

People may be willing to help you with your research, perhaps by providing information they have or by pointing you to sources of information. Your school or community librarian can help you locate relevant sources, as can the librarians of local community colleges or universities. Other people, such as teachers, your parents or guardians, local professionals, and Elders and Knowledge Keepers may have valuable input. (Be sure to respect local community protocols when approaching Elders or Knowledge Keepers.) The only way to find out if someone can and will help is to ask. Make a list of people who might be able to help you obtain the information you need, and then identify how you might contact each person on your list.

PROJECT EXAMPLE

Carrying out your research

Sarah chose, “Which Western province or territory grew the fastest over the last century, and why?” as her research question. She has decided to use 1900 to 2000 as the time period. How can she find relevant data?

Sarah’s Search

Since my question involves a historical event over a wide area, I decided to rely on secondary data. I started my search using the Internet. I did a search for “provincial populations Canada 1900 to 2000” and found many websites. I had to look at quite a few until I found the following link:

History resources from Statistics Canada

File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat - Quick View

Population of Canada, by province, census dates, 1851 to 1976. A125-163. ... series reviews conditions in Canada from 1900 to 2000. Articles include: ...

www.cshc.ubc.ca/TC_Smith.pdf - Similar

This led me to a document from the University of British Columbia that cited a document from Statistics Canada, based on census data, that showed the provincial populations from 1851 to 1976. I went to the Statistics Canada website and searched for the census data, but I couldn’t find it. So I tried another general search, “historical statistics Canada population,” and found the link below:

Historical statistics of Canada: Section A: Population and Migration

Oct 22, 2008 ... Table A1 Estimated population of Canada, 1867 to 1977. and Migration”, in the *Historical Statistics of Canada*, first edition, p. ...

www.statcan.gc.ca > Home > Sections - Cached - Similar

This led me to data I was looking for:



Table A2-14
Population of Canada, by province, census dates, 1851 to 1976

Source: for 1851 to 1951, Statistics Canada (formerly Dominion Bureau of Statistics), *Census of Canada, 1951*, vol. X, table 1; for 1956, *Census of Canada, 1956*, vol. I, table 1; for 1961 *Census of Canada, 1961*, Vol. I, part 1, table 12, (Catalogue 92-536); for 1966, *Census of Canada, 1966*, vol. I, table 14, (Catalogue 92-608); for 1971, *Census of Canada, 1971*, vol. I, part 2, table 14, (Catalogue 92-716); for 1976, *Census of Canada, 1976*, vol. II, table 11, (Catalogue 92-824).

For a brief discussion of possible under-enumeration in earlier censuses, 1851, 1861 and 1871, see first edition of this volume, pp. 3-4. For completeness of enumeration in censuses of 1961 to 1976, see series A15-53 below.

I now have some data I can use. I feel confident that the data is authoritative and accurate, because I believe that the source is reliable. I will continue looking for more current data, from 1976 to 2000. I will also need to search for information about reasons for population changes during this time period. I will ask the school librarian to help me look for other sources.

Your Turn

- A. Decide if you will use primary data, secondary data, or both. Explain how you made your decision.
- B. Make a plan you can follow to collect your data.
- C. Carry out your plan to collect your data. Make sure that you record your successful searches, so you can easily access these sources at a later time. You should also record detailed information about your sources, so you can cite them in your report. See your teacher for the preferred format for endnotes, footnotes, or in-text citations.