

THE DIGITAL DOMAIN:

Selected Internet Resources for the Study of British Columbia

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The appearance of this first compilation in *BC Studies* coincides with an important milestone in the history of computer networking in British Columbia: the tenth anniversary of BCnet's initial link between SFU and UBC. BCnet (<http://www.bc.net>) is one of Canada's oldest computer research networks utilizing the Internet protocols; the network officially opened on 9 June 1988. Established to encourage education, research, and technology transfer among the public and private sectors, BCnet, as with its national and United States counterparts, is now part of an enormous international computer-mediated communications system known as the Internet (the Net). The World Wide Web, or just Web, is one part of the Internet, though most people tend to think of the Web as the Net because the software, known as a browser, that is used to access the Web also provides direct and indirect access to all other Internet services, including but not limited to file transfer (FTP), newsgroups, e-mail, telnet/remote terminal login, and gopher.

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.

This first compilation of what will be an intermittent feature in *BC Studies* lists meta-sites, guides, or directories and selected interactive study sites to selected subject areas: general reference, cultural/social issues, economics, history, and politics. Meta-sites are lists of lists or bibliographies of bibliographies. There is usually only an

alphabetical arrangement. Guides or directories are maintained along a particular principle of arrangement, most commonly a topic or subject. Today's interactive study sites are nearly all Web-based; earlier sites utilized the Internet telnet protocol as well as dial-up service via standard telephone lines and a bulletin board system (BBS) style interface. The resources in the five topic areas are arranged by author/title, URL, and bibliographic annotation. 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.

Sites are listed only once under the five areas below. Because many sites contain information pertinent to each of the other areas, it is important to review the entire list. For example, much of the statistical data available through BC Stats and Statistics Canada is applicable to the study of economics, history, political, cultural, and social issues.

Selection criteria included at least one public and one private sector for each topic area. Where no British Columbia-specific Web site was located, general meta-sites are listed. 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 many of these sites may be obsolete. The URLs listed below are current as of 16 February 1998.

GENERAL REFERENCE

BRITISH COLUMBIA. BC Stats.

<http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/>

Population, business/economics, labour, and other statistical data displayed in tabular format. Some data is also available for download in the Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF). As of 10 February 1998, no site-specific search engine.

CANADA. National Library of Canada. Canadian Information By Subject.

<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/caninfo/esub.htm>

Dewey Decimal Classification system arrangement of links to Internet (primarily Web sites) resources on all aspects of Canada.

CANADA. National Library of Canada. Special Collections: Directory of Special Collections of Research Value in Canadian Libraries.

<http://library.usask.ca/spcol/>

Began in 1985 as part of the National Plan for Collections Inventories, this is the current online version, last revised 22 September 1995. Little overlap with the Archives Association of British Columbia BC Archival Union List,

as "predominantly manuscript collections" are excluded. Includes a link to Canada's SchoolNet Digital Collections.

CANADA. Statistics Canada.

<http://www.statcan.ca/>

A range of statistical data available for free and for purchase. The search page retrieves information from specific databases as well as from the Web site itself.

CLAMEN, Stewart M. Canadiana: The Canadian Resource Page.

<http://www.cs.cmu.edu/Unofficial/Canadiana/README.html>

Established 1994, the site provides an extensive set of links in English and French to all aspects of Canada.

CULTURAL/SOCIAL ISSUES

Aboriginal Rights Coalition of British Columbia.

<http://vuv.com/~arcbc/>

"A coalition of Aboriginal organizations, the major churches of Canada, and local community group," the site contains comparable information to the BC Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs.

bc.activists.

news:bc.activists

Network newsgroup for social activists.

BLAIR, Mark. The SocioWeb.

<http://www.socioweb.com/~markbl/socioweb/>

An independent guide to sociological resources on the Internet.

BRITISH COLUMBIA. Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs.

<http://www.aaf.gov.bc.ca/aaf/>

Ministry with "primary responsibility for treaty negotiations in the Province of British Columbia," the site includes links to First Nations involved and not involved in the BC Treaty Commission process, online publications, a chronology of BC history specific to First Nations relations, a site-specific search engine, and links to related sites.

BRITISH COLUMBIA. Ministry of Children and Families.

<http://www.ssr.gov.bc.ca/>

Formerly the Ministry of Social Services, split into this ministry and the Ministry of Human Resources on 23 September 1996. Most of the site still pertains to the Gove Commission and the BC Transition Commission for Child and Youth Services, which preceded the establishment of this ministry.

BRITISH COLUMBIA. Ministry of Health. Health-Related Internet Resources.

<http://www.hlth.gov.bc.ca/exsites/exlinks.html>

Created by Heather-Ann Laird, Ministry of Health Library.

BRITISH COLUMBIA. Ministry of Human Resources.

