

GLENBOW LIBRARY
MAJOR HOLDINGS
(current as of November 2018)

CANADIAN HISTORY, GENERAL

A basic reference collection to support the primary Western Canadian emphasis. 1000 volumes

WESTERN CANADIAN HISTORY, GENERAL

Primary collection focus 15,000 volumes

DISCOVERY, EXPLORATION AND FUR TRADE

Collection of northwest exploration and fur trade literature is one of the finest in Canada. It includes most of the rare classics, first editions of Hearne, Palliser, etc. 1100 volumes

PRAIRIE SETTLEMENT, THE RAILROADS, MOUNTED POLICE

Library widely known for its superb collections of settlement promotional literature issued by federal government and railroads. Balanced by extensive collection of settlers' published reminiscences and local histories. As far as possible the Library has tried to assemble a comprehensive collection of printed works on the Mounted Police. The library is also known for its extensive collection on the CPR. 1500 volumes

NORTHWEST AND RIEL REBELLION

The library has tried to acquire everything in print on Louis Riel and his insurrections. Glenbow has one of the most comprehensive collections in Canada. 300 volumes

CANADIAN WEST - POST 1905 HISTORY, POLITICS, ECONOMICS

Emphasis is on Alberta with secondary emphasis on Saskatchewan and Manitoba. 3000 volumes

RANCHING AND AGRICULTURE

Ranching industry remains a top priority. Emphasis on historical literature, rather than on scientific material. 1500 volumes

PETROLEUM INDUSTRY

Emphasis on comprehensive collection of historical rather than scientific publications. 200 volumes

LOCAL HISTORIES

Library has attempted comprehensive coverage of Alberta and has best collection of Manitoba and Saskatchewan histories in the province. 3000 volumes

ETHNIC GROUPS

Ethnic groups are key element in prairie history. Library has attempted a comprehensive collection of historical materials with selected other publications in the Social Sciences and Humanities. 500 volumes

WESTERN CANADIAN DIRECTORIES

Collections of city and town directories [Hendersons et al] are one of the most heavily used sources in our holdings. The Library has attempted a comprehensive collection of Western Canadian city directories. Glenbow has also tried to acquire a full collection of Alberta telephone directories. Outdated directories are transferred from the Calgary Public Library. 700 volumes

HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN NORTHWEST

The early history of the American northwest is intertwined with the history of the Canadian west. Library has built a small basic reference collection on western American history. 1000 volumes

ARCTIC HISTORY

Glenbow has a selective but strong collection, particularly due to the acquisition of the Vilhjalmur Stefannson library. Collecting has been limited to the Western Arctic, particularly the historical literature. 1500 volumes

WESTERN CANADIAN FICTION

Glenbow has an important collection of western Canadian novels, poetry and short stories. These are literary works dealing with Western Canadian topics, or works produced by writers living in the region. In addition the Library maintains strong collections of romantic literature of the far north and the mounted police. 2000 volumes

WESTERN CANADIAN SCHOOLBOOKS

Glenbow partnered with the University of Alberta and the Alberta Department of Education to develop this collection in the early 1970s. The Library now collects passively in this area. 3000 volumes

WESTERN POLITICAL LITERATURE

Glenbow has developed a large and important collection of campaign and promotional literature. The holdings are strongest in Social Credit (worldwide), and the leftist parties of the 1930s (Non-partisan League, CCF). It includes literature issued by labour organizations, farm pressure groups and other quasi-political movements of the prairies. 4000 volumes

MATERIAL HISTORY - TRADE CATALOGUES

These catalogues are used to help document artifact collections. Acquisitions are made relating to carpentry tools, antique kitchenware, toys, dolls, costume and hardware [to list a few]. Reference books of this type are also regularly used by the public. The Library also has a collection of trade catalogues which is unique in western Canada, consisting of sales catalogues, price lists, manuals, and promotional literature issued by manufacturers and suppliers of

hardware, household merchandise, and saddlery, agricultural, automotive and sporting equipment. Farm machinery catalogues are a major part of this collection. 4000 volumes

