



Legislative Library of British Columbia

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A Guide to Newspaper Holdings at the BC Legislative Library

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Newspapers at the Legislative Library

Finding Newspapers at the Legislative Library

All of the library's newspaper holdings are listed in the library catalogue. These must be found by title. Note that many newspapers have changed their names over the years, and are therefore split up in the catalogue. For example, the Vancouver Sun has also been called the Sun, Morning Sun, Vancouver Evening Sun, and Evening Sun.

Newspapers in the catalogue have the following locations:

- LLBC Newspapers – Bound (bound newspapers)

- LLBC Newspapers (unbound, kept for a limited time)

- LLBC Newspapers – Mfilm (microfilm)

- Archives Newspapers – Mfilm*

Any items with the location "Archives Newspapers" are kept at the BC Provincial Archives, not at the Legislative Library.

If you have any questions about our collection, please contact the Reference Desk at 250-387-6510, or LLBC.Ref@leg.bc.ca

Bound Newspapers

The BC Legislative Library has a unique collection of bound newspapers. These newspapers are fragile, so their use is restricted. They cannot be photocopied. To make a copy from them, you must bring in a digital camera. If the library has both a bound and microfilm copy of the newspaper, then the microfilm copy must be used, unless, in the opinion of our staff, it is unsuitable for the purpose required. Some of the newspapers have had their binding cut in preparation for microfilming. These newspapers are extremely fragile, and cannot be used unless they are the only copy available anywhere.

The library's extensive collection of bound newspapers is best found through the library catalogue, searching by the title of the newspaper and looking for items with the "LLBC Newspapers – Bound" location.

Before coming in to use one of the bound newspapers, it is best to call (250-387-6510) or email (LLBC.Ref@leg.bc.ca) the Reference desk to check on the condition of the newspaper.

Community Newspapers

The library has a large collection of community newspapers from across BC. These newspapers are kept for a specific length of time, and then they are discarded. Newspapers are sent to the library by mail, and some smaller papers wait until they have two or three issues before sending any. For these reasons, it can take up to a month for these papers to reach the library. Unless otherwise noted in our catalogue, all community newspapers are kept for the current year, plus two previous years.

Microfilm

The library has the following newspapers on microfilm:

- Daily Colonist, 1858 – 1982
- Daily Times, 1900 – 1982
- Financial Post, 1948 – 1999
- Globe and Mail, 1967 – 2001
- London Times, 1957 – 1997
- New York Times, 1912 – 1996
- The Province, 1894 – Present
- Times Colonist, 1982 – Present
- Vancouver News Herald, 1933 – 1954
- Vancouver Sun, 1912 – Present

Legislative Library Newspaper Index

The Newspaper Index is a subject index of articles in the larger BC newspapers, primarily the Sun, Province, and Times-Colonist. This index includes only significant stories, and stories of provincial government interest. It is not an index to the entire paper, and some sections (ie: living, sports, obituaries) are almost entirely excluded.

The index covers the years 1900 to 2007. However, indexing is sparse for 1917 to 1929. The index is in card form for 1900 to 1990, and electronic through the library catalogue for 1991 to 2007. A 1900 to 1970 microfilm version of the index is available at other libraries, but this version lacks much of the 1910 to 1917 indexing, as well as substantial revisions to the rest of the index.

Newspaper Databases

The library subscribes to several newspaper databases. These databases are only available to Legislative Assembly clients. All of these are accessible through the library's Intranet site, which can only be accessed from within the Parliament Buildings.

Canadian Newsstand Major Dailies: Full text of daily newspapers from across Canada, including: Vancouver Sun, Province, Times-Colonist, Calgary Herald, Winnipeg Free Press, Toronto Star, Ottawa Citizen, Montreal Gazette, and Halifax Daily News.

Canadian Newsstand Black Press: Full text of local BC papers belonging to the Black Press Group.

Infomart: This database is only accessible by library staff. It contains the full text of hundreds of papers from across Canada, as well as some US and international papers.

Factiva: Also only accessible by library staff. Factiva includes full text of the Globe and Mail, as well as numerous American papers.

Sessional Clipping Books

The sessional clipping books are scrapbooks of newspaper articles covering what was happening within the Legislative Assembly for the years 1890 to 1992. The clippings only cover the period of each legislative session, not the entire year. The books are organized by newspaper and date. A microfilm copy of these books is available at a few other libraries in BC. The clipping books are primarily used for information about bills and other issues before the Legislative Assembly in the years before Hansard started. Hansard is the full text record of Legislative Assembly proceedings that started in 1970.

Newspapers at the BC Provincial Archives

The Provincial Archives has a large collection of community newspapers on microfilm. These are listed on their web page

(<http://www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca/library/newspapr/newspapr.htm>).

Any questions about Archives holdings or policy should be directed to the Archives

(<http://www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca/services/inquiry/accescom.htm>).