THE DIGITAL DOMAIN NO. 2:

Selected Internet Databases and Indexes for the Study of British Columbia

COMPILED BY DAVID MATTISON Reference Archivist, BC Archives, Victoria

HIS SECOND COMPILATION DESCRIBES publicly accessible databases and specialized indexes available through the Internet containing significant data in numeric, text, and graphical formats about British Columbia. These are free services offered through government agencies, private organizations, or individual initiative. The list is not exhaustive and sites such as BC Online (http://www.bconline.gov.bc.ca/) that are fee-based services are not included. The single criteria for inclusion, with a few exceptions, is that the database can be queried through a data input or entry form. Some of the sites are bibliographic in nature and point to actual databases. Several of the databases are graphical based and require software that may not be available on all computer platforms. The Geographic Information System databases generally need a free browser plug-in from AutoDesk called MapGuide. This point is noted when applicable.

The majority of references in this bibliography are to Web sites whose URL (Universal/Uniform Resource Locator) or Internet address always begins with http://. In order to prevent confusion and because the URL must include the service designator, the Web designator is shown. The two most popular graphical Web browsers, Microsoft Internet Explorer and Netscape Navigator, both default to a Web URL when the service designator is not included. Those using the Internet through a proxy server or who have cookies disabled may encounter problems with some of these databases.

The resources are organized alphabetically by creator and title, or title alone, into the following topic categories: General, Business, Economy, Environment and Geography, Government and Politics, Law and Health, Society and History. Web page or site titles are

underlined as that is the default display mode in many Web browsers. No full stop (period) is put at the end of the URL because in a few cases this punctuation mark is treated as a part of the URL. Although it is not always indicated in the annotations, sites with a federal mandate or serving a national purpose generally offer bilingual services.

Due to the evolving nature of the Internet and the Web, links within some of these sites may be obsolete. The URLs listed below are current as of I January 1999.

The previous "Digital Domain" was published in *BC Studies*, no. 117 (Spring 1998). Internet resources listed there are not repeated in this listing.

GENERAL AND DATABASES OF DATABASES

BC Electronic Library Network. Union Databases.

http://www.ola.bc.ca/eln/pands/union.htm

1. Outlook Online

http://www.auto-graphics.com/cgipac/mmx/elnn/Access

The union catalogue of BC public, college, and institute libraries, Outlook Online features browsable author, title, and subject indexes, as well as word searches of author, title, subject, and notes fields. A numeric search by ISBN or other numbers is also available. The telnet link is outdated. Online help.

2. ELN Serials

http://eln.bc.ca/www.eln.x/access+dbase.elnsxx

telnet://eln.bc.ca/

The database is not an index to content, it is a catalogue to periodical titles held by those libraries. It is current to May 1997. The database is browsable by author, title, and subjects. Indexed word searches are by title, name, subject, and any field. Online help.

3. ELN Media

http://eln.bc.ca/www.eln.x/access+dbase.elnmxx

telnet://eln.bc.ca/

This database describes films and videos in BC post-secondary institutions and the Advanced Education Media Acquisitions Centre (AEMAC). The database is current to May 1997. It is browsable by author, title, subjects, and number. Indexed word searches are by title, name, subject, any field, and location. Online help.

Canada. Government Information Locator Service (GILS).

http://gils.gc.ca/ or http://gils.srv.gc.ca/

Utilizing the z39.50/ISO23950 information retrieval standard, GILS provides for keyword or structured searching via pick lists of field names and fill-in fields for search terms. Information can also searched for by selected Canadian government departments and a record title keyword. Online help.

Canada. Public Works and Government Services Canada. Depository Services Program. Supplement: Canadian Federal Government Databases Accessible Through the Internet.

http://dsp-psd.pwgsc.gc.ca/dsp-psd/Checklist/s98-01e.html

Published on 4 November 1998, many of the sites listed are also found in this bibliography. Some of the databases are subscription based.

Canada. Statistics Canada.

1. Canadian Socio-Economic Information Management System (CANSIM). http://www.statcan.ca/english/cANSIM/index.html

CANSIM is a free database to Statistics Canada user-pay data publications. The two main query methods are through Subjects and Themes Lists or keywords. Online help.

2. "Finding and using social statistics" Thematic Search Tool.

http://142.206.72.128/cgi-bin/folioisa.dll/testbase.nfo/query=[jump!3 A!27tob!27]/doc/{@1}?

In addition to a site search engine that allows querying of specific statistical data sources, Statistics Canada also provides this Thematic Search Tool for data collected since 1985. The main themes are Child care; Culture; Demography; Dwellings (Housing); Education, literacy and training; Environment; Ethno-cultural; and Families. The data itself is not viewable online but must be ordered. Online help.

Canadian Filmmaker's Distribution Center (CFMDC). Database.

http://www.cfmdc.org/tpl/cfmdc/clientquery.cfm

The CFMDC distributes independent film and video. The database is its catalogue. Keyword and pick list searching by film category (broad subject matter), filmmaker, or title.

Full Circle Productions, Inc. FOOTAGE.net.

http://www.footage.net

An indispensible database for locating film and video footage, this resource provides for word searches of all or specific film archives whose database contents are accessible via the Internet. Online help.

GDSourcing Research & Retrieval. Subject Index for Statistics.

http://www.gdsourcing.com/index.htm

Established by John White, a former Statistics Canada employee, GDSourcing offers free and fee-based research services into federal government published and unpublished databases. The subject index is a convenient access point to these social, economic, and environmental statistical sources. The subject index points to government and non-government Web sites.

National Film Board of Canada. English Film Collection.

http://www.nfb.ca:80/E/4/5/

Browsable and searchable indexes of English language NFB films produced since 1939 or over 6,000 titles. The equivalent French language collection database contains records on more than 4,000 titles. A full text search engine can also be used.

National Library of Canada. Index to Royal Commissions.

http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/ifrc/

This index represents only the holdings of the National Library of Canada and is not an index to all Royal Commissions and Commissions of Inquiry. Although there is a keyword search function, the quickest way to locate most Royal Commissions relevant to BC is to scan the list on the Names of Commissions page. Over 160 Royal Commissions are indexed and the record that is returned is the National Library of Canada's AMICUS catalogue entry.

