Challenging Embedded Privilege in Archive Searching

The case study of Census Search

ARMA / AABC special presentation

Robyn Feres-Cameron

June 5, 2023

DISCOVER. UNDERSTAND. CONNECT.



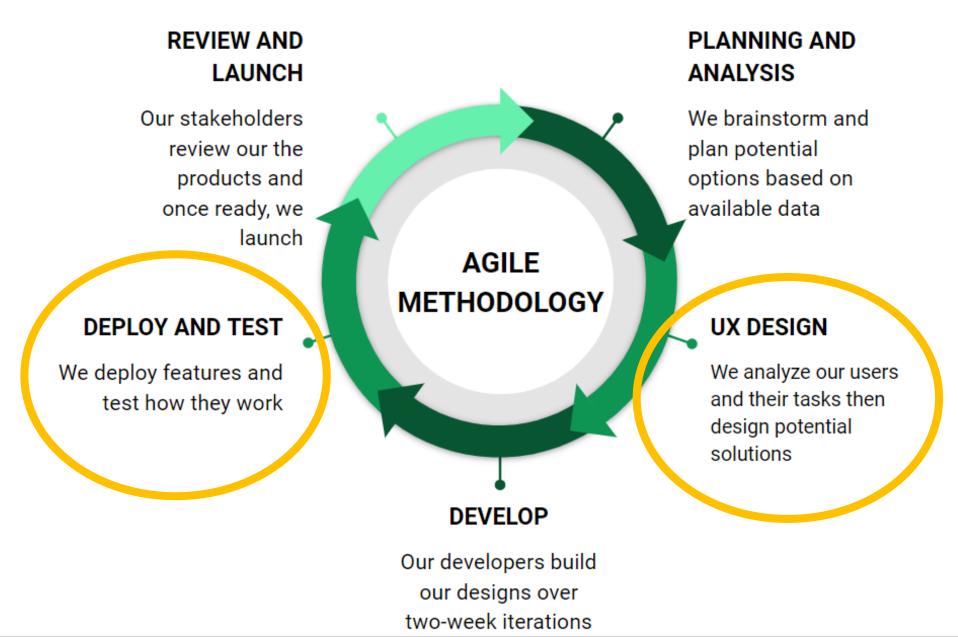
Digital Access Team



 We design and build digital products and solutions to enhance LAC's digital presence



How we work



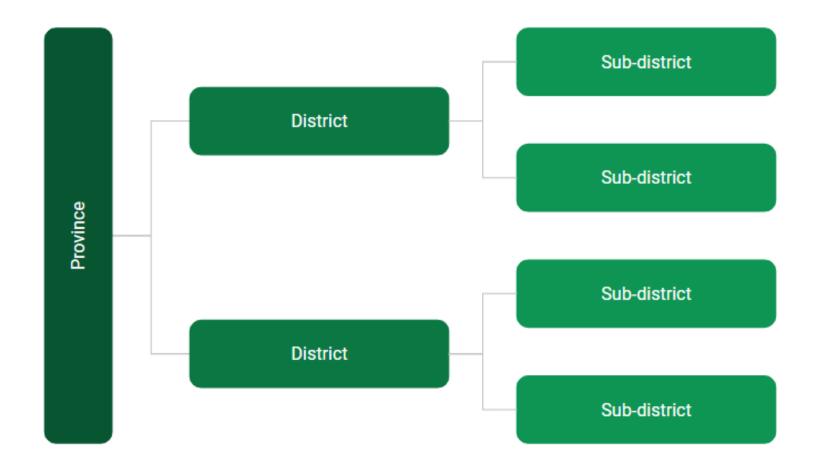
Our newest product



What is the Census?

Censuses provide "a detailed statistical portrait of Canada and its people by their demographic, social and economic characteristics." <u>StatsCan</u> (2022)

How is the Census organized?



What information is captured in the Census?

