Grande Prairie, Alberta

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Working with the Alberta Research Portal

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1 Definition

Database

A database has a specific topic or source that influences the collections and documents it carries. You can search individual databases or you can use “Gale Primary Sources” to search all databases or handpick the databases relevant to your search. See section 4 for the list of databases.

Portal

The portal home links all of the databases together for easy access. To access all of the databases, you will be using the Alberta Research Portal. You can run a basic search through the home portal page or you can select “Resources” and start going through individual databases.

Geo-IP authenticated

The Alberta Research Portal uses the IP address of the internet connection to confirm your geographic location. This ensures everyone in the province of Alberta has equal access to this great resource.

Primary source

Primary source items are any items or documents that were created at the time under study. This includes artifacts, diaries, manuscripts, autobiographies, maps, newspapers, monographs, legal documents and more.

2 About Alberta Research Portal

The Alberta Research Portal is a primary source database available to anyone located in Alberta. The site geo-IP authenticates users so there is no barcode login required. This resource can be used for free and is a fantastic tool for students, teachers, and researchers. The collections within the site offer 300+ million primary documents sourced from over 200+ libraries covering over 500 years of world history. A total of 72 languages are represented and 601,000 whole monographs are available.

3 Access & Accounts

3.1 Who Has Access?

Anyone located in Alberta with internet has access to the Alberta Research Portal. The site geo-authenticates users so there is no need to enter a library barcode and pin.

3.2 Create an Account

You do not need to create an account in order to use the Alberta Research Portal but it is an option. Creating an account will allow you to add tags to documents, save documents in one single place and keep sessional search history.

To create an account:

1. Go to any individual database or Gale Primary Sources.
2. Select “Sign In” on the top right.
3. Select “Create Account.”
4. Fill out the form and select “I accept. Make my account” on the bottom right.

3.3 Use an Account

To save documents:

1. Run a search.
2. Locate the document that you want to save.
    a. From the search results page: select the folder icon to the right of the document.
    b. From the individual document page: select the folder icon located on top of the document on the right (just below the toolbar).

To see all of the saved documents on your account, you need to do the following steps on “Gale Primary Sources.” If you do it on an individual database, it will only show the documents saved to your account on that specific database.

To access saved documents:

1. Select “Tools” on the top right.
2. Select “My Folder.”
3. Select “Documents.”
4. Locate the title you want and click the blue hyperlinked title.

To add private tags:

Private tags are only visible to the account that created them. You can only add tags to a document when logged into an account.

1. Run a search.
2. Go to the individual document page.
3. Scroll below the document and locate “Private Tags” to the right.
4. Type in your private tags.

To access private tags:

1. Select “Tools” on the top right.
2. Select “My Folder.”
3. Select “Tags.”
4. Click on the tag you want to expand.
5. Locate the title you want and click the blue hyperlinked title.

4 Databases

Each of these databases are available to search individually by selecting the "Resources" tab on the home portal page.

Database Name	Summary	Subjects
17th & 18th Century Burney Collection Newspapers	The largest single collection of period English news media.	Colonization & British Studies | Newspapers
18th Century Collections Online	From bibles to sheet music, here are the critical tools for research and classroom use.	Colonization & British Studies
19th Century Collections Online	Primary sources from rare collections worldwide provide unique research opportunities.	Colonization & British Studies | History | Indigenous Peoples Studies | Journalism | Literature | Science
19th Century North American Newspapers	Cover-to-cover digitized newspapers with advanced searching capabilities.	Indigenous Peoples Studies | Newspapers
19th Century UK Periodicals	Content from the British Library, National Library of South Africa and many others.	Colonization & British Studies | Newspapers
American Fiction, 1774-1920	The premier source for peer-reviewed articles covering all academic disciplines.	History
Archives of Sexuality & Gender	Rare, historic primary sources support research of LGBTQ history.	Colonization & British Studies
Associated Press Collections Online	Rare primary sources from journalism's top name.	Journalism
Brazilian and Portuguese History and Culture: The Oliveira Lima Library	Oliviera Lima Library spotlights colonialism, Indigenous Peoples and much more.	History
British Library Newspapers	This fully searchable archive provides a first-hand account of British life in the 19th c.	Colonization & British Studies | Newspapers
British Literary Manuscripts Online	Includes 5 million review citations, with links to 630,000+ full-text reviews.	Journalism