Simon Fraser University Library. BRS Text Databases.

A hypertext guide to BRS Text databases at SFU is available.

1. Canadian Publishers' Records Database.

http://www.lib.sfu.ca/cgi-bin/trust1.pl?cprd

The URL contains a link to the telnet-only address of this database describing over 1,400 archival collections of English-language publishing in Canada.

2. Special Collections Manuscripts.

http://www.lib.sfu.ca/cgi-bin/trust1.pl?spcl

Over 4,500 entries describing 25,000 items including works by BC poets and novelists.

Social Science Information Gateway (sosig).

United Kingdom main site: http://sosig.esrc.bris.ac.uk/

North American mirror site: http://scout.cs.wisc.edu/scout/mirrors/sosig One of the best examples of an Internet virtual library, the sosic Internet Catalogue is maintained by academic librarians. Topics cover all social science disciplines and a few outside ones such as philosophy, law, and business management. Phrase, field, and keyword searching (basic and advanced), or browsing by topic is available. Browsing can be limited by World, Europe. or UK resources. There is no ability to set the number of matches returned from a search and searches that exceed a certain limit must be refined. A thesaurus, based on the HASSET (Humanities And Social Sciences Electronic Thesaurus) developed at the University of Essex Data Archive, can be queried to find narrower, broader, or related terms. Online help.

University of British Columbia. Library.

1. UBC Bibliographies

http://toby.library.ubc.ca/resources/bibliolist.cfm

Bibliographies limited specifically to BC topics are the British Columbia Local Histories Bibliography, the British Columbia Theses Bibliography, and the Vancouver Bibliography. Other bibliographies with BC content are the Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives (ACMLA) Bulletin and Proceedings index, the Canadian Childhood Bibliography, CPOL (Bibliography of Canadian Politics and Society), and Education in Canada: A Bibliography. Not all the bibliographies are actively maintained. The utility of these bibliographies, however, is vastly reduced through the current means of access by a telnet connection to the character-based ubc Library Catalogue InfoGate system. The previous system segregated the bibliographies so they could be searched independently of one another. Limiting a search to a specific bibliography occurs after a search, not before. Search results do not indicate

which bibliography the information is taken from. The record must be displayed to learn that information.

2. British Columbia Newspapers

http://library.ubc.ca/www.ubc.bcnews/select

Online version of the British Columbia Library Association's BC newspapers union list project. The printed indexes, however, provide more flexible search options. The browsable index is limited to a title browse, while the word search is limited to the newspaper title or the publisher name. Online help.

3. Special Collections and University Archives Division, Sound and Moving Image Resources

http://www.library.ubc.ca/spcoll/ubc_arch/sound.html

Similar to the Historical Photographs Database. Audio and video clips may eventually be incorporated into the record descriptions.

4. Special Collections and University Archives Division, usc Historical Photographs Database

http://www.library.ubc.ca/spcoll/ubc_arch/photos.html

The database indexes photographs of UBC as well as non-UBC images. Over 26,000 images can be viewed online. The database interface is similar to other UBC databases with browsable and searchable indexes. Online help.

5. Special Collections and University Archives Division, University Archives Inventories

http://www.library.ubc.ca/spcoll/ubc_arch/u_arch.html

Full-text inventories of UBC administrative and operational records, including those of faculty, staff and students, can be viewed via alphabetical index entries or keyword searched. Online help.

6. Special Collections and University Archives Division, University Publications Index

http://www.library.ubc.ca/spcoll/ubc arch/pubindex.html

Still under construction, but intended to be a complete index to *The Ubyssey*, *Alumni Chronicle*, and *UBC Reports*. Online help.

See also under ENVIRONMENT AND GEOGRAPHY:

British Columbia. Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks. GIS at BC Environment, Lands, and Parks.

Canada. Natural Resources Canada. Databases.

Canadian Earth Observation Network (CEONet).

United States. Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC). Clearinghouse.

BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

Canada. Competition Tribunal.

http://www.ct-tc.gc.ca/rcteng.htm

While calling itself a database, no query or search functions are available. All information about current applications under review by the tribunal are accessed through a "List of Applications and Decisions."

Canada. Industry Canada. Strategis. Canadian Company Capabilities. http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/sc coinf/ccc/engdoc/homepage.html

Intended to promote Canadian products and services, this database describes over 35,000 companies in detailed profiles with hyperlinks to a company's own Web site. Searches are by keywords which can be limited to a specific province. Online help.

Canada. Industry Canada. Strategis. Canadian Intellectual Property Office.

1. Canadian Patent Database.

http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/sc innov/patent/engdoc/cover.html Covers patents issued from 1 October 1989 onwards. Online help.

2. Canadian Trade-marks Database.

http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/sc consu/trade-marks/engdoc/cover.html

A test version with some search limitations. Contains all active trademarks and many inactive ones. Also included are plant varieties designations, symbols, and badges of the Boy Scouts of Canada, the Girl Guides of Canada, and Royal Canadian Legion. Online help.

Canada. Industry Canada. Strategis. Corporations Directorate. Federal Corporations Database.

http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/sc mrksv/corpdir/engdoc/corpns.html

This free database requires registration and login. The database documents over 300,000 federally chartered corporations and is equivalent to the provincial Corporate Registry database accessible through the user-pay BC Online service. Online help.

Canada. Industry Canada. Strategis. Trade Data Online.

http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/sc mrkti/tdst/engdoc/tr homep.html

Sophisticated and user-friendly database of import and export trade data back to 1993. Searches can be limited to a specific province (eg, British Columbia). Results are displayed in a tabular format. Online help.

Canadian Securities Administrators. SEDAR (System for Electronic Document Analysis and Retrieval).

http://www.sedar.com/

SEDAR is operated under contract by CDS Inc. Complementing Industry Canada's Strategis Federal Corporations Database, SEDAR is "Canada's electronic securities documentation filing system." Electronic filing of these documents is mandatory in Canada as of I January 1997. Its United States Securities and Exchange Commission counterpart is EDGAR (Electronic Data Gathering, Analysis, and Retrieval). SEDAR can be searched for publicly traded company documents and mutual funds documents. Searches are by fill-in fields and pick lists. Search results are sortable a number of ways. Online documents hyperlinked in the results list may be available in various file formats such as Adobe Acrobat PDF, Microsoft Word, or Corel WordPefect. Online help.