<http://www.mhr.gov.bc.ca/>

- The ministry responsible for income and employment support services, the site includes downloaded research data in the form of Adobe Acrobat PDF files and links to other public- and private-sector sites.
- BRITISH COLUMBIA. Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture. Cultural Services Branch.**
<http://www.tbc.gov.bc.ca/culture/csb/welcome.htm>
Includes the BC Arts Council, BC Cultural Foundation, the province's cultural sector policy and programs, and links to other cultural sites.
- BRITISH COLUMBIA. Ministry of Women's Equality.**
<http://www.weq.gov.bc.ca/>
Includes links to sites related to women's studies and issues.
- British Columbia Federation of Labour.**
<http://www.bcfed.com/>
Includes "Labour and Related Links on the Internet," such as "British Columbia and National Union Links"; the more comprehensive Union Resource Network, sponsored by the Communications Workers of America; and links to topics of interest to workers.
- British Columbia Museums Association.**
<http://www.MuseumsAssn.bc.ca/~bcma/homepage.html>
Features a searchable database of "museums, art galleries, historic sites, cultural and science centres" as well as separate pages by city and institution type.
- CANADA. Citizenship and Immigration Canada.**
<http://cicnet.ingenia.com/>
Primary feature of this site is an extensive library of downloadable publications, many in Adobe Acrobat PDF with statistical data on immigration.
- CANADA. Department of Canadian Heritage.**
<http://www.pch.gc.ca/main-e.htm>
Extensive information on all aspects of Canadian culture, arts, and heritage, including the national parks system.
- CANADA. Industry Canada. Canada's SchoolNet.**
<http://schoolnetz.carleton.ca/>
Launched 15 October 1993, SchoolNet's two major goals are the connection via the Internet of all of Canada's public K-12 schools and public libraries and the creation of online educational resources, including the SchoolNet Digital Collections. Links are also available to provincial learning networks such as the BC Community Learning Network.
- CANADA. Industry Canada. Canada's SchoolNet: First Nations Website.**
<http://schoolnetz.carleton.ca/english/ext/aboriginal/index2.html>
Comprehensive set of links to First Nations information for adults and youths.
- CANADA. Status of Women Canada.**
<http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/>

A wide range of links to related sites and online resources; includes a site-specific search engine.

CANADIAN COUNCIL ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. The Social Indicators Site.

http://www.ccsd.ca/soc_ind.html

Under development as a central repository for online documents, the "Social Indicators Launchpad" (links to other sites) and "Social Indicators Repository" (online publications) are worth searching and contributing to. Statistical data in HTML tabular form is also available.

Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

<http://www.policyalternatives.ca/>

Headquartered in Ottawa, the centre has a BC office. Web site offers frame- and text-based links to other "Progressive Links" and includes many BC sites.

CANADIAN CHILD CARE FEDERATION. Child and Family Canada.

<http://www.cfc-efc.ca/>

Resource site set up by the federation, which comprises more than three dozen non-profit organizations and is supported by two federal government ministries. Includes "Social Issues" area as well as links to all the national and provincial/territorial organizations affiliated with the federation.

Canadian Institute for Health Information.

<http://www.cihi.ca/>

"CIHI is a federally chartered but independent, not-for-profit organization ... collecting, processing and maintaining a comprehensive and growing number of health databases and registries, covering human resources, services and expenditures." CIHI also sets national standards for the collection and dissemination of this data. Includes a section specific to British Columbia.

Canadian Women's Internet Association.

<http://www.women.ca/>

Links to a range of topics of interest to women; also provides access to four electronic mailing lists.

CultureNet: An Electronic Window on Canadian Culture.

<http://www.ffa.ucalgary.ca>

Begun in March 1994 by the University of Calgary Faculty of Fine Arts, the Canadian Conference of the Arts, and the Canadian Institute for Theatre Technology, this bilingual site features electronic discussion groups focusing on current cultural policies, notices and job boards, and a searchable "Directory of Canadian Cultural www Sites." There are both public and secure areas for paid subscribers to CultureNet.

McMASTER UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY. www Virtual Library. Index of Sociology Institutions in Canada.

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/socscidocs/cansoc.htm>

Maintained by Dr Carl J. Cuneo, site documents Canadian associations, journals, and academic/research institutions. There are also a set of links to many other resources. Site is frames-based.

ROYAL BRITISH COLUMBIA MUSEUM AND OKANAGAN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.
Living Landscapes: Thompson/Okanagan: Present, Past, and Future.

<http://royal.okanagan.bc.ca/>

Intended to function as an online museum of the human and natural history of the Thompson-Okanagan region, some of the project listings consist only of curriculum vitae of project participants. Many more include online essays, both text and graphics-based. The educational resources section includes historic photographs, census data, maps, and links to Canada's SchoolNet projects.

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY. Research.