Chatham House Online Archives	Research, publications, speeches and archives support history, economics, law and more.	Political Science
China from Empire to Republic	Missionary, Sinology and Literary periodicals 1817-1949.	History
Crime, Punishment and Popular Culture, 1790-1920	US and global transcripts, forensics, photos, detective novels and more.	History | Political Science
Daily Mail Historical Archive, 1869-2004	Contains the regular edition and the Atlantic Editions.	Newspapers
Early Arabic Printed Books from the British Library	The first full-text digital library of its kind, with content in Arabic script.	History
Economist Historical Archive	Full-text content with search indexes, topic and area supplements, and surveys	Business | Newspapers
Financial Times Historical Archives, 1888-2010	Full coverage of the influential periodical supports scholarly research	Newspapers
Gale World Scholar: Latin America and the Caribbean	Primary documents are sources from collection in the US and abroad	History
Illustrated London News Historical Archive Online, 1842-2003	Over 260,000 full-colour pages of the first illustrated weekly newspaper.	Colonization & British Studies | Newspapers
Independent Digital Archive	Full-text, archived editions of Britain's nonpartisan daily national newspaper.	Newspapers
Indigenous Peoples of North America	A diverse, appealing search enables intelligent inquiry into culture and heritage.	Indigenous Peoples Studies
Liberty Magazine Historical Archive, 1924-1950	Liberty charted the moods, lifestyles, fads and fortunes of middle-class America.	Newspapers

Listener Historical Archive, 1929-1991	The BBC's newspaper bears witness to intellectual and cultural history.	Newspapers
Making of the Modern World	Primary sources track western development through the lens of trade and wealth.	Business
Picture Post Historical Archive	The pioneering photojournalism newspaper covered social and political issues.	Newspapers
Punch Historical Archive, 1841-1992	All issues, seasonal numbers and almanacs of the icon British publication.	Newspapers
Sabin America, 1500-1926	Over 6 million pages from Joseph Sabin's books, pamphlets, serials and other documents.	Indigenous Peoples Studies
Slavery and Anti-Slaver Transnational Archive	The largest project of its kind covers the subject from a global perspective.	History
Smithsonian Collections Online	Historic magazines cover modes of flight, World's Fairs, and trade literature.	Business | History | Newspapers | Science
State Papers Online	Historic documents are linked by original manuscripts to their calendar or catalog entries.	Colonization & British Studies
Sunday Times Digital Archive	Analysis & commentary on murder, theatre, sport & politics in narrative detail.	Newspapers
Telegraph Historical Archive	Nearly 150 years of the influential paper includes both the daily and Sunday editions.	Newspapers
Times Digital Archive	The world's newspaper of record is searchable for invaluable historical research.	Newspapers
Times Literary Supplement Historical Archive	An essential companion for studying literary activity and critical opinion makers	Newspapers

5 Browse & Search

5.1 Homepage

You can run a basic search from the home portal page. Type your terms into the white bar and the search will run through most of the databases available. The search results page will bring you into Gale Primary Sources where you can use the panel on the left to filter and edit your search.

5.2 Browse databases

From the home page, select “Resources” to access the full list of the databases available to run individual searches on. The first one on the list called “Gale Primary Sources” will run searches through most of the databases. You can also select a single database and run searches. If you are looking for databases on a certain subject or topic, try using the tabs on the top to switch between:

- Business
- Colonization & British Studies
- History
- Indigenous Peoples Studies
- Journalism
- Literature
- Newspapers
- Political Science
- Science