Carlson Online Services Inc. Carlson Online Basic.

http://www.fin-info.com/index.html#basicsearch

Canadian public companies can be searched for by name (keyword) and stock exchange symbol, or company sector and stock exchange. Query results include links to the Canadian Securities Administrators' SEDAR database, Industry Canada's Strategis site, stock exchange Web sites, and the company's

Web site if one exists. More detailed information can also be obtained through paid subscription to the Carlson Online Plus service. Online help.

Standards Council of Canada. National Standards System Search Centre http://www.scc.ca/search-front/index.html

A series of databases pertaining to standards publications with abstracts, regulations, accreditations, general information, and back issues of the scc's Consensus magazine. Online help.

United States. Securities and Exchange Commission. EDGAR Database of Corporate Information.

http://www.sec.gov/edgarhp.htm

The Electronic Data Gathering, Analysis, and Retrieval (EDGAR) system allows public companies to electronically file various documents about their operations with the commission. Public companies based in BC and doing business in the US can be found through EDGAR. The database covers documents submitted from January 1994 to the present. Basic searches are through either a "Quick Form Lookup" or through the full-text wais (Wide Area Information Server) search engine. Specialized searches are also available. Most documents are stored in an ASCII text format. The Canadian Securities Administrators SEDAR database has comparable information on publicly traded companies in Canada. Online help.

ENVIRONMENT AND GEOGRAPHY

Aboriginal Mapping Network (Victoria, BC). Potential Data Sources for Conservation Mapping: A Land Based Data Matrix.

http://www.nativemaps.org/database/intro.html

This database, created by Habitat Acquisition Trust in conjunction with Ecotrust Canada, documents GIS data sets for Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. The database is not searchable; the information is viewable in tabular format by source, topic, or scale. Hyperlinks to online data are embedded in the tables.

Agriculture Network Information Center (Agnic). AgDB.

http://www.agnic.org/agdb/

Agnic is a Web-based network of public/private sector organizations involved in agricultural science. AgDB is AgNIC's directory of agricultural and environmental databases. The directory can be keyword searched or browsed alphabetically by database name. AGRICOLA Subject Category Code can also be used to refine a keyword search. Online help.

British Columbia. Ministry of Energy and Mines.

Established on 18 February 1998, the new base URL for the Ministry of Energy and Mines is http://www.em.gov.bc.ca/ The urls listed below, some of which point to the Ministry of Employment and Investment, may no longer work, but the sites can be relocated from within the base URL.

1. MINFILE: B.C.'s Mineral Occurrence Database http://www.ei.gov.bc.ca/geosmin/minfile/minfile.htm In addition to this public access search site, MINFILE data can be viewed offline through PC software or via CD-ROM. The main search menu has three search categories: (1) MINFILE Name or Number; (2) Commodity, Status (showings to producers), NTS map; or (3) Deposit Type. Search results, presented in tabular format, can be refined. MINFILE data includes a capsule geological history and a historic bibliography. One unusual aspect of this site is a table linking MINFILE data sites to mining industry Web sites. Detailed online help, including a user's manual for MINFILE/pc. MINFILE data can also be viewed on interactive GIS maps by clicking on the Latitude/ Longitude coordinates or through The Map Place.

2. The Map Place

http://www.ei.gov.bc.ca/geosmin/mapplace.htm

The free AudoDesk MapGuide browser plug-in is required for viewing these GIS maps. These interactive maps illustrate the ability to query a GIS dataset through various data layers. Several maps are linked to the Mineral Titles Branch's database. Some maps are downloadable for offline viewing. Online help.

3. Mineral Titles Searchable Database

http://www.ei.gov.bc.ca/tenure/mida/search.htm

Current mineral titles can be searched a variety of ways. An experimental mineral titles maps viewing area is available (requires the free AutoDesk MapGuide Viewer browser plug-in). Digital maps with links to this database are accessible through BC Ministry of Energy and Mine's The Map Place. Online help.

British Columbia. Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks. Geographic Data BC. BC Geographical Names Information System.

http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/~bcnames/

Search for official and unofficial place names by exact name or soundex code. Use the asterisk (*) after a search term to match all geographic features containing that term. Up to 30 matches can be displayed on a clickable map. Name details include the geographic feature's location on a non-interactive 1:20,000 TRIM (Terrain Resource Information Management) map. Historic data on place name origins is not available. Online help.

British Columbia. Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks. Geographic Data BC. Geo-Spatial Reference Web Site.

http://www.pwccanada.com:8001/gsru/gsru nf.html

This site provides "one-stop internet access to all geodetic and geo-spatial referencing information in the province." Free access to MASCOT (Management of Survey Control Operations and Tasks) Geodetic Control Monument (GCM) information. Text-based and graphics-based queries are possible. Graphics-based access includes queries by quadrant or by interactive NTS map grids. Data file downloads require a subscription account. Historic data about geodetic survey marker can be displayed by clicking on the "FINAL" or "PRELIM" hyperlink in the table for a specific marker.

British Columbia. Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks. GIS at BC Environment, Lands, and Parks.

http://www.elp.gov.bc.ca/gis/

Extensive series of links to public-access and government intranet sites pertaining to Geographic Information System (GIS) initiatives and applications.

British Columbia. Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks. Resource Inventory Branch. Fisheries Inventory Section Database Queries.

http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fsh/ids/dman/

A number of specialized query pages are accessible from this URL, as well as links to the Fisheries and Oceans Canada Fisheries Information Summary System (FISS). The fisheries inventory data is now being managed by and can also be accessed via the BC Ministry of Fisheries (http://www.fisheries.gov.bc.ca).

Canada. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. ACEIS Databases. http://aceis.agr.ca/bbse.html

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Electronic Information Service (ACEIS) contains a number of free databases relating to agricultural production research accessible via the Internet (Web), modem, fax or voice. Online help.

