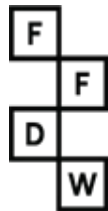# Democracy's Library Canada:
One Year Update

Loren Fantin, Special Projects & Strategic Initiatives, IAC
Steve Marks, Digital Preservation Librarian, University of Toronto
Andrea Mills, Executive Director, IAC
Simone O'Byrne, Consultant, IAC

GovInfo Days
2023

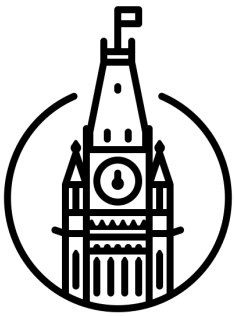"Government information is the operating system of a democratic society."

Carl Malamud

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION FOR

EVERYONE

- Freely available, open, online repository of the published works of all democracies
- Federal, provincial and municipal
- Discoverable and Available over time (sustainable)
- Ability to use and reuse the data

2023

- Surveys & Stakeholder Interviews
- Environmental Scan
- Community Collaboration & Partnerships
- Working Group, Meetings and Presentations
- Real life metrics and expertise knowledge
- Leveraging new technologies

Created by Happy Girl
from Noun Project

Created by Fauzan Adiima
from Noun Project

Simone O'Byrne, Internet Archive Canada

Overview

- Introduction
- Scope
- Methodology/approach
- Data collection

Introduction

This environmental scan is still a work in progress, undertaken to document Canadian government digital publication collections available online.

Feedback from the February 2023 Democracy's Library survey further illustrated the need for broad-based data collection across all levels of government.

An inventory of current collections will assist in identifying the gaps that exist, and allow us to arrive at a clearer picture of how Internet Archive Canada can support open and long-term access to Canadian government information.

Environmental scan: in scope

The scan encompasses Canadian federal, provincial, and territorial government information collected and made publicly available online.

As of today, data on over 200 collections is included in the scan.

Environmental scan: out of scope

- map and geospatial portals benefit from considerable investment and are not regarded as "at risk"

- municipal information: there are over 2,100 municipalities in Canada. A representative sample of seven were surveyed

- indigenous information was identified as a significant gap; challenges include diverse governance structures, transcription of indigenous languages, and overlap within geographic, linguistic and ethnic groups

- grey literature from think tanks, NGOs and other special interest groups with a focus on public policy.

Methodology/Approach: federal information

publications.gc.ca and open.canada.ca

Federal information is extensively collected and maintained by the Government of Canada itself and selectively collected by various university and not-for-profit institutions.

Internet Archive Canada, Canadian Government Information Digital Preservation Network (CGI-DPN) Partner to Preserve Government Information

Canadian Research Knowledge Network

Réseau canadien de documentation pour la recherche

Methodology/Approach: provincial and territorial information

Canadian provinces and territories are not as well served:

- only four have a legislated mandate to collect comprehensively: Manitoba, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Québec

- only two have full depository libraries: Newfoundland and Labrador and Saskatchewan

- the seven remaining jurisdictions rely on a combination of their legislative libraries, government web sites and university libraries

Methodology/Approach: starting point

I began by amalgamating and harmonizing data from two earlier scans, updating the information where possible:

- Association of Parliamentary Libraries in Canada (APLIC) member libraries scan, last carried out in 2021

- provincial/territorial Queen's Printer (now King's Printer) offices scan last carried out in 2015

Methodology/Approach: other existing resources

resources mined include:

- Registry of Canadian Government Information Digitization Projects

- government information research guides maintained by academic libraries

- GovInfo Day content from 2013 through 2022

Methodology/Approach: exploratory searches

Exploratory searches on a representative sample of:

- web archiving projects, primarily Archive-IT

- proactive and routine release FOI/ATIP portals

- environmental and regulatory registries and public consultation document portals

Methodology/Approach: Open data portals

Federal and all provincial and territorial governments host open data portals with the exception of Nunavut. The metadata (again with the exception of Nunavut) is also hosted on open.canada.ca, with links pointing back to the relevant portal.

- sites are frequently not well documented

- open government, open data and open information policies, licences and legislation were also captured

A closer look at data collection

As of today, over 200 collections are included in the scan. The data collected is not exhaustive; sites are frequently not well documented, and many lack scope notes or collection policies.

Overlap does occur:

- National Research Council Canada Publications Archive is indexed by publications.gc.ca: the links point to full text on the NRC site

- some"themed" or selective collections are maintained in their own repository but overlap with CKRN or collections at the provincial level

data elements collected

The spreadsheet contains a mix of controlled vocabulary and plain text entries.

data elements: creator & creator type

element: creator/provenance
A creator may have multiple collections. This is not the corporate author or publisher of the work(s).