- Name (First and Last Name)
- Age
- Gender
- Marital status
- Relationship (to head of household)

- Ethnic Origin
- Birth country
- Occupation
- Religion
- Year of birth
- Year of immigration

- Language
- Education level
- Literacy
- Income

Census 1921

FORM 1. SIXTH CENSUS OF CANADA, 1921.	DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS-BUREAU FÉDÉRA	L DE LA STATISTIQUE. 29
4	POPULATION	SIXIEME RECENSEMENT DU CANADA, 1921.
12 1 Province Marca Sa		Lealto Bay
" rate of	Enumerated by Aughi balan IEnu	(Cité, ville, village, canton ou paroisse),
	TRAVER AND CLAIR OF REAL PRAVMAL REVENTION. SATURES. CONSUMARY.	Merateur. Jan 1921 Page 6
and a second sec		
Image: State of the s	OLAMENCATION FOR WARKEN PORTACTION DEPENDENT Law IN ADDAMAN OTHER ADDAMAN OTHER ADDAMAN 9 marrier 9 marrie	
1 2 Story amelia Sunt Bay King	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 44 55
12 34 Thospe Jahn bullby sold tringe	1 1 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	nybert 10 gs m 1000 700 /2 at C the y 0000 harmen 0 3 and 13 m y space X
a again " and " " "	4 dample 455 06 n 5 n 5 n.5 domeday	the top on X Ball - 45 the the Oralis of the Ball - 0 X 00 0 applied give X Ball on space matter and Ball and X 00 0
ST ST Parthune Hickory sentetly read from	C M S we I Had man (S) H S H S H S Conserve &	1110 m - 1320,300 + + + + + + 0000 + - m 0.3 - 03 × 100 ×
- to Branning a	the mplin not no no emore	10 - 2 And - 20 20 tom - 2 Adam - 400 0
" Regular " "	den more his his his denned b	the server a light and all the way and all and
" Gratyh	Tim mill s mis mis mis mis demander	delah yan my Bild an m 8
" Christ "	Brother mistry not nos his lander	allow no X Fift any SS22 anterin m2 2 mB W no of 00 0 aphone 2 Bare as no 50 7 anna in2 at 12 0000 0 00 0
ST 51 Binnell Manun Sutterand trap	PHTS m a lot manage n st ms ms landa le	they an an 100 000 to ye a correct among a 3 miles & X X X
Bout affer for for the finger	Y Pratin my S(2) n.5 n.5 n.5 . boundar &	stand the main and the state of the state and the state of the state o
14 6 Minester Admons Scale By And May	a Albe a Coloroce mis (is) may mas ma comuna to	the day a lowood But the 2000 from 13 B x x x
- Electrica	time x mile no no no no no banada 2	which you my Bapt on you T Streebut
41 61 Bennett gamis Sutopag Red Singe	of the sates and x 5 4 nos nos nos landa be	which you and Bapt you you I
- Anna	Y in m15(40 n.5 1 n.5 11.3 Conneda to	which you am Bapt you way having the read
" Barnard	Ann millin no no no annate	the part of the the state and and the the the of th
" Loard "	J dampte 765 (22) nos nos nos banada 6.	aplication Bapt we want
62 62 Contine William But Bay hand funce	ohne a the Agont set 1 1 3 ns ns is bunda be	the to an X light on 1834 servered to should be an by a 0
63 65 tentum Excelet Suchy and Jung	o Ally = a 6 3 03 + 0 m 20 (2) or \$ 1 3 5 7.8 7.8 hours to	shink mm Bate on you among a
Finte John	Annon mil n's n's h's handle for	plink you my Bapt you you more a
let by Ruger Sudger Smithope hings	The manual and the ma	the one was mile a store and a standard the store
i aladya	ample 263 (1) 13 13 13 13 bennete	the same inthe second of the second of the second of a

What LAC has for Censuses

- Census returns (on paper or microform) from 1825-1931
- Partial records for municipal, regional or provincial Censuses dating from 1640-1825 including New France, Acadia and early colonial regions
- Records for Newfoundland from 1671 to 1945
- Census 1931 launched a few days ago!

