

Research Guide 221
Directories, Telephone Books, and Voters Lists

Last Updated: February 2023



Telephone directory from 1895 [photo ca. 1960]
F 229-308-0-922, I0022211
T. Eaton Co. fonds

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In this guide

This guide will help you find county and city directories, phone books, and voters' lists in the Archives of Ontario collection. These records are particularly useful for genealogical researchers, as they can help you determine the exact location where an individual lived.

The Records

City and County Directories

The Archives holds many historical city and county directories on self-service microfilm.

To search for these directories, [click here to access the online Library Holdings](#).

Search for the name of the city or county and click through to the appropriate catalogue entry. You can find the self-service microfilm reel number in the "Notes" field of the "How to Request" section.

Toronto city directories are also available through our Microfilm Interloan Service. [Click here to consult the Microfilm Interloan Catalogue](#).

Telephone Books

The Archives has copies of microfilmed Bell telephone books for Ontario and some other areas for the years 1879-1979. You can find a microfilm listing to these records on the General Reference bookshelves of the Archives of Ontario Reading Room. This microfilm may also be available through other libraries.

Voters Lists

These records list people entitled to vote in municipal, provincial and federal elections. They document voters' residences and, in some cases, voters' occupations. The Archives library collection has voters lists for a limited number of municipalities. The records span from 1874-1978, but most are from 1910 or earlier.

To search for these lists, [click here to access our online Library Holdings](#). Search for "voters list" and the name of the city, township, or district.

There are also some voters lists in municipal records. [Click here to access Research Guide 209 - Municipal Records at the Archives of Ontario for more information](#). To find this guide on our website, go to our “Access Our Collections” page, scroll down, and click on Research Guides and Tools.

Local archives and libraries may also have some voters lists.

Library and Archives Canada holds microfilmed voters lists for federal elections from 1935-1988. You can access the lists from 1935-1980 at the Archives of Ontario. Use diffusion finding aid D 96 to determine the appropriate microfilm reel number.

Contact us

Although unable to do your research for you, our reference archivists are waiting to assist you. You may call or write to them by mail or email or — best of all — visit the Archives of Ontario.

Telephone: 416-327-1600 Toll free (Ontario): 1-800-668-9933

Email: [Click here to email the Archives of Ontario](#). The e-mail address is reference@ontario.ca

Address: Archives of Ontario, 134 Ian Macdonald Blvd., Toronto, ON M7A 2C5

Website

Visit our website for information about our collections and our services, our online exhibits and education programs, and links to our social media accounts. [Click here to visit our website](#). The website is www.ontario.ca/archives.

Customer Service and Research Guides

Our guides contain information about our services, freelance researchers available to do research for you, and some of our most popular records. [Click here to view our guides](#). To find the “Research Guides and Tools” on our website, click on “Access our Collections”.

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