element: creator type
[controlled vocabulary]
- academic institution
- academic consortia
- government
- NGO/not-for-profit

creator type

Dropdown ▾

⠿ ⬤ ▾ | academic institution | 🗑
⠿ ⬤ ▾ | government | 🗑
⠿ ⬤ ▾ | NGO/not-for-profit | 🗑
⠿ ⬤ ▾ | academic consortia | 🗑

data elements: collection title & origination

element: collection title: the name of the website/portal/repository

element: origination: the original source material [controlled vocabulary]
- born digital
- digitized paper
- digitized microform
- web archive
- mixed
- open data

origination

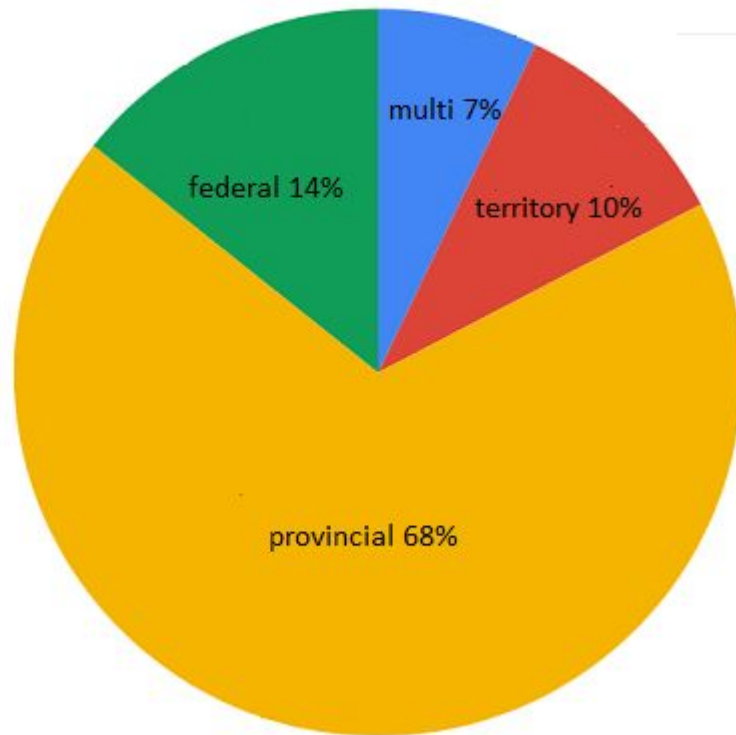|	
digitized microform	2
web archive	9
open data	16
born digital	36
digitized paper	64
mixed	80
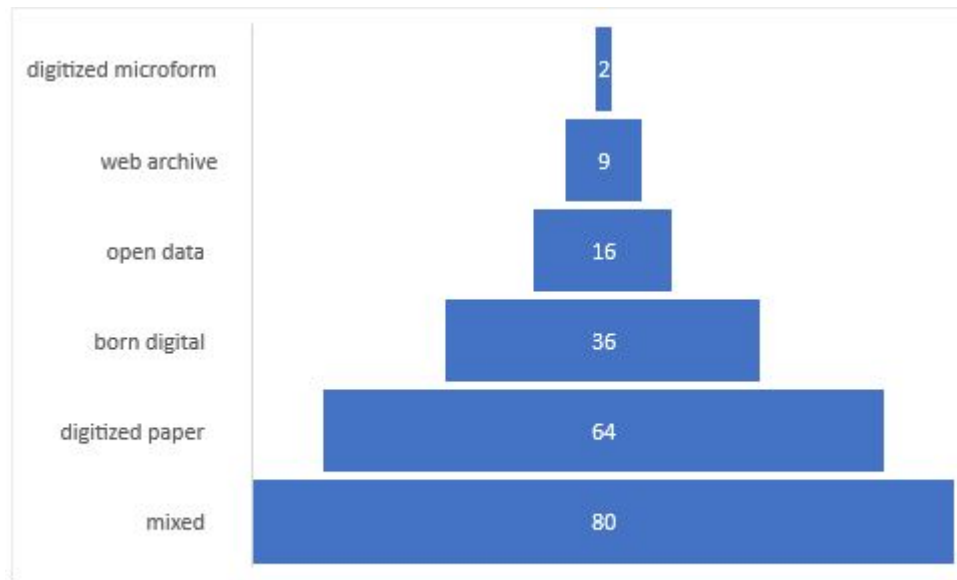
data elements: content jurisdiction type

element: content jurisdiction
type
[controlled vocabulary]
- province
- territory
- federal
- indigenous
- municipal
- multiple

Count of content jurisdiction type

multi 7%
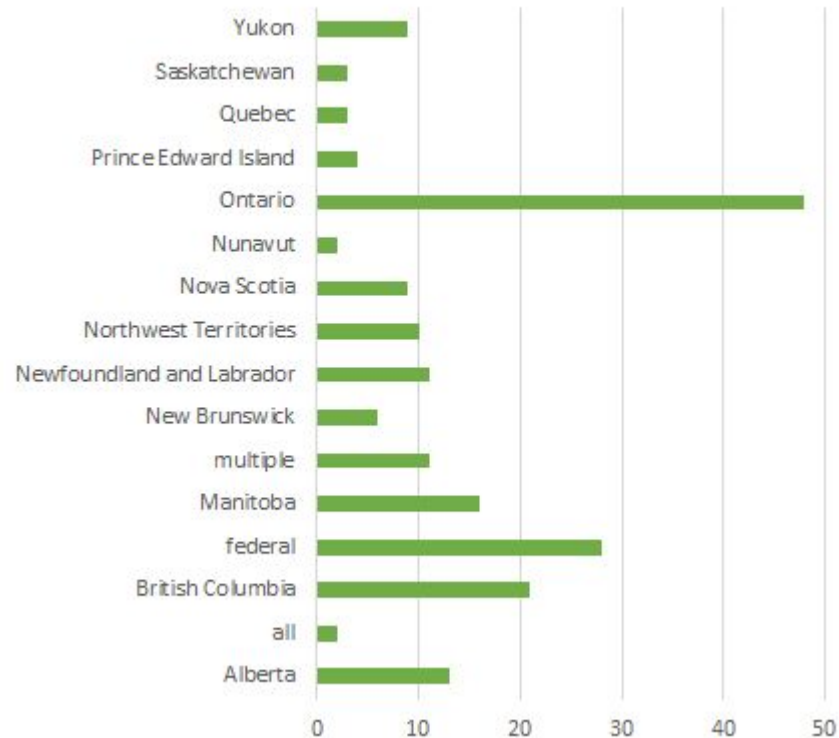territory 10%
federal 14%
provincial 68%