<http://www.sfu.ca/research.htm>

Descriptive page covering all aspects of research at SFU, along with links to specific offices and program information. A link is also available to "SFU Research Centres, Institutes and other Research Initiatives"; page title is "Research at SFU: Centres and Institutes."

SOC.CULTURE.CANADA.

<news:soc.culture.canada>

Network newsgroup on a variety of issues surrounding Canadian culture.

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, Faculty of Graduate Studies.
Interdisciplinary Institutes, Centres, Programs, and Journals.

http://www.grad.ubc.ca/centres_%26_institutes/centres_%26_institutes.html

Descriptive page on the numerous research centres at UBC, with a link to a list arranged by research units; research units offering graduate programs; journals (including BC Studies); and residential graduate college. The UBC home page (<http://www.ubc.ca>) also links to a separate "Faculty & Research" page, with links to other research-related resources at UBC.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA, Faculty of Health and Human Sciences. Child Welfare Research Centre.

http://www.unbc.ca/cwrc_page/home.htm

Site includes online issues of the CWRC Newsletter for 1996 and 1997, staff and research projects information, and a large number of links to related sites and online resources. Other links to UNBC research centres are found on the "UNBC Services and Centres" page (<http://www.unbc.ca/servcent.htm>).

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA. Centre on Aging.

<http://www.coag.uvic.ca/>

Example of a research centre Web site, part of whose mandate is to share the results of its projects. The centre also sponsors an annual public forum. Other UVic research centres and programs are found on the "Academic Departments and Centres" page (<http://www.uvic.ca/academic.html>).

ECONOMICS

BRITISH COLUMBIA. Ministry of Employment and Investment.

<http://www.ei.gov.bc.ca/>

As of 3 December 1997, the ministry was responsible for the BC Trade and Investment Office; the Energy and Minerals Division; the Information, Science, and Technology Agency (ISTA); the Economic Development Division; and many related organizations, including Crown corporations. The ministry Library maintains its own links to Web sites relevant to its mandate. Includes a site-specific search engine, an archive of news releases from 1995 to 1998, and selected online publications. On 18 February 1998 ISTA was transferred to the new Ministry of Advanced Education, Training, and Technology, while the Energy and Minerals Division was reconstituted as the Ministry of Energy and Mines.

Conference Board of Canada.

<http://www.conferenceboard.ca/>

Established in 1954, the board is an "independent applied research organization" supplying "objective information and analysis on economic, management and public policy issues to assist more than 600 member organizations from business, government and other sectors."

INDUSTRY CANADA. Strategis.

<http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/>

Among the many features of this site is the Canadian Business Map. Selecting British Columbia via the image map reveals subsequent choices from a variety of topical menus. The Canadian Business Map Site utilizes HTML frames and JavaScript; no text option is available for this section of Strategis. Portions of Strategis, however, are accessible through text-only pages.

UNIVERSITÉ DU QUÉBEC À MONTRÉAL. ederic (Economics Departments, Institutes and Research Centers in the World).

<http://www.er.uqam.ca/nobel/114160/economics/index.html>

There is a listing for Canada as well as a separate listing of economics associations. The IDEAS (Internet Documents in Economics Access Service) database of working papers in economics is also found here.

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA DATA SERVICES LIBRARY. Quick Links to Other Web Sites.

<http://www.datalib.ubc.ca/datalib/links/quick.html>

Includes "Economic and Financial Data Sources on the Web" and "Social Science Data Sources on the Web," both of which contain a few links to BC-specific data. Nearly all the online data sources are accessible only to UBC faculty, students, or staff.

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS. Useful Information For Economists.

<http://web.uvic.ca/econ/info.html>

Includes link to some critical resources for the study of economics, along with links to other academic economics departments worldwide. Many of the links are to pages and sites from NetEc, "an international academic effort to improve the communication of Economics via electronic media."

HISTORY

ARCHIVES ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA. British Columbia Archival Resources.

<http://www.harbour.com/AABC/>

As of 13 February 1998 the four resources are the online A Guide to Archival Repositories in British Columbia; the BC Archival Union List database; a set of links to British Columbia Archives Sites and Other Resources; and Virtual Archival Exhibits from Around British Columbia. There are also links to the main AABC Web site and the Canadian Archival Resources on the Internet site maintained at the University of Saskatchewan Archives.

CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR HISTORICAL MICROREPRODUCTIONS (CIHM). Early Canadiana Research Collection.

<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/cihm>

Established in 1978 to microfilm public-domain published Canadiana (monographs and periodicals). Full subscription microfiche sets available at UBC, UNBC, and UVic. All three universities have integrated the CIHM bibliographic records into their online catalogues.

KAMLOOPS ART GALLERY. Onderdonk's Way.