MILITARY REFERENCE

The Library has acquired a solid basic reference collection to support the work of the Military History curators. It has placed high priority on western Canadian military history books. 3000 volumes

ETHNOLOGY

The Library's collection of North American ethnographic literature has been covered under native peoples. However, Glenbow has ethnology collections from many areas and has acquired a small basic reference library. 300 volumes

GEOLOGY/MINERALOGY

The Library has a small scientific collection dealing with geology because of the Mineralogy Gallery. However, much of the early geological literature is of interest to historians as well. The Library also has a strong collection dealing with Canadian petroleum geology due to the strong collections in the Archives from the geological community. 1500 volumes

MUSEOLOGY

The Library has made this a high priority and for many years it has purchased new books in the field and subscribed to the most important North American and British journals. It also has an excellent collection dealing with conservation. 1000 volumes

ARCHIVAL SCIENCE/ORAL HISTORY

The Library has one of the most complete collections on these topics in the Canadian West. 600 volumes

NATURAL HISTORY

This collection reflects Eric Harvie's interest in the topic and has not been maintained. Books on the natural history of the Canadian West are in use by researchers. 1000 volumes

SPORTING BOOKS

This collection also reflects Eric Harvie's interests but books on the Canadian West are still in use. 500 volumes

EQUESTRIAN LITERATURE [HORSE BOOKS]

This collection also reflects Eric Harvie's interests however, very little pertains to the Canadian West. Curators have expressed a strong interest in some of the volumes. 2200 volumes

NON-BOOK MATERIALS - MAPS

This collection is heavily concentrated on historical maps of the Canadian West and is one of the richest of its kind in Canada. It includes about 300 rare maps printed between 1700 and 1900 showing various aspects of this region. 15,000 maps

NON-BOOK MATERIALS - PERIODICALS

The Library has subscribed to as many as 300 periodicals at various times [currently 75]. Subscriptions were purchased relating to Western Canadian history, Canadian art, anthropology and ethnology, military history and weaponry, various aspects of material history, conservation, museology and archival science. Special efforts were made to maintain files of Canadian native periodicals. In addition, the library keeps many files of old and out of print magazines and newsletters relating to its collecting themes. In several instances the Library holds the publisher's copy [often the only complete copy in existence] of newspapers – for example, *The Western Oil Examiner*, *Daily Oil Bulletin*. 9000 volumes

NON-BOOK MATERIALS - NEWSPAPERS

The Library has the most complete collection of southern Alberta newspapers on microfilm in existence and holds the publisher's copy of several papers including *The Calgary Herald* and *The Claresholm*. 3100 reels

NON-BOOK MATERIALS - NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

Virtually all Alberta newspapers do not have comprehensive indexes and only a few full-text papers are available on the Internet – usually for only the past few years and containing a very incomplete copy. The Library has clipped important historical articles out of a wide variety of newspapers for over 40 years and the collection is now one of the richest and most heavily used sources for local historical and biographical research in Alberta. 64 file drawers

INTERNET PUBLICATIONS

The Internet is a major vehicle allowing the public to know about our collections but is of limited use to those researching western Canadian history and other topics of interest to the museum. There is still very limited content and of course, copyrighted books are not generally available on-line. Electronic journals of interest tend to be very expensive and if a subscription is not maintained, all issues are then unavailable. Even such standard reference works as the Canadian Periodical Index [available on CD-ROM] are several hundred dollars per year.

MAJOR FOUNDING LIBRARIES

The foundation of the Library collection came from three private collections: Eric L. Harvie, Vilhjalmur Stefansson [arctic explorer], and D. C. Coleman [president of the CPR].

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

The Library holds a good collection of departmental reports and specialized publications from the Canadian and Alberta governments of interest to researchers. No attempt is made to be comprehensive. 2000 volumes