Government Gouvernement of Canada du Canada		Canada.ca Ser	vices Departments Français
Library and Archive	s Canada	*	Canadă
Censuses	Search: Cer	ารus of 1851	
1851 Census Search: 1851 Census Search Help: 1851 Census Districts and Sub-districts: 1851 Census	Brunswick and No Enter one or more search t	des Canada East (Quebec), Canada Wes ova Scotia. terms. You don't need to fill in all the boxes. g. John* for Johns, Johnsen, Johnson, Johnston, etc.)	st (Ontario), New
	Keywords: Surname: Given Name(s): Age: Province:		
	 Hide/Show Advanced District Name: District Number: Sub-District Name: Sub-District Number: Page Number: 	Search Options	
	Search Clear		

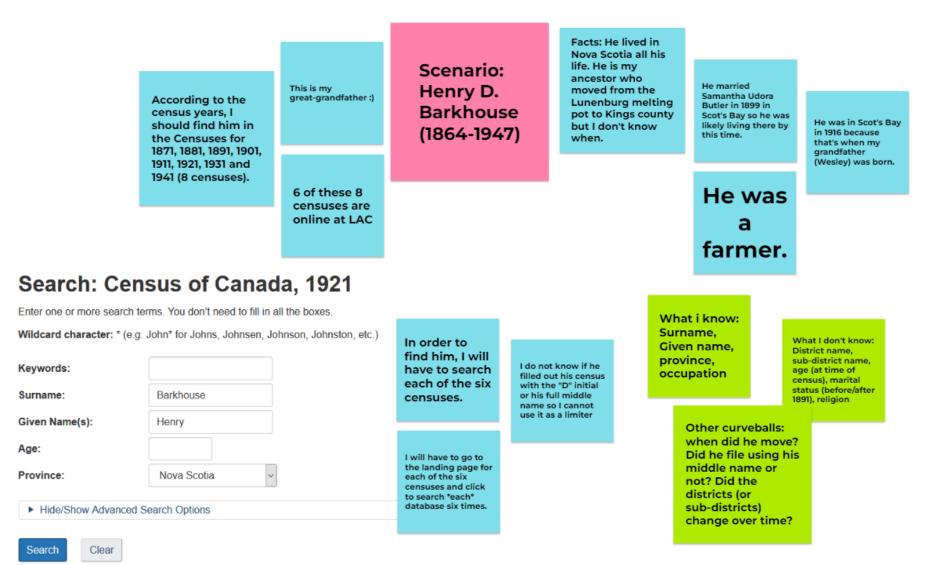
DISCOVER. UNDERSTAND. CONNECT.

UX Design process

An example of an older census database

- What does this design show?
- What does it leave out?
- Why does it leave out so much information?

Census Search: is it possible to consolidate?



Library and Archives Canada



	Censuses
	1825 Census, Lower Canada
	1831 Census, Lower Canada
	1842 Census, Canada East
	1842 Census, Canada West
	1851 Census
	1861 Census
	1870 Census, Manitoba
К	1871 Census, Canada
	1871 Census, Canada:
	Ontario, heads of household
	1881 Census, Canada
Х	1891 Census, Canada
X	1901 Census, Canada
	1906 Census, Northwest Provinces

Censuses

Census returns are official Government of Canada records that enumerate the country's population. They are an invaluable source of information for genealogy research. Starting in 1851, most census records included the names of every resident, their country or province of birth, age and many other details.

Library and Archives Canada holds an extensive collection of Canadian census records from 1640 to 1926, and for Newfoundland from 1671 to 1945. Our holdings are listed in the sections below.

About the census

- Databases (1825 to 1926)
- Finding Aid 300: Other census and related documents (1640 to 1945)
- Digitized microfilm (1871)
- First Nations: Census records in RG10
- Newfoundland and Labrador: Census and Enumerations (1921 to 1945)
- <u>Research tips</u>
- · Abbreviations for places of birth in Canada
- · Census databases and indexes on other websites
- Other resources
- <u>Census after 1926</u>

About the census

From 1851 to 1901, a census occurred every 10 years in Canada; this was confirmed by the British North America Act, also known as the <u>Constitution Act, 1867</u>. The original purpose of the census was to help determine parliamentary representation based on population.