Canada. Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development. Data Base of Canada's International Environmental Commitments.

http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/domino/env_commitments.nsf/homepage

While only four dozen agreements as of 29 July 1998 are covered by this database, it allows for both simple keyword searching, sophisticated structured field searches through pick lists, or listings of the commitments by title, by lead department, by subject matter and by region. The text of the commitments can also be viewed a variety of ways. Online help.

Canada. Environment Canada. National Pollutant Release Inventory. http://www.ec.gc.ca/pdb/npri/index.html

This database tracks the release of pollutants between 1994 and 1996. Queries are through pick lists and fill-in fields. The databases are also available for download. Online help.

Canada. Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Pacific Region. Fish Habitat Inventory & Information Program (FHIIP).

http://habitat.pac.dfo.ca/heb/fhiip/index.htm

This program, through a joint partnership with the provincial government, allows access to fish habitat data through the Fisheries Information Summary System (FISS) database and digital maps (GIS data). Access to the digital maps requires the free AutoDesk MapGuide browser plug-in. Online help. This information is also accessible through the BC Ministry of Fisheries and older links at the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks.

Canada. Natural Resources Canada. Canada Lands Survey Records.

http://linc.ccrs.nrcan.gc.ca:8000/public/vi/LINC QUERY2 SRIS.ST QUERY2 SRIS?p LANG ID=1

Queries can be made through Natural Resources Canada's Land Information Network for Canada site.

Canada. Natural Resources Canada. Canadian Geographical Names.

http://GeoNames.NRcan.gc.ca/english/Home.html

Two query methods: by geographical (current, historical, and undersea) name or by point coordinates (current names only). Names can be limited to a geographical feature or by province or territory. The point coordinates search requires the latitude and longitude in degrees and minutes. Places and/or features can be searched within 3 km (3 miles) to 20 km (12 miles) of the coordinate set. Queries can also be made through Natural Resources Canada's Land Information Network for Canada site. Online help.

Canada. Natural Resources Canada. Databases.

http://www.nrcan.gc.ca:80/homepage/database.shtml

A list of databases, library catalogues, and bibliographic indexes, accessible via the Natural Resources Canada Web site. The Land Information Network for Canada (LINC) is also listed on this page.

Canada. Natural Resources Canada. Land Information Network for Canada (LINC).

http://linc.ccrs.nrcan.gc.ca:8000/public/vi/linc show welcome

Individual spatial data collections, including sources from the United States but primarily Canadian, can be queried individually or simultaneously. The data collections are organized by category and cover cadastral, geodetic, geological, remote sensing, and topographic information. Some of the databases are listed elsewhere in this section. Online help.

Canada. Natural Resources Canada. National Topographic Database.

http://www.ccg.nrcan.gc.ca/ext/html/english/products/ntdb/ntdb.html
Provides access for ordering purposes to national topographic series maps. The maps are not displayable. Queries can be made through Natural Resources Canada's Land Information Network for Canada site.

Canada. Natural Resources Canada. Pacific Forestry Centre. Forest Health Network Archives: Pest Data for BC.

http://www.pfc.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/health/pests/

Retrieval of pest detection data is through pre-set queries by NTS map sheet, by region, by the entire province, and by type of pest. The data is provided only in the form of a color-coded map in a compressed file for downloading to the user's local system. Some data, gathered through aerial and ground surveys, extends back to the early 1900s. Online help.

Canada. Statistics Canada. Statistical Profile Place Name Search.

http://ww2.statcan.ca/english/profil/

Information from the 14 May 1996 census can be retrieved by a place name search. Interactive maps (non-GIS) with pan and zoom-level controls to the street level can also be displayed to show the location of any place name. The maps can also be used to retrieve the statistical profiles. The profile data consists of population (1996 and 1991 censuses), education, income/work and families/dwellings, and land area statistics. Online help.

Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME). Databases For Environmental Analysis: Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Governments.

http://www.mbnet.mb.ca/ccme/5e othertopics/5ef database/5ef.html
The complete reference guide to these databases can be viewed via Adobe
Acrobat Reader documents. The URL for the British Columbia databases is
http://www.mbnet.mb.ca/ccme/5e_othertopics/5ef_database/5eff11.html

The databases are not directly viewable, but Internet addresses are listed within the Adobe document.

Canadian Earth Observation Network (CEONet).

http://ceonet.ccrs.nrcan.gc.ca/cs/en/

Operated by Natural Resources Canada, CEONET is a joint public/private sector clearinghouse and commercial sales service for geospatial data. Products can be either browsed or searched. CEONET can also be used to locate and search databases, including BC-relevant ones, described in the United States Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) Clearinghouse.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. Public Registry System. http://www.ceaa.gc.ca/registry/registry_e.htm

The Federal Environmental Assessment Index (FEAI) is part of the Public Registry and searchable under a variety of categories, including by province and specific geographic location. The FEAI documents environmental assessments required under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act. A new search function is under development. By contrast, the BC Environmental Assessment Office (http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca/PROJECT/Home.htm) presents the same information in hyperlinked tabular format and by two clickable maps. Online help.

Canadian Heritage Information Network. Artefacts Canada: Natural Sciences http://www.chin.gc.ca/Artefacts/e artefacts canada.html

Presenting most of the search choices offered by the Humanities database (listed under SOCIETY AND HISTORY), the natural sciences category lacks the AAT search/browse as well as the "how" category of the sample searches. Only two facets of the natural sciences are represented in the natural sciences: Biological Sciences and Earth Sciences and Mineralogy. Searches can also be conducted on the basis of chemical classification or type of natural specimen. A Natural Sciences Data Dictionary is available. Online help.

EarthNet. Search for Teaching Resources.

http://agcwww.bio.ns.ca/schools/esrc/search/index.cgi

A joint public/private sector initiative to document earth sciences resources, EarthNet has a searchable database of educational resources.