data elements: content jurisdiction(s) collected

element: content jurisdiction(s) collected
[controlled vocabulary]
- all
- multiple
- federal
- municipal
- Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Northwest Territories, Nova Scotia, Nunavut, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Yukon

Count of content: jurisdiction(s) collected

Jurisdiction	Count
Yukon	~9
Saskatchewan	~3
Quebec	~3
Prince Edward Island	~4
Ontario	~48
Nunavut	~2
Nova Scotia	~9
Northwest Territories	~10
Newfoundland and Labrador	~11
New Brunswick	~6
multiple	~11
Manitoba	~16
federal	~28
British Columbia	~21
all	~2
Alberta	~13

data elements: collection policy & scope notes

element: collection policy
[controlled vocabulary]
- selective
- comprehensive
- comprehensive with mandate
- full deposit
- themed
- FOI/ATI
- not known

element: collection policies & scope notes
populated where details available

element: date range
a range only: often missing or unreliable

element: others collecting
e.g. GALLOP, ODW

data elements: language & long term access

element: language(s)
[controlled vocabulary]
- English
- French
- English & French
- English French & other
- English & some French metadata

element: long term access
[controlled vocabulary]
- yes
- yes–open access
- yes–LOCKSS
- yes–TDR
- subject to retention schedule
- no
- not known

data elements: formats & web archiving

element: format:
[controlled vocabulary]
- metadata only
- hosted
- mixed

element: file format(s)
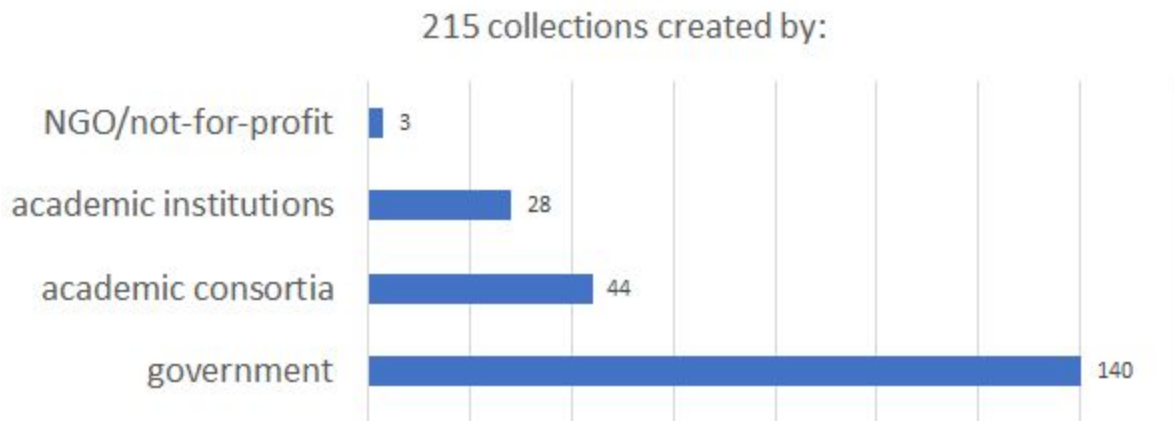a simple text field, can be refined later