<http://www3.islandnet.com/~bcma/museums/kamlag/onderdonk.html>

Curated by Roger H. Boulet, this virtual exhibition, last updated on 2 December 1997, features online photographs from the BC Archives, maps, and essays documenting the Andrew Onderdonk contracts for construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway line between Port Moody and Craigellachie, BC, between 1880 and 1885.

LAVENDER, Catherine. WestWeb: Western History Resource.

<http://scholar.library.csi.cuny.edu/westweb/>

Comprehensive subject guide for the study of the American West. Extremely useful for transborder historical research. Established in 1995.

MATTISON, David. British Columbia History Internet/WWW Page.

<http://www.victoria.tc.ca/bchistory.html>

Subject guide to all aspects of BC history. Includes relevant links to municipal, provincial, national, international, and private-sector sites. Established 14 October 1995.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN DIGITAL LIBRARY. Making of America (MOA).

<http://www.umdl.umich.edu/moa/>

Collaborative effort with the Cornell University Digital Library to digitize up to 5,000 public-domain books and periodical articles pertaining to the social history of the United States. Keyword searchable; use British Columbia-related search terms to uncover relevant material.

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA. Who Killed William Robinson? Race, Justice and Settling the Land: A Historical Whodunit.

<http://web.uvic.ca/history-robinson/>

A superb example of an online interactive educational resource for history teaching. Site uses the murder of a Black settler on Salt Spring Island as a springboard for evidential and other issues surrounding the interpretation of past events. Created by Ruth Sandwell (sfu) and John Lutz (University of Victoria).

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Government

BRITISH COLUMBIA. Government of British Columbia.

<http://www.gov.bc.ca>

All ministry and Crown corporation Web sites, as well as many individual program and office sites, are linked to this central gateway. A site-specific search engine is available, along with the online telephone directory. Accessible through frames-, no-frames, and text-only versions.

CANADA. Government of Canada Primary Internet Site.

<http://canada.gc.ca>

Comparable in scope to the Government of British Columbia gateway.

CANADIAN GOVERNMENTS ON-LINE. Intergovernmental On-Line Information Kiosk.

<http://www.intergov.gc.ca/>

Established in 1995 and maintained by a team comprised of federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal representatives. Includes site-specific search engine.

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES. CivicNet BC: British Columbia's Window to Local Government.

<http://www.civicnet.gov.bc.ca/>

Designed for both member municipalities and the general public, includes a site-specific search engine and extensive links to multiple jurisdictions.

Politics and Political Science

bc.politics

news:bc.politics

Network newsgroup intended for public discussions, not always on topic, of BC politics.

can.politics

news:can.politics

Network newsgroup intended for public discussions, not always on topic, of Canadian politics.

Canadian Political Science Association.

<http://www.sfu.ca/igs/CPSA.html>

Includes links to the Canadian Journal of Political Science, the POLCAN

listserv (electronic mailing list), and a list of "Electronic Resources of Interest to Canadian Political Scientists."

BRITISH COLUMBIA. Elections BC.

<http://www.elections.bc.ca/>

A non-partisan office of the Legislative Assembly, site includes downloadable electoral district maps in TIFF and Adobe Acrobat PDF; downloadable reports in Adobe Acrobat PDF; and links to related sites in and outside Canada.

CANADA. Elections Canada.

<http://www.elections.ca/>

Comparable in scope to Elections BC.

ITP NELSON. Canadian Politics on the Web.

<http://polisci.nelson.com/canpol.html>

Maintained by Andrew Heard, Simon Fraser University, Political Science Department.

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY. Political Science Department. Canadian Elections and Political Parties.

http://www.sfu.ca/~aheard/c_parties.html

Maintained by Andrew Heard, but not being updated for the 1997-98 academic year. Alternate current information on this topic can be found at the ITP Nelson site, also maintained by Andrew Heard.

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA. Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration. Policy Analysis Division. Election Stock Market.

<http://esm.ubc.ca/>

Past elections covered include the 1991 and 1996 BC provincial elections and the 1993 and 1997 federal elections. Includes large set of links to politics and election-related sites.

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA LIBRARY. Canadian Politics Menu Page.

<http://www.library.ubc.ca/poli/cpweb.html>

Comprehensive topical guide in tabular format. No page-specific search engine, so users must manually navigate through the various headings to locate a specific link.

VICTORIA TELECOMMUNITY NETWORK AND BRITISH COLUMBIA COMMUNITY NETWORKS. Election '96 British Columbia.

<http://www.victoria.tc.ca/elec96bc.html>

Documents the provincial election of 28 May 1996.

VICTORIA TELECOMMUNITY NETWORK AND BRITISH COLUMBIA COMMUNITY NETWORKS. Election '97 Canada.

<http://www.victoria.tc.ca/elec97fed.html>

Documents the federal election of 2 June 1997.