Interrain Pacific. INFORAIN: Bioregional Information System for the North American Rainforest Coast.

http://www.inforain.org/index.htm

A non-profit society with offices in Portland, Oregon, and Juneau, Alaska, Interrain Pacific maintains a watershed GIS-enabled database for the Pacific Northwest coast, along with a structured database documenting the location of GIS data sets pertinent to its mandate. Some of the GIS data can be downloaded via FTP.

North Pacific Marine Sciences Organization (PICES). Data and Inventory Information.

http://pices.ios.bc.ca/data/dataf.htm

This site, maintained by the Institute of Ocean Sciences, Sidney, is a clearinghouse for data sources (online and offline) pertaining to fisheries and oceans. If available, URLS are provided. PICES also maintains a list of useful Web sites.

Transportation Safety Board of Canada. Search Databases.

http://bst-tsb.gc.ca/eng/search/FS Srch.html

Documents, including the full reports of investigations by the TSB into transport occurrences, can be searched through a keyword search engine. Searches can be limited to air, rail, marine, pipeline occurrences or the entire document repository can be searched. Results are displayed in a table that does not provide meaningful information to determine relevance (eg, "Report m94w0010" or "Synopsis m93w0007"). The reports can also be consulted through a separate link.

United States. Dept. of the Interior. Geological Survey. Geographic Names Information System: United States and Territories.

http://www-nmd.usgs.gov/www/gnis/gnisform.html

Equivalent to Natural Resources Canada's Canadian Geographical Names site, the US GNIS site is a useful alternate source for Alaska-Washington-Idaho-Montana-BC boundary place name queries. Interactive maps (non-GIS) with zoom controls can be displayed to show the context of a place name. Online help.

United States. Environmental Protection Agency. Databases and Software. http://www.epa.gov/epahome/Data.html

This site provides access to a number of important databases and GIS mapping systems falling under the EPA regulatory authority. Linked to this page are the Surf Your Watershed site, the Envirofacts database, the Center for Environmental Information and Statistics (CEIS), and a page of media specific databases. Oddly enough, the EPA's own Environmental Information Management System (EIMS), called the Data Catalog on the Surf Your Watershed site, is not linked to this page.

United States. Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC). Clearinghouse. http://www.fgdc.gov/clearinghouse/clearinghouse.html

More than 80 GIS data servers around the world can be located through the Search for Geospatial Data link. Searches are conducted through an HTML forms-based or a Java-based interface. The latter includes an interactive map with zoom controls. Online help.

United States. National Agricultural Library. AGRICOLA.

http://agricola.cos.com

A bibliographic database documenting literature on agricultural sciences back to 1979. One of the better free access sites to AGRICOLA is this URL to the Canadian Community of Science, Inc. Web site. Online help.

United States Coast Guard. Human Element Bibliographic Resource Page.

http://uscg.fedworld.gov/

This database, accessible through the massive FedWorld Web site, contains references to at least 139 bibliographies maintained by the US Coast Guard and the International Maritime Organization (1MO) as part of the former's Prevention Through People (PTP) Program. A search on the 1MO Source field pick list for "Canada" will bring up at least nine entries, a few of which document maritime accidents occurring in BC waters in the early 1990s and investigated by the Transportation Safety Board of Canada. The database record includes a detailed abstract of the report.

vcr Inc. Registry.

http://www.vcr-mvr.ca/

Based in Ottawa, the Voluntary Challenge & Registry (VCR) Inc. Web site documents those companies and all federal and provincial government agencies that have voluntarily agreed to limit or reduce their net greenhouse gas emissions. The Registry can be browsed or searched for company profiles and documents filed with VCR Inc. The online documents are available as Adobe PDF or ASCII text files.

Xerox Corporation. Palo Alto Research Center (PARC). Map Viewer.

http://pubweb.parc.xerox.com/map

A clickable GIS map with exact coordinates returned. The USA part of this world map provides more detail. Online help.

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

British Columbia. Queen's Printer. British Columbia Government Publications Index.

http://www.publications.gov.bc.ca/

Browsable and searchable database to provincial government publications distributed by the Queen's Printer on behalf of government agencies. Links are provided to external sites such as Crown Publications which is authorized by the Queen's Printer to sell provincial government publications. Electronic shopping is supported. Online help.

Georgetown University. Center for Latin American Studies (Washington, DC). Political Database of the Americas.

http://www.georgetown.edu/pdba/

Multilingual access to "Reference Materials, Primary Documents, Statistical Data" for the nations of North and South America, and the Caribbean. Keyword searching, or, as in the case of Canada, all topics covered by the database can be displayed on one page. Both political and governance information is documented. Hyperlinks are provided to relevant online documents, pages, or sites in the host country. Online help.

LAW AND HEALTH

Access to Justice Network. Browse.

http://www.acjnet.org/cgi-bin/legal/legal.pl?lkey=no&ckey=browse&tkey=no

A public/private sector clearinghouse for Canadian law and legal information, ACJNet's Browse page features pick lists by jurisdiction and subject. Graphical codes are used to distinguish between full-text documents, linked sites, and interactive services. Online help.

British Columbia. Superior Courts. Reasons for Judgment Database.

http://www.courts.gov.bc.ca/Search/Queryhit.htm

This database contains the full text of Supreme Court and Court of Appeal Reasons for Judgment between 1996 and the present. The Reasons for Judgment are also accessible as a list under the links for each court. Online help.

British Columbia Law Institute.

The BCLI is the successor to the Law Reform Commission of BC (1969-1997).

1. Law Reform Database

http://www.lawreform.gov.bc.ca/pages/database/searchdb.html

The database indexes more than 6,000 publications from all jurisdictions worldwide. Basic keyword and advanced searching with Boolean operators are available. Records can be sorted and subsorted a variety of ways through an advanced search. Documents described by the database can be ordered online. Online help.

2. Limitation Act Database

http://www.lawreform.gov.bc.ca/pages/projects/limitations/index.html Documents case law or 653 decisions up to the Supreme Court of Canada based on the province's *Limitation Act* (Statutes of BC, 1975, c. 37). Records date between I July 1975, the date the Act came into force, and II December 1996, the date the Law Reform Commission began winding down its operations. Online help.