The first census of the Dominion of Canada was taken in 1871. Before that, census enumerations were conducted in different areas in various years. Many of those early records have not survived, including portions of the 1851 census. As provinces joined Confederation, they were included in subsequent federal census returns, for example Prince

	А	В	С	D	E	F	G	Н	I.	J	К	L	М	Ν	0	Р	Q	R	S
1								lte	m displ	ay									
2										-									
					1842				1871	1871 Ontario				1906		1916		1926	Number
3	Fields	1825 👻	1831 👻	1842 Ea 🔻	West 👻	1851 👻	1861 👻	1870, Manitoba 🗸	Canad 👻	household 🚽	1881 👻	1891 👻	1901 👻	Northwe: -	1911 👻	Prairie 🔻	1921 👻	Prairies 🔻	of hit: 👻
4	Title	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	17
5	Surname	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	17
6	Given name(s)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	17
7	Occupation		x	x	x					x	x		x						6
8	Number of residents	x	x	x															3
9	Sex/Gender					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	13
10	Age					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	13
11	Marital status						x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	11
12	Birth year								x		x	x			x				4
13	Birth date												x						1
14	Birthdatemonth														x				1
15	Place of birth						x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	11
16	Father's name							x											1
17	Relationship					x							x	x	x		x	x	6
18	Religion						x		x	x	x		x						5
19	Race							x											1
20	Ethnic Origin					x				x			x		x	x	x	x	7
21	Nationality										x								1
22	Parish							x											1
23	Year of immigration												x	x	x		x	x	5
24	Province					x	x		x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	11
25	Province Code					x													
26	District name	x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	15
27	District number					x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	12
28	District description													x					1
29	Sub-District name	x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x	x	x		x		x		12
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	Sub-District Number					x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	12
24	- • - • • • • • •																		



Library and Canada.



Census Search (bac-lac.gc.ca)

Canadä

Help Seedback Historical language and content notice



Census year(s)	All censuses <u>Select year(</u>	<u>s)</u>
Who	First name:	e.g. Marie, John
	Last name:	e.g. Smith, Tremblay
	More	
When	Year of birth: Year of immigration:	YYYY Set range YYYY Set range
	All provinces and territorio	

brarv and Archives

Two main flavours of resistance to change from our dedicated amateur group:

1) Perceived threat to expertise

I have been a long time user of your site. It was always easy to find things.... Are you kidding? Do you now require a PhD in Archival Sciences to use your site?

This site is supposed to be for everyone, ordinary people, the people who pay the taxes that pay for this site. You have now made the site unusable to most everyone. I am not a stupid person. I have a Masters Degree in Human Biology from Oxford and I can't figure out how to use your site.

PLEASE make this site user friendly again!

Bibliothèque et Archives

Canada

Meaning: I put in the time to understand the old system, and changing it makes me feel like I wasted my time.

Meaning: If I don't understand something immediately, it is bad, and my mind is too valuable to use on figuring out this change.

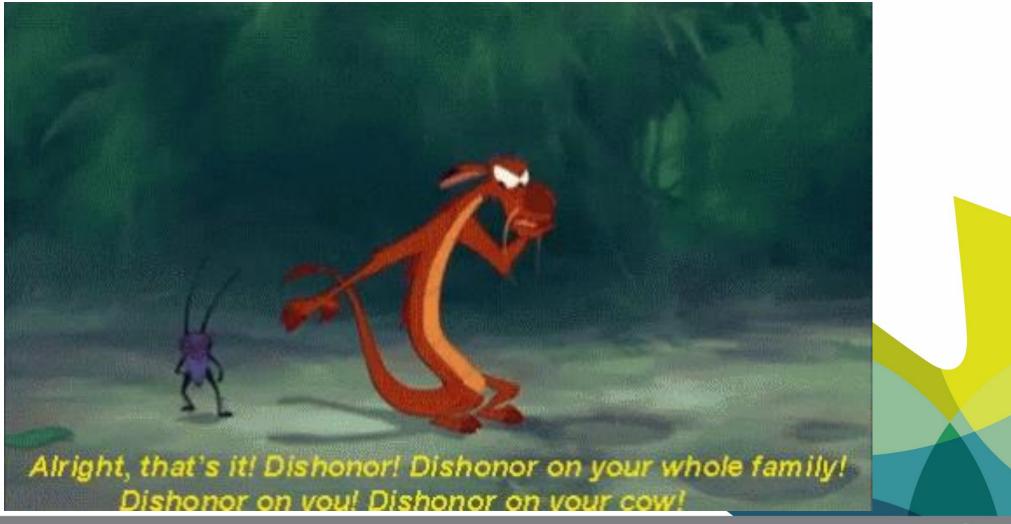
Canadä

Two main flavours of resistance to change from our dedicated amateur group:

Ethnic origin: e.g. Irish, Cree, Chinese 2) Perceived threat to privilege I had a relative who immigrated to Canada in All African Ethnic origin 1860 to 1865 from London UK. I am snow white More details Asian North American colored and was wondering if there is any Caribbean First Nations **information for us**...or is it just for the Métis European Latin, Central and South American Inuit aboriginal first nations natives who change Oceania names every week, or just for the 21st century immigrants? Someone has sure spent a lot of Ethnic origin German × Pol More details time complicating every government site...must Polish think it makes them look intelligent or Polynesian something.



