



Your gateway to Canada's past

The Canadian Council of Archives, in partnership with the provincial and territorial councils, their member institutions and the Department of Canadian Heritage, have pooled their resources to create *Archives Canada*, an easy-to-use

Web application that provides access to hundreds of thousands of historical documents, images and other national treasures — available from the comfort of your home or office.

Archives Canada now provides searchable access to over 830 institutions from all corners of Canada...

Traditionally, people had to go in person to archives in order to access material — inconvenient, if not impossible, for many average Canadians. Now with *Archives Canada*, anyone — including professional researchers — can enjoy one-stop access.

Considering the wealth of subject matter available on topics like history, politics, culture, the arts, technology, religion, the environment and sports, there's no question that *Archives Canada* is your gateway to Canada's past.

The idea for *Archives Canada* began when Canadian archives decided to use technology to bridge distance, and to provide researchers with a single point of access to archival holdings across the country. As the project matured, the team recognized an opportunity to broaden its scope and include digital images as well as descriptions. *Archives Canada* now provides searchable access

to over 830 institutions from all corners of Canada, complete with 50,000 record descriptions, 250,000 digital images and more than 300 virtual exhibits. And it continues to grow by the day!

Archives Canada presents users with a clean and simple, easy-to-navigate design. The descriptions are standardized to ensure research results are efficient and thorough and each result presents a link to the source website. As the site develops and expands, Canadians will have increased access to images, maps, audio-visual material and records from every province and territory.

The objective of the project is to provide the Canadian public with greater access to the country's heritage — and to make it relevant to all Canadians. As a result, it is hoped that a new interest in the various regions, cultures and histories of Canada and its people will generate greater appreciation for all that we have in this amazing country. *Archives Canada* was specifically designed for Canadians: students, teachers, academics, civil servants, writers and filmmakers, genealogists, journalists and new media creators.

The *Archives Canada* website is entirely bilingual, except for the archival documents themselves which are all in their original languages. Nevertheless, because of the sheer volume of records and other information, this represents a major addition to the total French-language content on the Internet today. ●

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