National Crime Prevention Council of Canada. Prevention Databases.

http://www.crime-prevention.org/ncpc/database/index.htm

This page lists and describes various databases relating to crime prevention programs. Some of the databases contain full-text information. There is also a link to the Access to Justice Network.

National Library of Medicine (Washington, DC). HISTLINE (HISTORY of medicine online).

http://igm.nlm.nih.gov/

HISTLINE is part of a larger public access site called Internet Grateful Med (IGM). The HISTLINE database indexes nearly all published literature since 1964, including conference proceedings, "about the history of health related professions, sciences, specialities, individuals, institutions, drugs, and diseases in all part of the world and all historic periods." Searches are by Subject, Author Name, or Title Word. Search limits for filtering or refining a large number of results can be set a variety of ways, including by region (eg, Canada). Online help.

Simon Fraser University Library. BRS Text Databases.

Gerontology Research Centre Catalogue.

http://www.lib.sfu.ca/cgi-bin/trustr.pl?grcc

Multimedia bibliographic records pertaining to aging and the elderly. Online help.

Supreme Court of Canada. Judgments.

http://www.droit.umontreal.ca/doc/csc-scc/en/index.html

A joint project of the Court and the Centre de recherche en droit public (Centre for Research in Public Law), Université de Montréal, the judgments database covers decisions back to 1989. In addition to full-text searches, the judgments can be retrieved through a "concept" or analytical search, as well as through structured field searches. Press releases and weekly bulletins of the Court are also searchable. Online help.

See also under society and history:

University of Saskatchewan Libraries. Resources for Aboriginal Studies. Canadian Native Law Cases.

SOCIETY AND HISTORY

Archives Association of British Columbia. British Columbia Archival Union List (BCAUL).

http://www.aabc.bc.ca/aabc/bcaul.html

First opened for Web access in 1996, BCAUL includes over 8,000 fonds or collection-level descriptions at over 160 institutions preserving archival records (archives, libraries, and museum-archives). Two choices are available for viewing descriptions: by browsing various indexes or by keyword searching. Boolean searching and multiple index searches are supported. Special features include filtered views by group or repository and the ability to save results for FTP retrieval or to e-mail results. Record descriptions are based on RAD (Rules for Archival Description) and may incorporate hyperlink links to finding aids (inventories, box/volume, file, and item lists). The Integrated British Columbia and Alberta Union Lists is accessible through the main URL above and allows a fully integrated search or separate searches of either union list. Online help.

ARD: The Anthropology Review Database.

http://wings.buffalo.edu/anthropology/ARD/

Established in 1997, this bibliographic database, as it name implies, records "refereed reviews of anthropological publications, including books, audiovisual materials, software & multimedia, exhibits, tourist sites, conferences, and on-line resources." ARD publishes its own signed reviews and also links to several online publications in its discipline. The database is searchable by keyword or browsable a variety of ways. Online help.

British Columbia. Ministry of Education. Examination, Key, and Report to Schools Search Page.

http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/search/exsection.htm

BC Provincial Exams can be searched and downloaded as Adobe Portable Document Format (PDR) files for up to two years following their first use. Search parameters from pick lists are by exam Subject, exam Month, Year, and Document Type (Provincial Exam, Provincial Key, or Report to Schools). The Provincial Keys are available back to 1994.

British Columbia. Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture. Heritage Branch.

1. Helmcken House, Victoria (SchoolNet Digital Collections Program) http://www.tbc.gov.bc.ca/culture/schoolnet/helmcken/index.html

Artifacts preserved in the home of Dr. J.S. Helmcken, a pioneer Hudson's Bay Company physician and politician, can be searched through the Collection link. Some artifact descriptions include online images. Online help.

2. Point Ellice House Collection of Household Victoriana (SchoolNet Digital Collections Program)

http://www.tbc.gov.bc.ca/culture/schoolnet/victoriana/

This Victoria historic site, the family home of Peter O'Reilly, preserves a wide array of Victorian-era household objects. A number of search options are available through the Collection page, among them the ability to retrieve object descriptions room by room. Object descriptions can also be linked to images. Online help.

3. Teaching, Learning & Farming at Craigflower Farm (SchoolNet Digital Collections Program)

http://www.tbc.gov.bc.ca/culture/schoolnet/craigflower/index.html

This educational tour of the Craigflower School and Farm Web site includes a Collection database to artifacts at this Victoria area historic site. Four search options are available: free text; object name; manufacturer name; all fields. The object and manufacturer name use pick lists. Online help.

British Columbia Archives

1. On-line Search

http://www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca/cgi-bin/www2m

Keyword searching through individual or multiple indexes to cartographic records, library catalogue, textual records (catalogue and full-text finding aids), visual (photographs and artwork) records, and all Web pages. The Maps, Library, Textual Records and Visual Records Web pages also have their own pre-set queries. Digitized photographs, artwork and maps are also available and searches can be limited to such digitzed media. This search gateway does not search the vital events indexes. Online help.

2. Vital Events Databases

http://www2.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca/textual/governmt/vstats/v_events.htm#indexes

Civil marriage registration (1872-1921) and death registration (1872-1978) indexes. Both indexes, which can only be searched separately, not simultaneously, use a structured database. Keyword searching is not available. Several fields are common to both indexes. Search options for both indexes consist of exact matches, partial matches, or exclude on all searchable fields. Results from both indexes can be sorted a variety of ways and the maximum

number of results returned is 200. If a search results in more than 200 matches, notification is provided and the initial search must be narrowed to reduce the number of matches. Following any search results or an error message if no results are returned is the original search form with the input. Other than two sample registration records, the actual records are available only on microfilm at the BC Archives or various libraries. The microfilm can also be borrowed through any Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Family History Centre. BC Archives staff do not conduct searches or provide copies of the records. Birth registration records (1872-1898) are forecast for release in the spring 1999. Online help.

Canadian Heritage Information Network.

1. Artefacts Canada.

http://www.chin.gc.ca/Artefacts/e artefacts canada.html

Formerly known as the National Inventories, three separate databases cover the humanities (museum objects), natural sciences (listed under ENVIRONMENT AND GEOGRAPHY), and archaeological sites. Online help.