element: web archiving program
Archive-IT, other
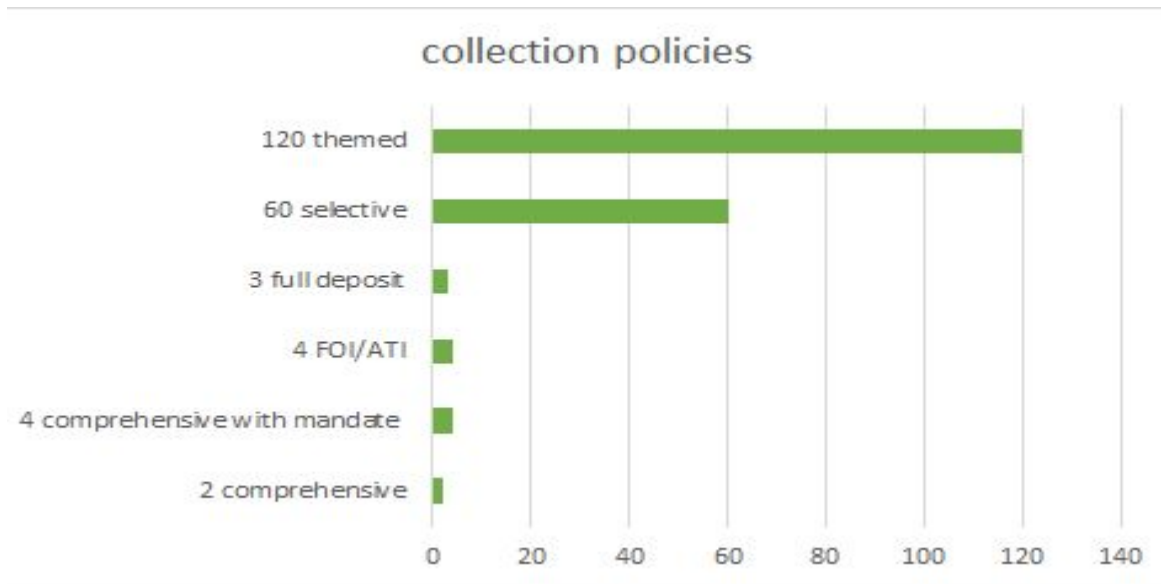
data elements: web address & misc

element: web address
URL or dark archive

other elements: contact
information, other misc. notes
including date of data collection

some highlights

215 collections created by:

NGO/not-for-profit	3
academic institutions	28
academic consortia	44
government	140

some highlights

collection policies

- 120 themed
- 60 selective
- 3 full deposit
- 4 FOI/ATI
- 4 comprehensive with mandate
- 2 comprehensive

Next steps

Carry out some analysis

Where are the gaps?

Which jurisdictions need further research?

Plan

Draft an approach to municipal information

Draft an approach to indigenous

What else is out there?

bibliography of bibliographies

Created with a quick copy/paste when I came across bibliographies or checklists.

The file will be posted and made available for you to download, make additions, corrections etc

Next steps

We are very aware that the collections as documented in the scan are increasingly unable to maintain currency as publishing continues to move rapidly away from "downloadable" formats to HTML-based web content.
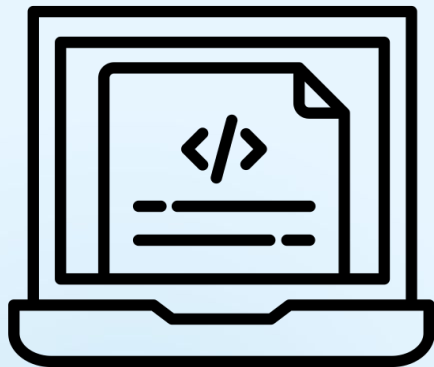
Some jurisdictions recognize web sites as records and are preserving them according to retention schedules but questions about indexing and public access remain.

Web archiving is high on our radar.

PILOT: AI-assisted Metadata Generation for Government Publications
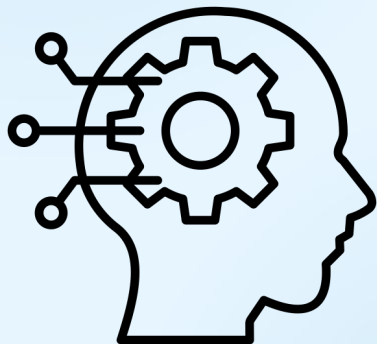
Created by rukanicon
from Noun Project

Created by Happy Girl
from Noun Project
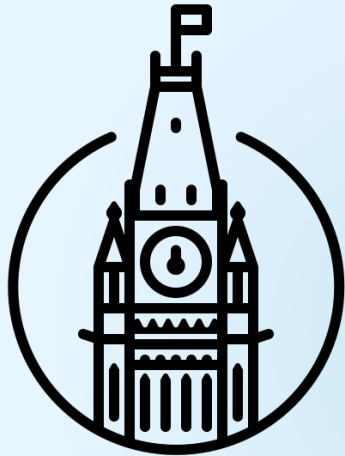
Created by Tippawan Sookruay
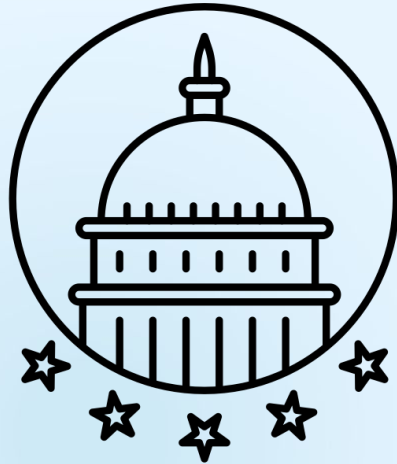from Noun Project

Created by Fauzan Adiima
from Noun Project

Andrea Mills, Internet Archive Canada
Steve Marks, University of Toronto

889,000 Government Publications

https://archive.org/details/democracys-library

Created by Fabien Jouin
from Noun Project

Created by P Thanga Vignesh
from Noun Project

Created by JafArt
from the Noun Project

Created by Solikin
from the Noun Project

Created by Nhor
from Noun Project

Created by Eucalyp
from Noun Project

81,000 Canadian Government Publications

https://archive.org/details/governmentpublications

Created by Fabien Jouin
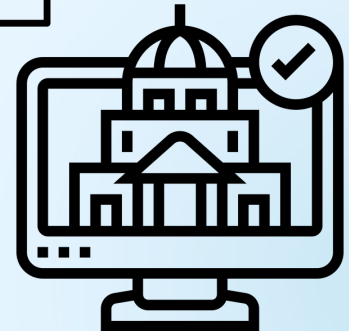from Noun Project

