

who read books, the amount of time spent reading is fairly consistent regardless of their level of education. The number of hours spent reading books varied from 5.7 a week in Quebec to 7.1 in British Columbia, with an average of 6.2 hours a week across Canada.

More women than men read books, according to the survey. Among the respondents, almost 50% of women read books regularly compared with just over 35% of all men. Only 6% of all the people surveyed said they read Canadian fiction regularly, and only 8% read Canadian non-fiction regularly, indicating the reliance on imports described in the section on book publishing.

Public archives and library services

17.5

The Public Archives of Canada

17.5.1

The archives, established in 1872, operates under the direction of the dominion archivist by authority of the Public Archives Act. As a research institution, it is responsible for acquiring all nationally significant documents relating to the development of Canada, and for providing research services and facilities to make this material available to the public. Administratively, it promotes efficiency and economy in the management of government records.

The archives branch is made up of eight divisions. The manuscript division contains manuscript collections; these include the private papers of statesmen and other distinguished citizens, records of cultural and commercial societies, and copies of records on Canada held in France, England and other countries. The public records division consists of selected records of all the departments and agencies of the federal government. The picture division has charge of documentary paintings, water-colours, engravings, heraldry and medals. The photography collection is responsible for a national collection of historical photographs. The film archives holds a wide range of films and sound recordings. The map collection has custody of thousands of maps and plans pertaining to the discovery, exploration and settlement of Canada and its topography, as well as many current topographical maps of foreign countries. The archives library contains more than 80,000 volumes on Canadian history, including numerous pamphlets, periodicals and government publications. A machine-readable archives division holds selected automated public records and machine-readable archives of permanent value from the private sector.

Although documents in the archives may not be taken out on loan, they may be consulted in the building and a 24-hour-a-day service is provided for accredited research workers. Reproductions of material are available for a moderate fee and many documents on microfilm may be obtained on interlibrary loan. Archival material is also presented on microfilm, slides and microfiche, as well as in various publications and travelling exhibitions.

The records management branch helps departments and agencies to establish their own records management programs. Its service includes recommendations and advice on scheduling and disposal of records. At the Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Edmonton and Halifax records centres, it provides storage, reference service and planned and economical disposal of dormant records. Other regional centres are planned for other major cities.

The departmental administration branch, in addition to an extensive conservation and restoration program, provides a technical and advisory service on microfilming to government departments and agencies.

Branch offices of the archives are located in London, England and Paris, France. The archives also administers Laurier House in Ottawa as a historical museum.

The National Library of Canada

17.5.2

This library was formally established in 1953 by an act of Parliament; it absorbed a Canadian bibliographic centre which had been engaged in preliminary work and planning since 1950. The library is governed by the National Library Act, 1969, amended in 1977, which broadened the powers of the national librarian and established a national library advisory board of 18 members. The national librarian is responsible for