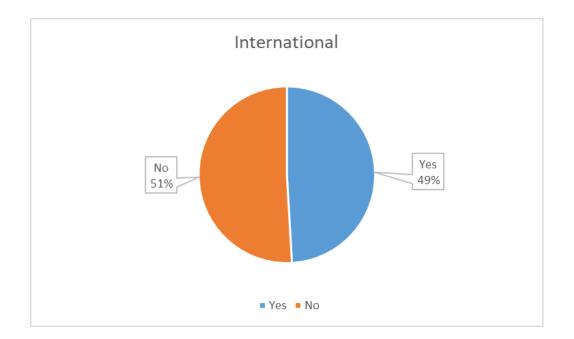
2) Perceived threat to privilege





A different user group: people whose direct ancestors are **not** in a presently available census

Partnership with Carleton University



Top fields they used to search

Ethnic Origin
Place of birth
Gender
First name
Last name
Province
Place



A different user group: people whose direct ancestors are **not** in a presently available census

_								-		underston.	1.	BATTOTT	1000		Contract of the local division of the local		fa commo	and here here			- 1			COLUMN AND			
-			-				1.1	1 2		1	1-martine de		and the same of these	1		1	1.1	1	Test inter	1	38		1				1 44 4
1.1	NA	ME	Street institute			h 11	11 1	計打	-	_ 18 T	a Tanah g	They ber	woody. Se	1	antionette.	-	111	tota the	Anteriote	1	1 8	Children in the			2 桁	前期	開
副	of each person in	family, hexaethold facility.				1 1	1 1	8 F	Lantin	111				1	Service states		111.	Color.	the print address of	8	1 11	arrived a second	-	· Fallenter		2 福	181
14	1.1		Party a series				1.1			1.5. 8	Place.	P. P. P.	1	4			10 01				-1		-918 ···		6.4	.1 44	141.5
antes		-	atalianta.			GANNER	Chief all as	ADADHS.	THE R. LEWIS CO.	DOMESTIC BAR	-	AND OR PARENCE			ENTERNET.		BACE FARME			-	OCTOR.		-	COLUMN THE OF M			and
-	-	-			2322	1 h	12. 4	1 1		1.5 4	female land	and the second state	discuss here				111	1.1.1.1	Sale and		11		100	The second second	tu	In Bet	111.
410		er dans in familie.	to mag or a second	a literia cost. in	There a	8 2	1.1 1	8 8	Sector Sector	- 11 3		through the annual		111	Bamobalitä			Tagara a	Anipas departmente a milet i baserie anita patiente anita patiente	11	1 11	State and	100	States and the lot of	「出」	田島	「お別
251	ir adaage	Plastitution.	Increase and	1		문왕	311 3	5 11		1 1 1 1	TRAL PROPERTY.	THE BOAR PERSON	PER-NERS.	12	Districtor		1 1	anically and	stren	11 13	1 11		120	Transfer Star	THU I	出租	田野
1.00						-			1	124 13 14	15	86	17	18	0 3ú			-		1 1	*4 17 28			ALCON.	-	a. a.	all.
12.2	Wagnee	James	Aulifor			0 18	5)		Hind	in the Wa	No	NS	NS		Canada	French	su al	Ila the	ALLE	26 2		Laborne	2	B	#7.A.A	Yn	õ
		mary.	- Andres	•	7	- "		· •1	Wite	7 4 29	NS	NS	NS		Canada	× 1	24 44	no. No	1 4	20 3	*	time	"	nen	1,40	~	7-
	. 6	mulit	-	-					for	W 5 17	NS	No	NS		Canada	Suman	300 840		Bester	See 7	40	here				100	1
	ur u d	leongan							Low	N 5 16	tos	AS	-155		Canada	Luman	COLUMN 1			len a	44	REAL				100	
2.1		rebrey				10			for	mSS	NS	No	NS		Canada	2	340 40		Depliet -	5. 9	40 6	-					1.2.2
	"	Hind		10		44		. 11	dagalle	1 5 14	NS	NS	NS	-	Conada	Suman.	940 100		Capilloi	200 8	+ ý	arone	3	. 1		11	