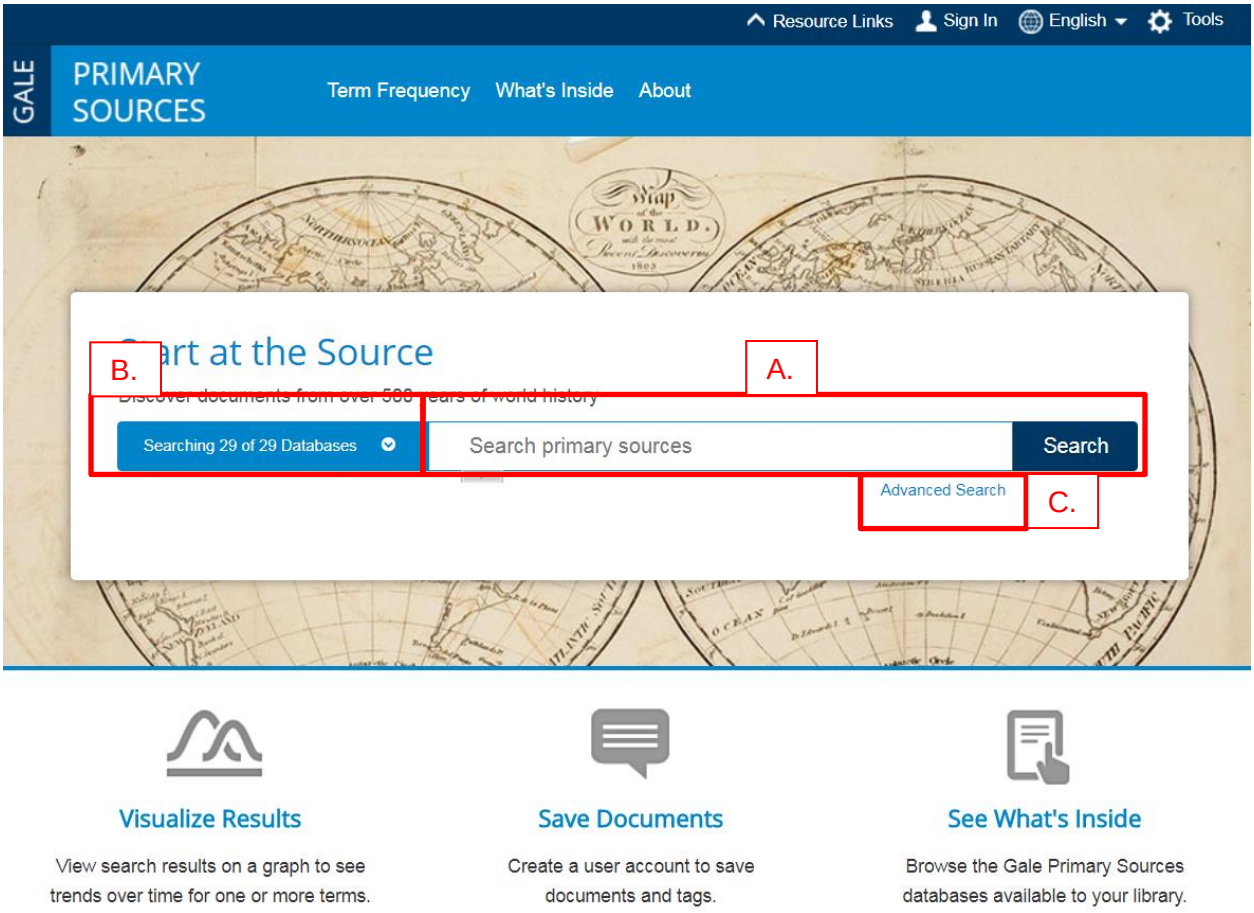
5.3 Gale Primary Sources

Using Gale Primary Sources will run your search through all **BUT** the following databases:

- British Literary Manuscripts
- Chatham House Online Archive
- Early Arabic Printed Books
- Gale World Scholar: Latin America and the Caribbean
- Slavery & Anti-Slavery
- State Papers Online

These databases are not currently included but work is being done to catalogue them so they will be available to work using Gale Primary Sources in the future. All of these archives are able to be searched individually.

Gale Primary Sources looks like this:



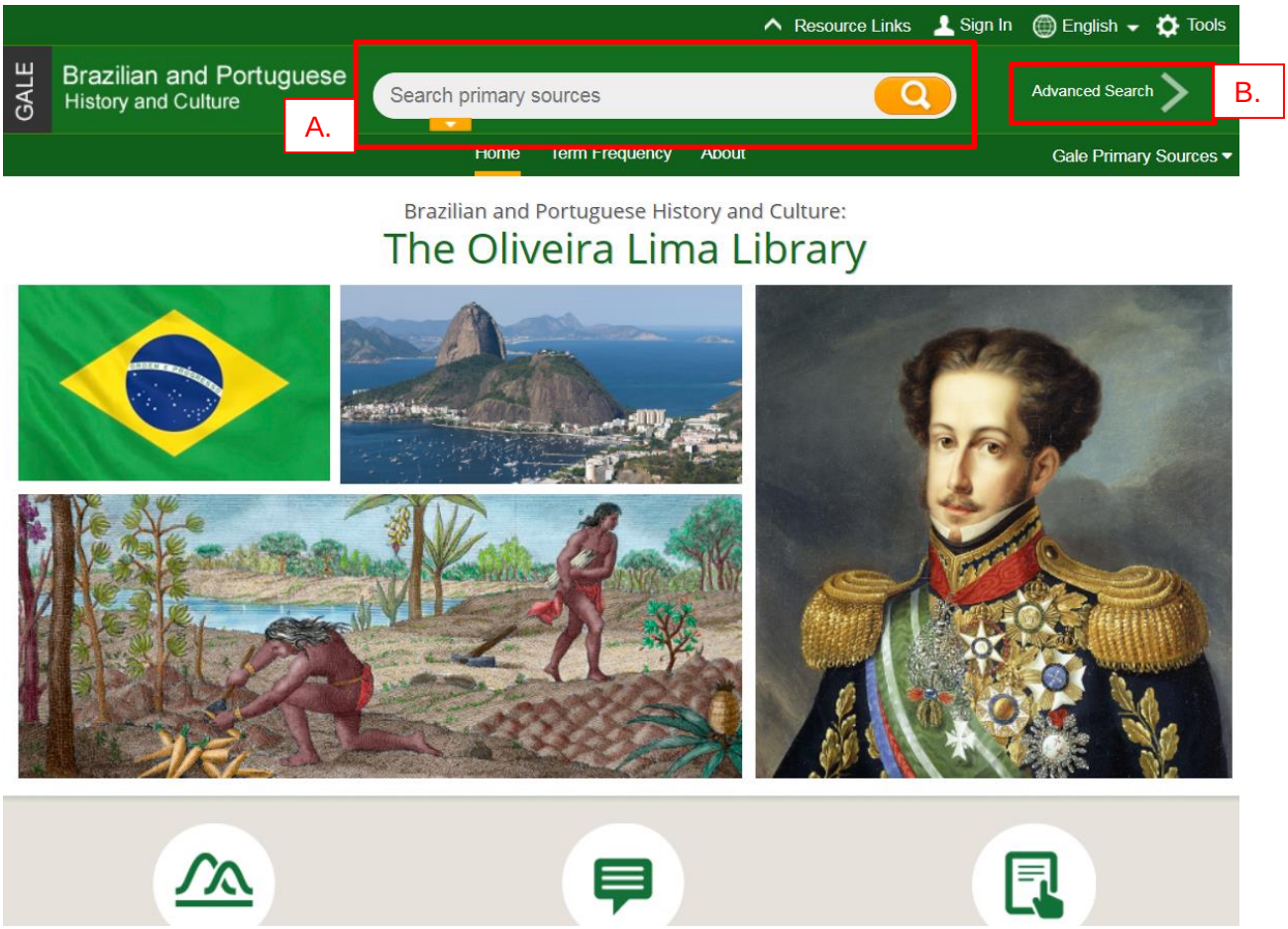
You can run a basic search by clicking and typing into the white box (see A). You can search through all, one or a handful of the databases by selecting the blue button to the left of the basic search bar (see B). Below the basic search bar is the advanced search option (see C).