Created by JafArt
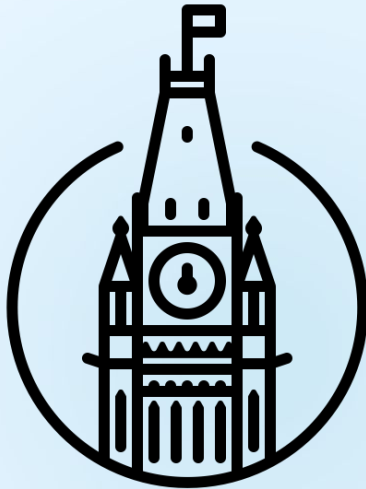from the Noun Project

Created by Solikin
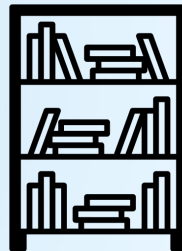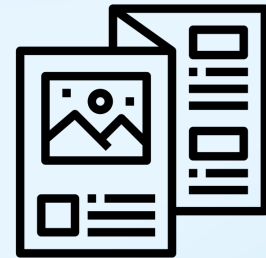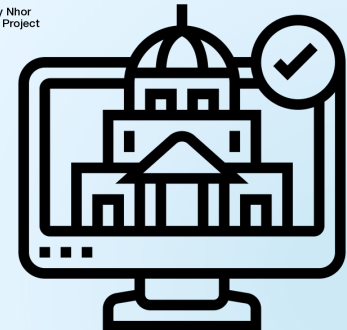from the Noun Project

Created by Nhor
from Noun Project

Created by Eucalyp
from Noun Project

CANADIAN DUCK BREAST
with RASPBERRY SAUCE

PREPARATION TIME: 15 MINUTES
COOKING TIME: 25 MINUTES
SERVES: 4

INGREDIENTS

Duck breast*	4
Salt	to taste
Pepper	to taste
Shallot, chopped	1
Garlic cloves, chopped	2
White wine	½ cup (125 ml)
Raspberry jam, seedless	3 tbsp (45 ml)
Chicken stock	1 cup (250 ml)

HOW PRICE CONTROLS PROTECT YOUR POCKETBOOK

IN WORLD WAR I COST OF LIVING ROSE FROM PRE-WAR LEVEL WITH HARDLY A BREAK

IN THIS WAR STABILIZATION POLICIES HAVE HELD PRICES DOWN
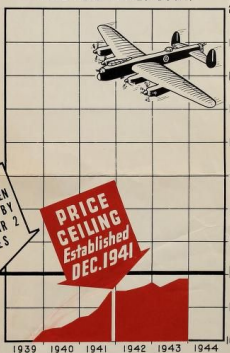
THIS LINE HAS NOT BEEN CROSSED BY WORLD WAR 2 PRICES

PRICE CEILING Established DEC. 1941

CONTROL MEASURES HAVE FREED CANADIANS FROM THE VASTLY
HIGHER PRICE BURDENS OF THE LAST WAR

W.P.T.B.

SHEEP
HUSBANDRY IN
ATLANTIC CANADA

TORONTO
MUNICIPAL
HANDBOOK

GOV DOC.

CORONATION YEAR
1937

Growing
Irrigated
Crops in
Southern
Alberta

REPORT

RELATING TO THE REGISTRATION OF

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

IN THE

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER

1942

A FORECAST OF
PLANNING ISSUES
FOR THE CITY OF
TORONTO 1956-1980

The changing city

CARE
for your
FROZEN FOODS

ONTARIO MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FOOD
Parliament Buildings, Toronto

T. R. HILLIARD/DEPUTY MINISTER   HON. WM. A. STEWART/MINISTER

Aggression is natural

Tips for Senior Citizens

Ontario
Ministry of
Consumer and
Commercial
Relations

Chances are you'll never work as a clown but...

Manpower and Immigration   Main-d'oeuvre et Immigration

CANADA NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT 1979/80–1982/83

CANADA NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT 1983/84–1992/93

CANADA NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT 1996/97–1999–2000

CANADA – NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION – ANNUAL REPORT – 2000/01

CANADA NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT 2000/01–2001/02

CANADA'S CAPITAL NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT 2002/03–2003/04

CANADA'S CAPITAL OURS IN COMMON ANNUAL REVIEW 1987/88–1990/91

REPORT – FUNDING OF THE ARTS IN CANADA

CANADA TASK FORCE ON CANADIAN COMPUTER/COMMUNICATIONS BRANCHING OUT: REPORT 1-2

CANADA DEPT. OF COMMUNICATIONS TELE-COMMUNICATION STUDIES 8a–8d

SELECT STANDING COMMITTEE ON CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS AND SHIPPING

Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence

No. 1—THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 1921

List of Members of Committee and Orders of Reference - Page 4
Statement of Minister of Railways (from Hansard) - Page 5
Appendices thereto re Rates and Equipment - Pages 27–49
Statement of the Minister of Marine (from Hansard) - Page 50
Memorandum Explanatory of terms "Canadian National Railways" and "Canadian Government Railways" - Page 61

CA1
XC 15
R17

CA1 RG 75 to CA1 X 1

CA1 L 120 to CA1 RG 62

University of Toronto Government Publications Digitization Collection

These documents have been digitized as part of the University of Toronto's project to fully digitize its holdings of Canadian federal and Ontario provincial government publications. At this time, these documents are best searched using a full-text search. Additional descriptive metadata work is ongoing.