1.00	Lacylor 1	Kelbrure	Aquest	Aler	190	0 77	3)	1/10	4153	m m (33)	NO-	NS	NS		Ganada	Englipe	44 40	000 000	Explicit.	700 7	A-00	Farmen	94	Je G.	X	XX	
		Ana	agleson	d king	40			_	Wife	Jr 1 25	NO	NS	18		Canada	Calderah	70 0.0		ch florden	900 7	~	hone					
	** ** 4	Sila	14 0 4	41		0			Son	1 5 2	No	NS	15		Canada	Griglish	yes no		alingen	mala	12						1
		Than					-		Saugale.	5 0 4.	NS	NS	No	-	Ganada	to age the	24 84		13 to lit	4 . 4. 4	14	-	-	0	-		-
1.		achitald.				×		1	2/15	In Live	DE	Ng	NS	-	Janada	Engline Po	14 14	X		120 1	67.00	11	3-	1. 5.	alina	X for	20
236			Autral	Altin		o Ki	SH	V 40	222	1 m Cs	1 AT	NS	NS		Lanoda	19.70	1240 000	121	Roplint Notite der	120 1	1	Farme	18	and fift	"ory	P.Y	-
es.	Weekob K il	hance	ayless	Marrison a	40	- 11	10 0		Wife	XIN IS	NS	NGI	NE	1	Canada	Engart	in and	- 100-100						an a gan	· · ·	man n	100
		Eda I		£ #	-	×			Samplei	3 5 67	Als	NS	15		amaria	C D	74 44	V	Buckato	P-8.0 1	at las	Second	R	EUB.	\$500	ix a	0
	bolling !	lina	aylesfor	1 Hin	2	X	(Imelio	7 5 166	NS	NS	NS	1	Canada	16.111	ilino	- 2	mathed	194 3	-AL	Lucant	12-1	1.15	10300	2	0
los .	Deck .	Trank	7				1	1	Branden	14 34 35	Ma	143	NS		Canada Canada Canada Canada	C.A.L	14 30	9	Baplant	140 1	10 00-8	Lewant Selving	35	Fantos	200 HAD	No a	0
1.50	Backhow	12 Frenze	agleson	d km	ngo	0 11	15 1	10	415.1	h my (41	1 15	NS	NS	1.1	Ganada	Contall?	44 20 1	310 100	Paptiet	940 7	- 00-0	Farmer	01	0.25	. X	XX	
1	10 11		7. 1		./	a - 1.82	1		Wit	1 1 37	215	1rs	NS		Canada	English			計行	1700 9	41 -	Asna.	0.00				
-	a h			4.0			*	-	den	M 5 9	- AS	NS.	-Xe-		Curla			-	Et Buitert	1 40 7	10 10	-	-				
	4 4	Howard	P -		-				dim	m 5 +	-15	15	15		Canada	anglish	340 MA		the star	100 ,0	10	-					
		3 agel		<u>4</u>	41			-	ringelle.	7 5 16	NS		No		Canada	Conglish and	500 40		angentan			none					1.00
1		Inder Batha	-	<u> </u>				-	dayon	7 5 13	No	NS	NO		imada	anlatica	200		calcular	7 2		none					1
154	Robuson		adaland	" V	-	0 11	551	1 61	4.87	and miles	15	Ne	NS		Conata		100 A. 1	1. 100-000	and -	Sec. 2		Farmer	3	- for	v	V V	100
1	il in	Elicie	1.1.	Ken	190	· 1.	100	- et	W.d.	2 6 8	NS	NS	No	1	C	2 M	2.00			1240 9	63-10	nuna	en l	- 744	~ ~	10	
had		Ellen							develop	7 2 2	105	NO	NS.		quata	The Te	740 20		Solar	120 3				0			100
32	Ward (chester	aufretor	1 Anny	-	R (04)	53	r (3)	123.14	In the as	1 15	NS	NS		Canada	Carl IP	some l	010.000	alledal	340 7	# PO-S	Latine	2	Frand	+1. pr	V.	9
		formie	1. 1.		-	1		1.1	Webe	7 1 13	1 15	15	83		Canada	Gugliel	300 mil		& petert	240 %	40	Itime-		2 mile	And all	~	10.1