5.4 Individual Databases

From the home portal page:

1. Select the “Resources” tab on the top right.
2. Scroll through the list to find the database you want.
3. Select the title.
4. You will be launched into the database.

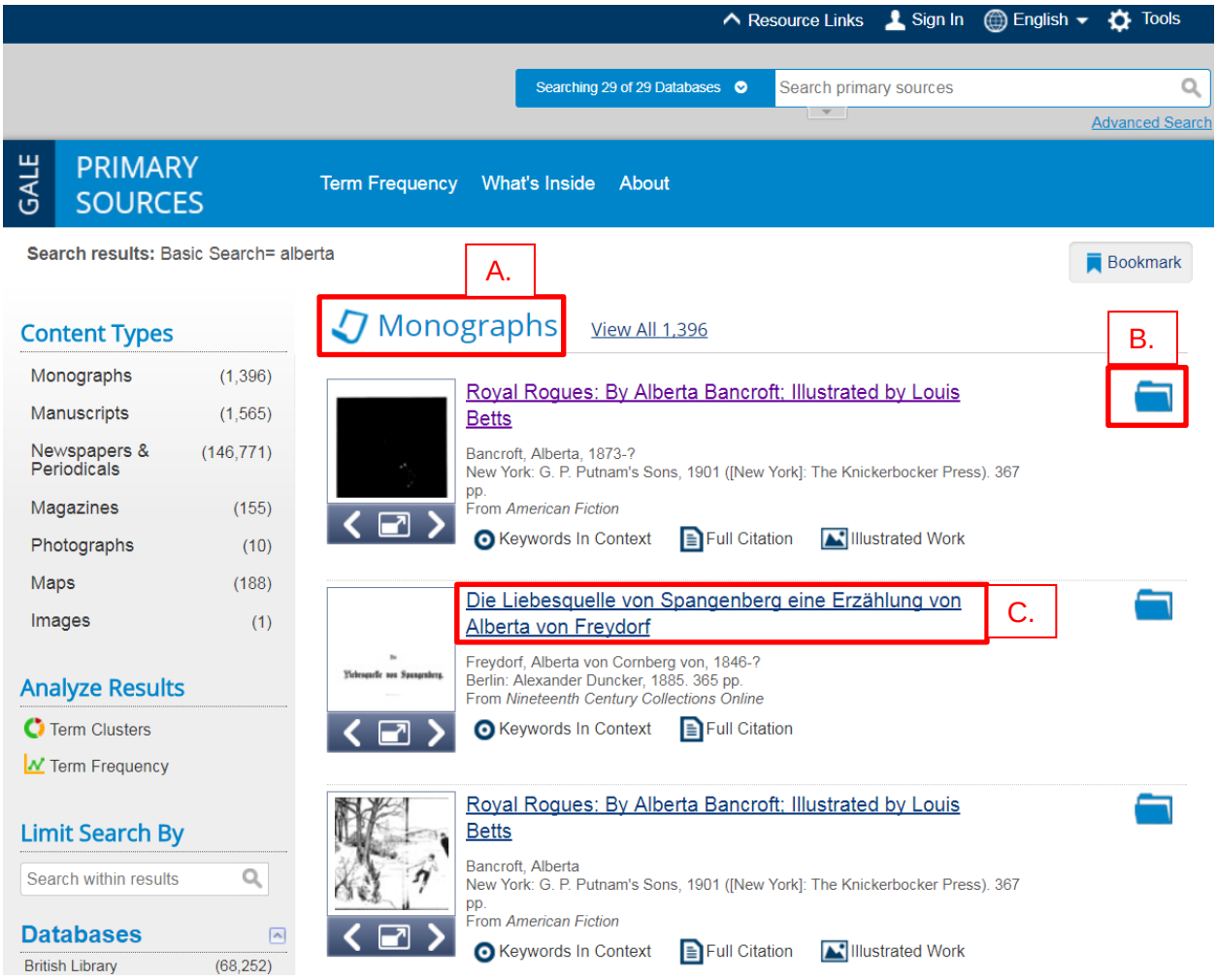
Most of the databases have similar layout (though some are very different) and look something like this:



The basic search bar is placed on the top center of this database (see A) while the advanced search feature can be accessed by selecting the button to the right of the basic search bar (see B).

6 Filters & Tools

To run a search, type your search terms into either the basic search or advanced search options on the databases or the basic search from the home portal page. Your results page will look something like this:

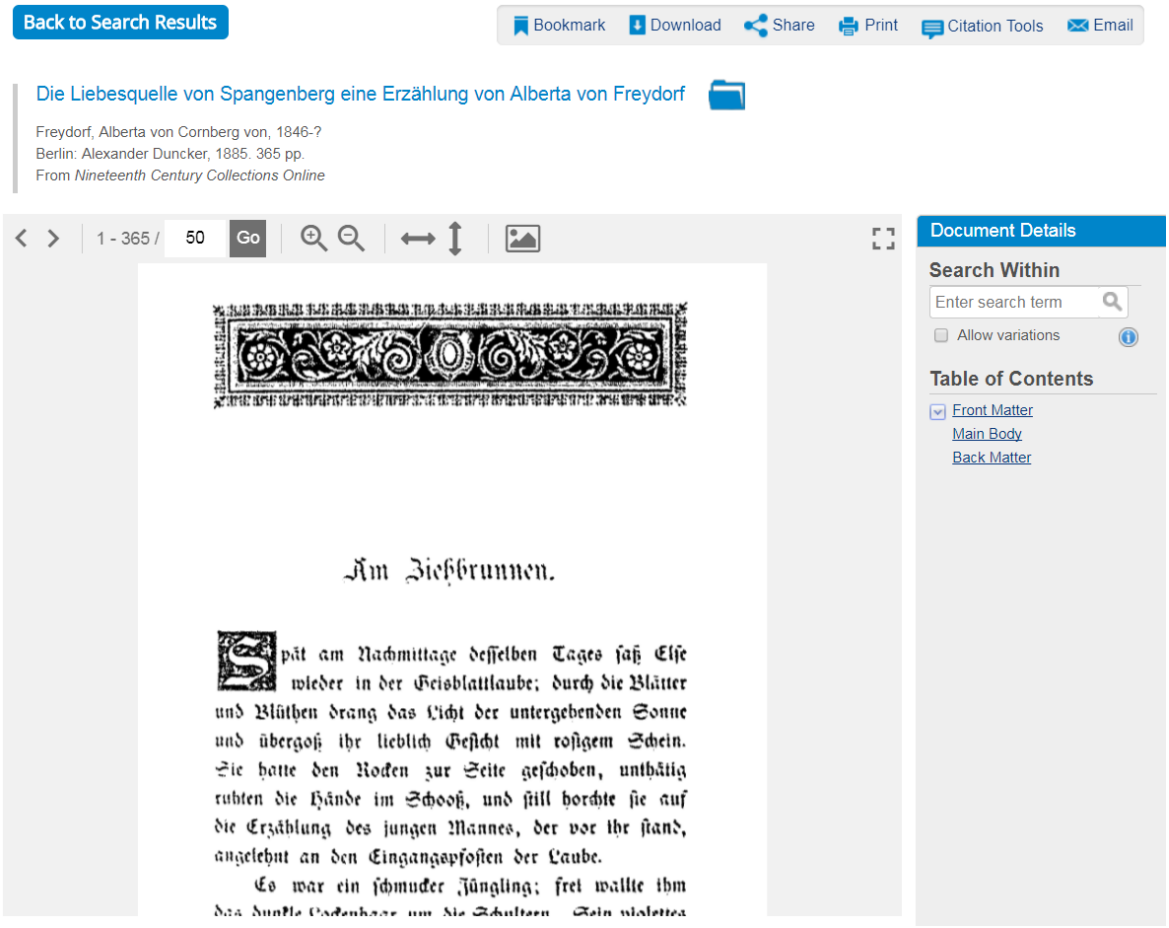


The results page will be organized by format (sees A). To check out all of the results in that format, select the “View All” button beside it. A list of all the formats appears on the left panel.