A.Humanities

Three basic choices are available for searching: keyword searches; advanced searches with four choices; and sample searches based on "what, where, who, when, how." The online Art & Architecture Thesaurus (Getty Information Institute, California) is available for searching or browsing. A Humanities Data Dictionary can also be searched or browsed.

B. Archaeological Sites

Similar to the Natural Sciences database; the sample searches include the "how" category. The "what" sample search category offers two choices: Site Types and Features (eg, Fire Pit, Petroglyph). An Archaeological Sites Data Dictionary is available.

1. The Ship Information Database.

http://daryl.chin.gc.ca:8000/basisbwdocs/sid/sid.html

Documents ships registered in Canadian ports or sailed in Canadian waters and which are now underwater archaeological sites. Alphabetic browse or full searching by vessel name, master name, owner name, builder name, or voyage.

Canadian Museum of Civilization. Legends of Our Times: Native Ranching and Rodeo Life on the Plains and Plateau

http://www.civilisations.ca/membrs/fph/rodeo/rodeoooe.html

This database describes in text and accompanying image 50 of the more than 600 artifacts at this exhibit which opened on 16 June 1998. The Plateau region includes BC.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. FamilySearch Internet Genealogy Service

http://www.familysearch.org/

The most significant genealogical database on the Web, the core database of the FamilySearch site is the International Genealogical Index (IGI). The IGI summarizes nearly 300 million genealogical records compiled by the church and preserved at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. Three

categories of searches are available: Ancestor Search (given and family name, with options for spouse or the father and mother's names); Keyword Searching (searches only the "web sites and SourceGuide"); and Custom Search (links to search tools such as Ancestral Files, the IGI, the Family History Library Catalog, and the SourceGuide research outlines). The Ancestor Search searches everything indexed by FamilySearch and results are categorized and summarized in both a hit list and summary window. The separate IGI search in the Browse Categories section offers more search options, including searches by geographic regions. Online help. The high volume of usage and site testing which began in late March 1999 may hinder access.

City of Richmond Archives. Archives Search.

http://www.city.richmond.bc.ca/ArchivesSearch2/

An excellent example of a database developed by a BC municipal archives.

1. All Media Search

Contains over 15,000 records by pick lists (community records, municipal records, subject, name) or by keyword. No capability to limit search by media. Online photographs are hyperlinked to individual records.

2. Photo Search

Contains over 4,000 online photographs by subject or name pick lists, or by keyword. Results are also hyperlinked to their respective archival descriptive record.

CultureNet. Music Education Resource Base (MERB).

http://www.ffa.ucalgary.ca/merb/

Complementing the National Library of Canada's Canadian Music Periodical Index, MERB includes the Canadian Music Index. Over 28,000 bibliographic records dating back to 1956 are indexed by author, title, and subject. Searches are by character string; three searchable fields are available singly or in combination: subject, title, author. A Subject List is available. Online help.

Demaray, Ron. British Columbia Cemetery Finding Aid.

http://www.islandnet.com/bccfa/homepage.html

An outstanding example of private initiative, the BC Cemetery Finding Aid is a database that provides a starting point for those conducting family history and wishing to learn the possible burial location of an ancestor. The database contains over 100,000 entries from 141 cemeteries in the province and one in Washington State. Searchable fields are a "fuzzy logic" surname search, an exact surname search, given name, cemetery name, location, and region. The specific letter of the alphabet for the surname must be set from a pick list before each search. The database files are available for FTP download. Online help.

GeneaNet: Genealogical Database Network.

http://www.geneanet.org/

The primary means of access to this index to global genealogical resources is by the family surname one is interested in researching. Keyword searching and advanced searching are available; the latter allows a search to be limited to any part of Canada. Online help.

Ghosts of the Klondike Gold Rush. Filson's Pan for Gold Database.

http://www.gold-rush.org/ghost-o7.htm

The database actually consists of information entered from over two dozen sets of archival records and historical published reference works. The database offers only one search option: by individual name. This is a character string search, so any name containing the word that is entered will be returned. Among the most pertinent to BC are the Northwest Mounted Police lists of those entering the Yukon Territory from Lake Bennett, BC. Results are segregated by their data source. Online help.

Global Child Health Society. Global ChildNet (Vancouver, BC). Databases. http://edie.cprost.sfu.ca/gcnet/gcn_dbs.html

Headquartered in Vancouver and debuted at the Child Health 2000 World Congress, Global ChildNet documents through two databases online services relating to child health and social services. The databases cover bibliographical citations and organizations. Searches are limited to keywords with substring or whole word matching. Mailmerge output is available for both. Online help.

Hudson's Bay Company. Archives. On-Line Finding Aids.

http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/hbca/resource/index.html

A superb example, even though still under construction, of the power of hypertext to clarify, simplify, and expand the accessibility of archival research tools. While there is not a central search point through which all the finding aids can be queried, detailed hyperlinked information is provided on how the records are organized. Pre-set queries are available for some of the classification sections used by the HBC Archives. The Post Records, for example, can be searched through hypertext lists and tables by name, region, or post number. Online help.

inGeneas Canadian Genealogical Research & Searchable Databases Website (Ottawa, ON).

http://www.ingeneas.com/index.html

As part of its commercial service marketing genealogical research, in Geneas provides free access to its database of immigration, ships passenger lists, census, and other records up to 1906. The database is searchable only by surname and/or given names. Wildcard and soundex searches are supported. A separate National Archives of Canada Miscellaneous Immigration Index of 15,000 records can also searched (http://www.ingeneas.com/free/index.html). The latter was created on cards by NAC staff and input with NAC permission by in Geneas. Online help.

Leisure Information Network (LIN). National Recreation Database.

http://www.lin.ca/findrs.htm

Established in 1995 in Ontario, LIN's database documents and disseminates information for those working in leisure and recreation services. The database features full-text searching of online documents (which can be viewed in their entirety) or fill-in fields by keywords, date, or author/publisher. Online help.

Maritime Museum of British Columbia. Ships Plans Database.

http://mmbc.bc.ca/searcher/searchplan.html

Only keyword searching is available, but you have to specify the field name to search as part of the search string. Not the easiest database to search, but worth the effort if you are searching for these kinds of records. Online help.