Three key things to note about this collection:

More...

COLLECTION   ABOUT

36,267 Results

Search

⦿ Search metadata
◯ Search text contents

Year Published

1841 – 2023

Part Of

University of Toronto - Robarts Library
Canadian Government Publications Portal
Canadian Libraries
eBooks and Texts

Media Type

☐ 👁 texts   36,266

Availability
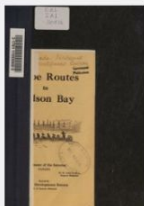
☐ 👁 Always Available   3,254

Year

☐ 👁 1996   232
☐ 👁 1994   287

Sort by: **All-time views** ⌄   Title   Date published ⌄   Creator

Since late 2021, 36,000 publications digitized at UofT

31761115559080

31761114660335

HEARINGS OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON CANADA'S...
by CANADA. ROYAL COMMISSION ON CANADA'S ECONOMI...
👁 283   ★ 0   💬 0

31761115481863
👁 252   ★ 0   💬 0

MINERAL STATISTICS OF CANADA
by CANADA. DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
👁 243   ★ 0   💬 0

CONDENSED PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE TRADE OF...
by CANADA. DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
👁 230   ★ 0   💬 0

👁 506   ★ 0   💬 0

👁 389   ★ 0   💬 0

ROYAL COMMISSION ON CANADA'S ECONOMIC PROSPECTS

REPORT
AUDITOR GENERAL

WEB   BOOKS   VIDEO   AUDIO   SOFTWARE   IMAGES

ADMIN-ANDREA-MILLS   UPLOAD   Search

ABOUT   BLOG   PROJECTS   HELP   DONATE ♥   CONTACT   JOBS   VOLUNTEER   PEOPLE

12,300
publications matched with catalogue record

(1 of 6)

TERRAIN SENSITIVITY, MACKENZIE VALLEY AND NORTHERN YUKON
by CANADA. TASK FORCE ON NORTHERN OIL DEVELOPMENT

Favorite   Share   Flag

PILOT: AI-assisted Metadata creation with Subject Expert QA & Refinement

identifier	cover	link	status	orig_title	ai_title	orig_creator	ai_creator	orig_publisher	ai_publisher	orig_language	ai_language	orig_date	ai_date	orig_volume	ai_volume	orig_issue	ai_issue
31761117...		link															
31761117...		link															

A27 | 31761117080069

identifier	cover	link	status	orig_title	ai_title	orig_creator	ai_creator	orig_publisher	ai_publisher	orig_language	ai_language	orig_date	ai_date	orig_volume	ai_volume	orig_issue	ai_issue
317611146		link															
317611163		link															

Menus | 100%

A27 | fx | 31761117080069

A	B
identifier	cover

Step 1 (OPTIONAL): Fetch Existing Metadata from Archive.org

Step 2: Extract Metadata with ChatGPT

Step 3: Write New Metadata to Items

Calculate Stats

ai_volume | orig_issue | ai_issue

NISGA'A LAND CLAIM NEGOTIATIONS

3176111465

Fight BAC!™

Four simple steps to safe food handling

3176111465 | link | FETCHED | 3176111465 | eng

REDRESS FOR JAPANESE CANADIANS

Eligibility and Application Information

Canada

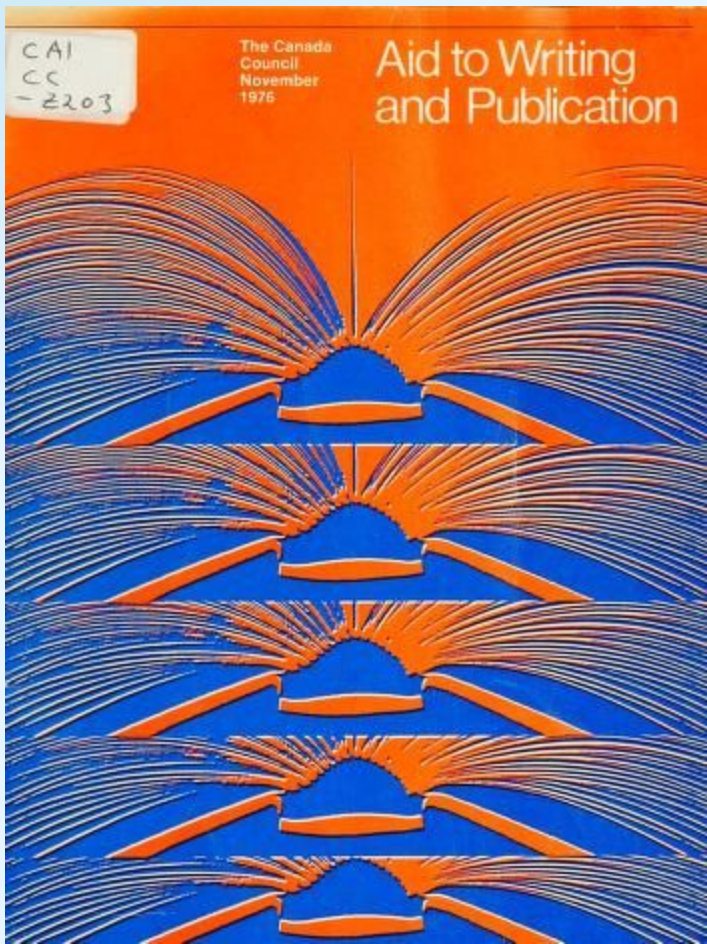| identifier	cover	link	status	orig_title	ai_title	orig_creator	ai_creator	orig_publisher	ai_publisher	orig_language	ai_language	orig_date	ai_date	orig_volume	ai_volume	orig_issue	ai_issue
3176111146		link	EXTRACTED	3176111465	Redress for Japanese Canadians: Eligibility and Application Information				Government of Canada		eng	English		1988			
3176111176		link	EXTRACTED	3176111765	The Canadian Strategy to Promote Safe, Wise and Responsible Internet Use				Industry Canada		eng			2000			