To add a document to your folder, select the folder to the right of the title (see B).

To access the document, select the title (see C).

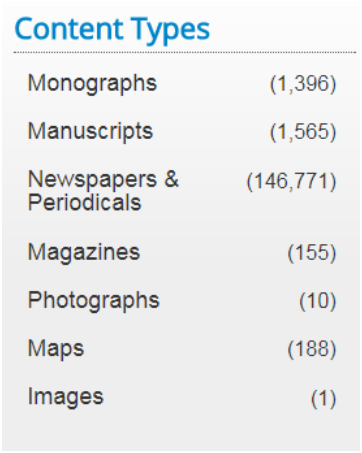
The digitized document page will look something like this:

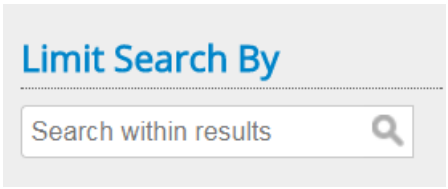


6.1 Basic Filters

There are millions of documents in these databases so there is a good chance that your first search could bring back thousands of results. Use these filter tools to help you zone in on the information you want. Look at the panel on the left.

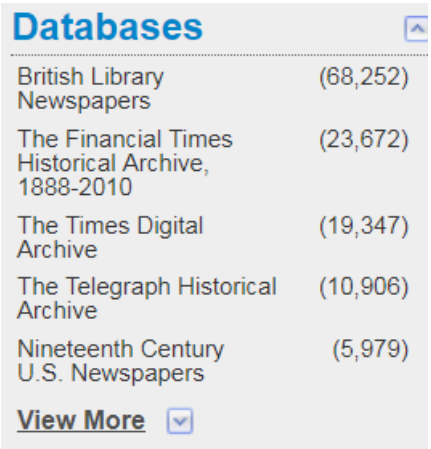
Format



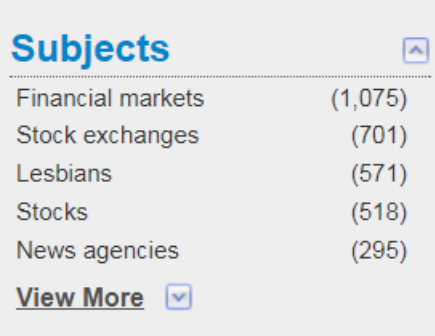


Search Within

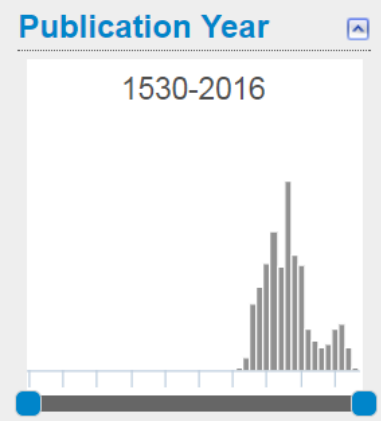
Databases



Subjects

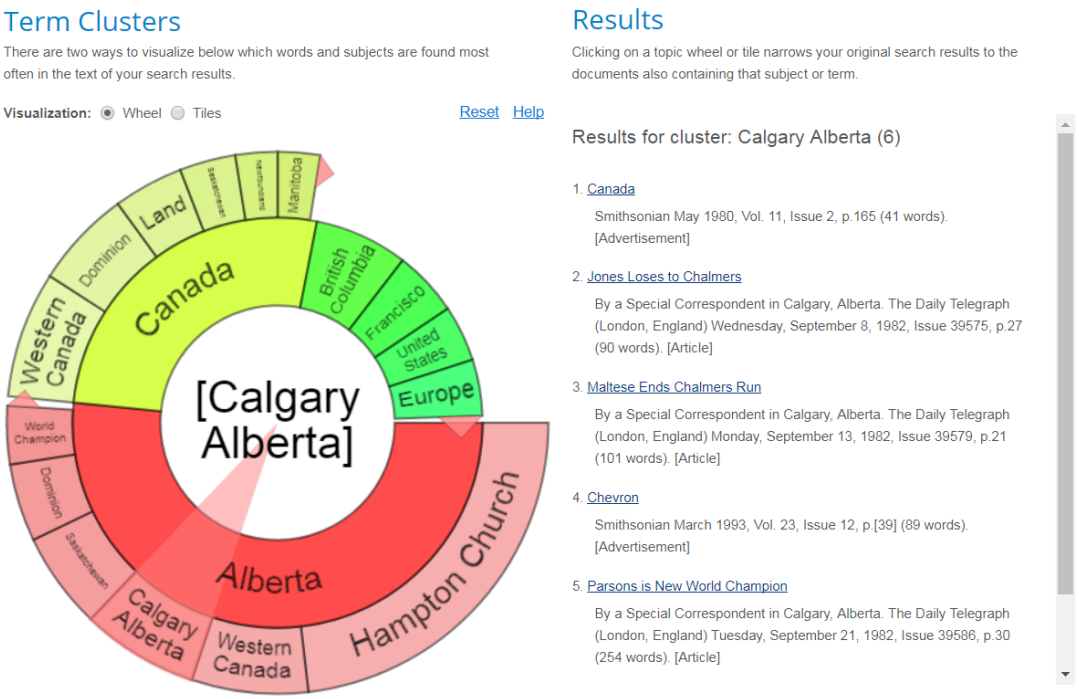


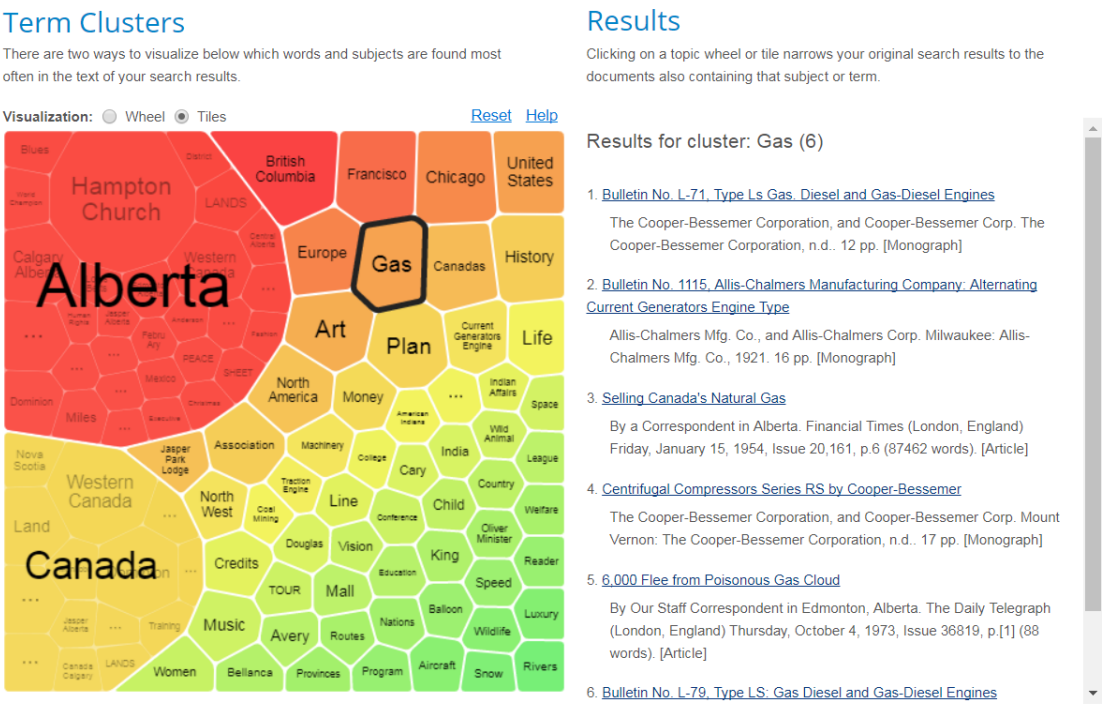
Age



6.2 Term Clusters

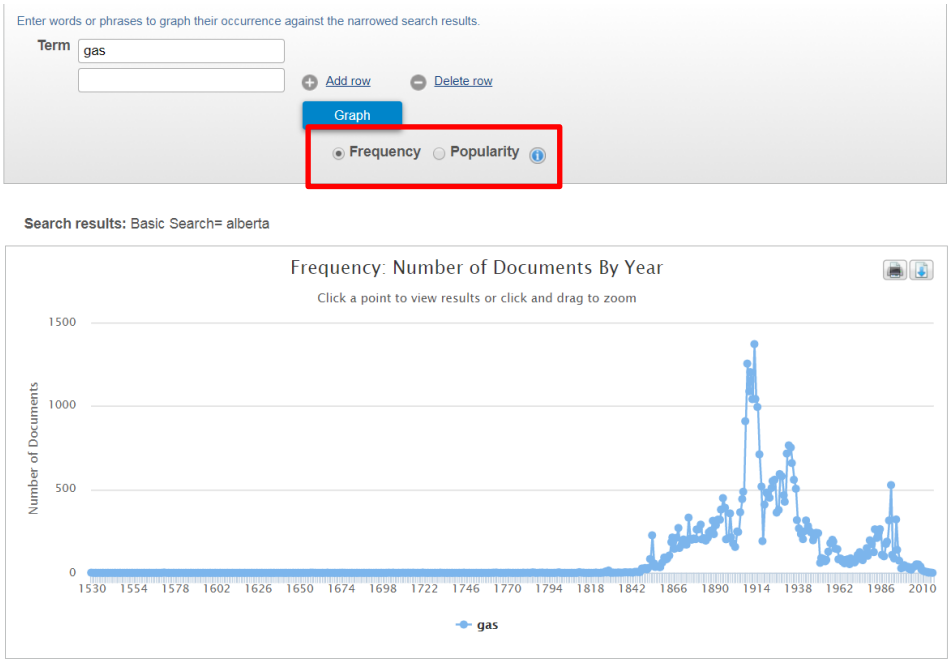
Located in the left panel is a section called “Analyze Results” and “Term Clusters” is within this. Term Clusters will display your search term and help you find out how to improve your results. When you click