2.53		Becil				0.000		1.1	Acres .	14.3 1	15	YS	A Sasa		anada		57. 780		Bellet	neor	- 100	Ar	-	0			
627	Ward ,	Harold	agleston	l Ron	uge .	R (02)	5)	r (3)	+	1 1 (20	1 115	Nr.S.	NA		1 ada	12.0.19	the not	- 000-000		24 3	40 00 X	Determen	100	Fales	600	\$ 90	9
	4 6	Mil	1.1		/	-1	-		Nife	FMLI	NS	115	NS		Canada	the second second	200 000		Copetial	1.0.00 .00		none			17	24.	
. 21		attern	1 march	1 . · · ·				1-1	lenting.	221	1	NS	NJ	1	Gunada	21.7.9	yes no,	in a second	Bastat	1000 1	Ra -		3	. 1		1 11	
14	Low In	Finne	aglesfor	d Am	-go	0 11	151	r L	V-Last	m 72 (27	1 16	No	Nº3	No.	Ganada	length	74 no f	110-100	Chalangles	2 200 7	· 60-0	Farmer	JA	Fand	X	XX	
-	-	mut	_	A.	-			-	nge	F M 17	- MAN	No		1940	and the second second	LO BOOGLAS			Bapliet	170 7	- 06	Alent	1000			-	-
	0	histon	Galit	14					dim	XL	18	No	NS	-	Janada	Grafish Brafish	Sec. 300		Bapliet.							-	
-		Hellen	aglet	14. 12 + H	y				1 la	* 5 4	15	NR	1555		yamada	griging	44 4	2	21 . 21 . 11	stof 1	229					-	
	lun	Ameté						1	124	300 0	NO	NS	10	1	anda	1 /11	14 1.4		Hapland	12	2 2		>	1		1000	-
9 8L	Andata	lilden	anhaland	An	-an	0 41	151	V 6	20557-	The The Cas	ANT A	NS	Nº C	1.1.1.1	anada	8 glippo	wall.	11.	Baplist	24 3		James	1	max.	V	XX	1
	# /	Annie	1.1.	-/	/		1 .		Will	7 191 -	WEA	NS A	A SA	1400		Q ralish		110 000	Allalat	140 7	4 -	none	2.4	1.000	- 0	90	-
		Bertha	. 4	+					dielie	3 5 53	No	18	No	Pre P	Canada	Guelish	700 000		Biglist Regeliel	200 20		Rome				3	
4	4	Storalitt			et .				hother	¥ W 91	AS	13	NE	1	Comode	English	74 No	-	Balliel	340 2	4 -	hones					
9 19		Danet			4		dist.		darma .	Ma5 14	NSI	NS	1 AA	1.000	Guada	8 2the			Rophiel Mithodiat	700 3	the at	hante	1.1	0		1000	
4.9	Underer		Lylaston	1 An	and a	0 1	131	r (5)	ALL P	704 (50	1 USA	MSA	214A	1723	angla	& Agliph	20 no /	10-000	Rethodist	7 74 7	40 59-0	the PI	14	B	X	XX	1
					/			~ 1								/ /				1	1			A COLUMN TO A			1



Conclusions?

- Making fewer assumptions about users makes our products more democratic.
 - Instead, use a combination of data, usage information from real users, and empathy.
- Deepening access to a document can be as powerful as broadening access to documents.
- Archival institutions can choose whether to gate keep access and create an atmosphere of privilege, or they can choose to be open and accessible. It all depends on thoughtful design.

Robyn Feres-Cameron

Robyn.Feres-Cameron@bac-lac.gc.ca

Library and Archives Canada

www.bac-lac.gc.ca

Telephone: 613-996-5115 or 1-866-578-7777 | TY: 613-992-6969 or 1-866-299-1699 | Fax: 613-995-6274