National Gallery of Canada. Artists in Canada.

http://www.chin.gc.ca/Resources/Research Ref/Reference Info/AICH/e hp aich.html

Based on an earlier print publication, this database is a union list of documentation files on artists represented in Canadian galleries and other institutions. The basic search is by artist or maker name. Advanced search options are through pick lists and fill-in fields. Query results can be sorted a variety of ways. Online help.

National Library of Canada. Canadian Music Periodical Index.

http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/wapp/cmpi/index e.htm

With "more than 25,000 entries indexed from 475 Canadian music journals, newsletters and magazines from the late nineteenth century to the present day," the database currently indexes over 200 publications. Searches are by pick list and a fill-in keyword field. The subject heading, classification, and author fields are hyperlinked, so if a match is returned, clicking on any of those fields that show as an active link will bring up another list with all records indexed under that term. The periodical titles and subject headings lists are also hyperlinked. Any periodical listed that was indexed or subject heading that was used will display all articles indexed when the title or subject heading link is activated. A complementary database is the CultureNet Music Education Resource Base (MERB). Online help, a list of periodical titles, and a subject headings list are available.

Simon Fraser University Library. BRS Text Databases.

Research in Teacher Education.

http://www.lib.sfu.ca/cgi-bin/trustr.pl?rite

This database contains citations to articles, books, and audio recordings. Online help.

Smithsonian Institution (Washington, DC). Smithsonian Institution Research Information System (SIRSI).

http://www.siris.si.edu/

Six catalogues can be searched: Library; Archives & Manuscripts, Art Inventories, Peter A. Juley & Son Collection (photographic archive of American art and artists), Research/Bibliographies, and a Smithsonian Chronology. The Archives & Manuscripts Catalog includes the National Anthropological Archives (NAA) and the Human Study Film Archives (HFSA), both with BC content. Searching is keyword-based by creator, title, subject, or keyword. Online help.

Toronto Reference Library. Bob's Your Uncle, eh!: A Search Engine for Genealogy in Canada.

http://indexes.mtrl.toronto.on.ca/genealogy/index.htf

Searchable via three pick lists: topics (resources), people (ethnic, religious and groups), and by place (down to the city level). Results are displayed as links to the indexed Web sites. Online help.

United Kingdom. Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts. Archives On-Line (ARCHON).

http://www.hmc.gov.uk/archon/archon.htm

Established by Royal Warrant in 1869, the Commission's mandate was broadened in 1959 to document the existence of records anywhere in the world pertinent to the study of British history. ARCHON is the database for locating these records through a Repository Search. Specifying "Canada" as a country locates all references in ARCHON to Canadian institutions. The British National Register of Archives (NRA) is also another useful database for finding records in the UK relevant to British Columbia. NRA searches are keyword-based by personal name, corporate name or place name. Online help.

United States. Library of Congress. National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC).

http://lcweb.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/nucmc.html

Free access to this international database of manuscript (government and non-government) records is available through the Z39.50 Gateway operated by the Library of Congress to the Research Libraries Information Network (RLIN). Major research institutions inside and outside the US are represented in the RLIN NUCMC database. The last printed NUCMC volume was issued in 1994 and the sole form of access now is through the user-pay RLIN service or the Library of Congress gateway. Three levels of searching are available: two "easy" levels and one advanced level. The former are through keyword input fields and the latter by keyword plus selecting a Z39.50 attributes (author, title, geographic name, etc.) Online help.

United States. National Archives and Records Administration. NARA Archival Information Locator (NAIL).

http://www.nara.gov/nara/nail.html

Multimedia prototype database with hyperlinks to selected records, including, for example, colour images of artist James Alden's watercolour sketches for the North American Boundary Commission in the early 1860s. As of 10 December 1998, NAIL "contains more than 384,200 descriptions and 101,180 digital copies." The digital copies alone are searchable, along with a "standard" or simplified search and an 'expert" search. Keyword searching through user input; searches can be limited by media, NARA repository, or descriptive level (from record group/collection down to the item level). Online help.

United States. National Park Service.

1. Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS)/ Historic American Engineering Record (HAER)

http://www.cr.nps.gov/habshaer/

Close to 33,000 historic structures and sites, including former Hudson's Bay Company forts and posts in the Oregon Territory and the San Juan Islands, are indexed in the HABS/HAER database. Recorded information, which in-

cludes photographs and measured drawings, are preserved and administered by the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division. Access to the database as of 1 January 1999 is through a telnet (telnet://165.83.212.245) or dial-up modem connection Monday - Friday, 8:30 am to 5:30 pm EST.

2. National Archeological Database (NADB)

http://www.cr.nps.gov/aad/nadb.htm

Complementing the Canadian Heritage Information Network's Artefacts Canada database, this site consists of three components: a Reports database describing archaeological site and cultural studies based on artifacts; Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) documentation; and MAPS (Multiple Attribute Presentation System), a series of GIS maps relating to archaeological data. NADB is administered by the University of Arkansas' Center for Advanced Spatial Technologies (CAST). Online help.

3. National Historic Landmarks

http://www.cr.nps.gov/nhl/

The landmarks can be searched by state. The data is linked to the National Register of Historic Places. Some of the landmarks pertain to the British fur trade and joint US-British military occupation of San Juan Island.

4. National Register of Historic Places

http://www.nr.nps.gov/nrishome.htm

The National Register Information System (NRIS) provides access to the more than 80,000 entries of this register which complements HABS/HAER. Data can be searched and retrieved via a Web page, telnet, FTP, or dial-up modem. The Web search is limited to State or State and County queries. Online help.

University of Saskatchewan Libraries. Resources for Aboriginal Studies.

http://library.usask.ca/native/index.html

Includes an Archival Materials Database (holdings of the Diefenbaker Canada Centre Archives; Saskatchewan Archives Board (Saskatoon Office); and University of Saskatchewan Libraries, Special Collections Department), a Photograph Database (many online images with BC content), and a full-text Canadian Native Law Cases (1763-1978) database. Online help.