Health and Welfare
Canada

Santé et Bien-être social
Canada

Government
Publications

Your Old Age Pension
A Program of the
Government
of Canada

Old Age Pension | Government of Canada | Minister of National Health and Welfare | eng | English | 1981 | 1981

Levels of Success

The Canada Council
November 1976

Aid to Writing and Publication

link	ED		3176111333 Your Old Age Pension
link	EXTRACT ED		3176111465 Cane Aig to Writing

Levels of Success

Canada. Customs and Excise Division

Government Publications

[General publications]

G-2

LIBRARY

AUG 1973

OF TORONTO

CAI NRS -2003

CAI NRS 73 Y 53

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A CLOWN TO BRING A GUN INTO CANADA...

...BUT IT MAY JUST HELP.

That's because handguns for use in plays, circuses and exhibitions can be brought in by individual non-residents under a special entertainment provision of Customs.

Handguns? No!

Generally speaking, weapons that can be easily hidden cannot be brought into Canada by non-residents. The two exceptions are handguns like the clown's to be used as theatrical props and revolvers or pistols for bona fide marksmanship competitions.

Handguns are what Customs officers will be mainly looking for. But there are many other offensive weapons that you just can't bring into Canada.

—for the marksman any firearm including pistols and revolvers for use at meets recognized by the Amateur Trapshooting Association —ammunition for firearms to the extent of 2,000 empty cartridges, 500 primers for safety cartridges and 500 empty primed safety cartridges.

Please remember that only 200 rounds of ammunition are allowed free of duty and tax. If you are a marksman, however, you can bring in 500
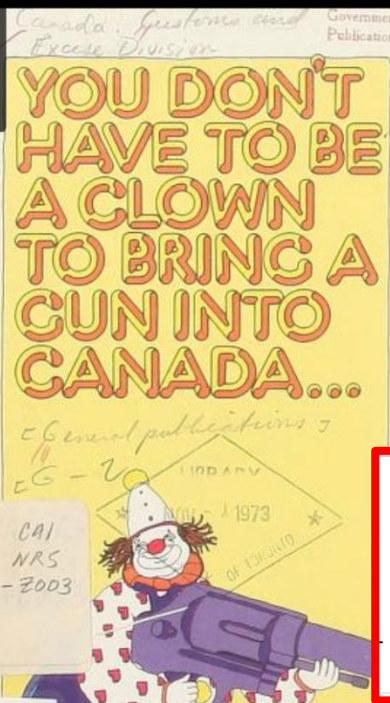
EXTRACTED

For Use in Plays, Circuses, and Exhibitions

(1 of 2)

31761117080069

Favorite Share Flag
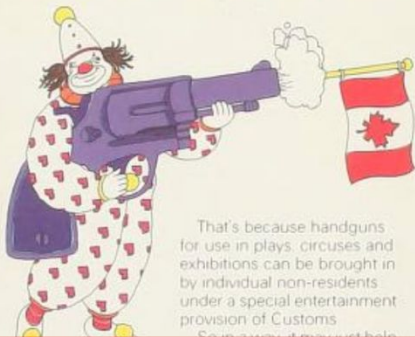
Collection

uoftgovpubs; robarts; governmentpublications;

...BUT IT MAY JUST HELP.

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Canada. Customs and Excise Division

Government Publications

CAT NRS 73Y53

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A CLOWN TO BRING A GUN INTO CANADA...

C General publications
G - 2
LIBRARY
1973
OF ...
CAI NRS -2003

You Don't Have to Be a Clown to Bring a Gun To Canada...

