)90060-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/0093-061X(79)90060-1)
5. Haner, B.E. (1990). Government information as recorded in core serials of the geological sciences. *Government Publications Review* 17(4): 341-355. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0277-9390\(90\)90021-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/0277-9390(90)90021-5)
6. Hogenboom, K. (2002). Has government information on the Internet affected citation patterns? A case study of population studies journals. *Journal of Government Information* 29, 392-401. doi:10.1016/j.jgi.2002.09.001
7. Pasquariella, S.K. (1981). *The Literature of Population Studies: Citation Patterns and Bibliographic Control*. Columbia University Dissertation.
8. Postema, B. & Weech, T.L. (1991). The use of government publications: A twelve-year perspective. *Government Publications Review* 18, 223-238. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0277-9390\(91\)90001-E](https://doi.org/10.1016/0277-9390(91)90001-E)
9. Zhang, L. (2007). Citation analysis for collection development: A study of international relations journal literature. *Library Collections, Acquisitions, & Technical Services* 31: 195-207. doi:10.1016/j.lcats.2007.11.001