on an area of the wheel or tile, the results within those terms will show up on the right. From there, you can click the blue hyperlinked title and be launched into the digitized document. You can see the terms displayed as a wheel or in tiles like this:



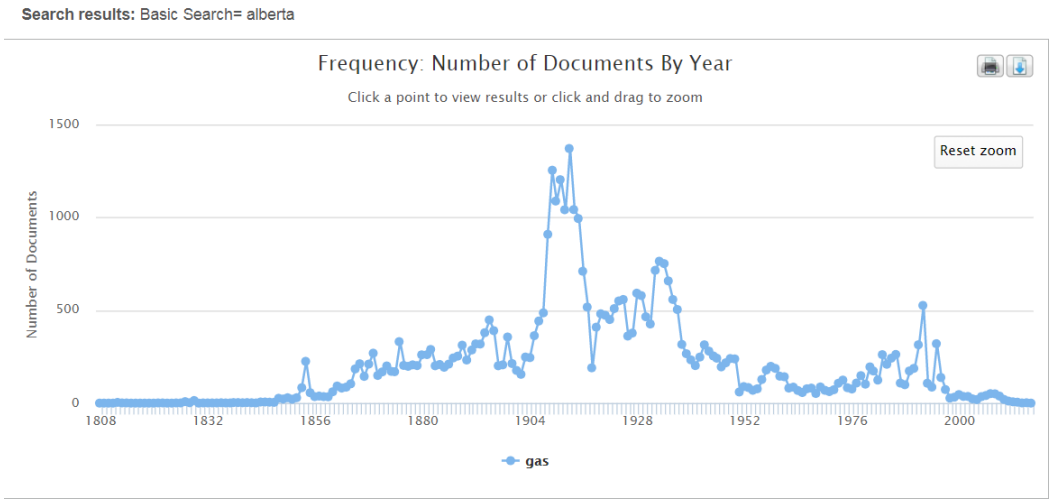


6.3 Term Frequency

Located in the left panel is a section called “Analyze Results” and “Term Frequency” is within this. Term Frequency will map out the use of a term (or terms) chronologically. Most databases also have the word “Term Frequency” located on the top of the site. You can see the information displayed in terms of frequency or popularity like this:



You can click and drag your mouse over a time period that you want the graph to zoom in on.



7 Document Tools

7.1 PDF Viewer

Once you select the title of the document, you will be launched into a page that includes the PDF viewer. You can use the arrows on the top left to turn the pages or type in the page number to jump to that page. You can adjust the image brightness, contrast or invert the image which can be helpful when trying to read older documents.

7.2 Document Details

To the right of the PDF Viewer is a panel that will allow you to search within the document, jump to the relevant pages based on your original search, use the table of contents and find illustrations.

7.3 Document Toolbar

On the top right of the page is the document toolbar. Here, you can bookmark the URL for future use, download all of the document or specific pages, share on social media platforms, print, access the citation tool or email the document.

7.4 Document Extras

Below the PDF Viewer are notes related to the document, public tags, private tags, full citation and the source citation. Public tags and private tags can only be used if you are logged into an account. Public tags are terms that you can add which can make the document more searchable. These terms will be reviewed and added if deemed appropriate. Private tags are tags saved to your account and are not visible to anyone else.

8 Help

Select the “Tools” button on the top right and choose “Help” from the drop down menu.