Canada: Department of Revenue Customs and Excise

Government of Canada

(1 of 2)

31761117080069

Favorite   Share   Flag

Edit
Collection

uoftgovpubs; robarts; governmentpublications;

```python
def get_metadata_from_chatgpt(item, include_last_lines=False):
    r = item.download(f"{identifier}_djvu.txt", return_responses=True)
    message = ("This is the uncorrected OCR from the front of a book. "
               "Examine it, and determine the title, author, publisher, "
               "language, volume, issue, and date. "
               "Return it in corrected, normalized text in the format of "
               "a json dictionary with only the fields mentioned. "
               "Do not return the contents. "
               "Use proper capitalization. "
               "Only include the year in the date. "
               "do not provide details that you are not sure about.")

    message += "\n".join(r[0].text.splitlines()[:300])
    if include_last_lines:
        message += '\n'.join(r[0].text.splitlines()[-300:])
    prompt_token_count = num_tokens_from_string(message)
    completion = openai.ChatCompletion.create(
        model=ENCODING_NAME,
        messages=[
            {"role": "user", "content": message},
        ]
    )
```

How It Works

CAI
EP
-7053

Environment Canada
Conservation et Protection

...TER-WISE TIPS FOR
...ATHROOMS

You're only a flush away!

The next time you flush your toilet, think about how much water you use each time. On average, each of us uses 175 litres of water a day just flushing the toilet!

Toilets account for 40% of your total household water use. Combined with showers and baths, the bathroom represents about 75% of your home's total indoor water use.

75% used in bathroom
- 40% Toilet Flushing
- 35% Showers & Baths
- 20% Laundry & Dishes
- 5% Drinking & Cooking
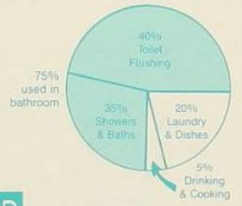
Don't flush your money away!

If your toilet is more than ten years old, it's probably a water waster. Replace it with a new efficient low-flush toilet and use between 50% and 80% less water per flush, depending on which model you buy. Low-flush toilets use a smaller water tank and a specially designed bowl to give you the same flush power but with much less water.

By installing a set of commercial "toilet dams" on your old toilet, you can use between 25% and 40% less water. Don't put rocks or bricks in your toilet tank because they can break down over time and cause damage.

BE WATER-WISE...
IT MAKES CENTS!

CANADA'S GREEN PLAN

An environmental citizen uses water wisely
For more information :
Enquiry Centre, Environment Canada, Ottawa, K1A 0H3
Toll free : 1-800-668-6767

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• Environment Canada
• Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton
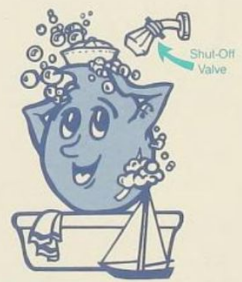
Your toilet is not an ashtray.

Never flush garbage of any kind down the toilet. Household cleaners, paints, solvents, pesticides and other chemicals can be very harmful to the environment. Paper diapers, dental floss and plastic tampon holders all create problems at wastewater treatment plants. Use durable containers to store hazardous products and then dispose of them properly.

For more information: "Water: No Time to Waste — A Consumer's Guide to Water Conservation" is available at local book stores for $1.95, or from: C.C.G., Ottawa, Canada K1A 0S9. Telephone: (819) 956-4892. Fax: (819) 994-1498.

Take sailor showers!

Take shorter showers whenever possible. If your shower is equipped with a shut-off valve, turn off the water while you are soaping and shampooing, then rinse off quickly — this is called a sailor shower.

If you still prefer bathing, don't overfill the tub; one-quarter full should be enough.

Shut-Off Valve

Don't let your water run away on you

When washing, brushing your teeth, or shaving, never let the tap run continuously. Fill a glass with water for mouth rinsing while brushing your teeth. Rinse your razor by filling the bottom of the sink with a few centimetres of warm water.

Be a leak seeker!

To check for leaks in your toilet tank, put a little food colouring in the tank. If, without flushing, the colour begins to appear in the bowl you have a leak that should be repaired immediately. Regularly check faucets, pipes, and the base of your toilet for leaks, and repair promptly.

REMEMBER the WISE USE OF WATER will save you money and help improve our environment.

Control your water flow

Replace your showerhead with a new low-flow model, and install aerators on your faucets (see pamphlet entitled "Water-Saving Devices").

Printed on paper that contains recovered waste.

Canada

(1 of 2)

Water-wise tips for bathrooms

Edit
Manage

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Impacts and Future Development
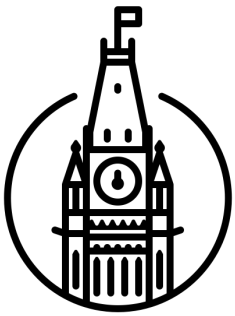
2024

- In-depth analysis of "the gaps"

- Partner projects

- **More collaboration and communication

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- Info collection, stewardship, and preservation
- Conducting/supporting research using this info
- Encouraging partnerships to make use of info
- Developing products and services to enhance utility and access
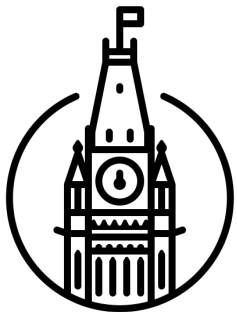
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- Search
  - Across different formats (digitized, born-digital, web archives)
  - Leverage existing search functionalities
  - AI interface?

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Thank You! Merci!