

Looking for Books by Subject

You can use the library catalogue to find books on a particular subject.

The books in the Champlain library catalogue (and other library catalogues) have been given subject terms.

The world in Canada : diaspora, demography, and domestic politics / edited by David Carment and David Bercuson.

Montreal : McGill-Queen's University Press, c2008.

Subjects

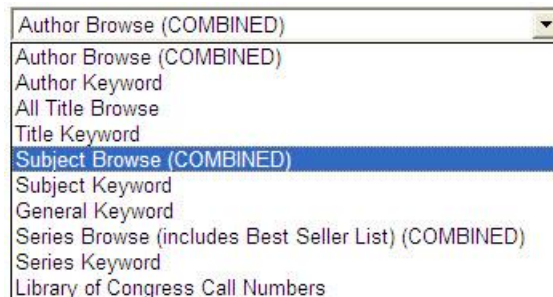
- Multiculturalism -- Canada.
- Canada -- Foreign relations -- 1945-
- Canada -- Emigration and immigration -- Political aspects.
- Canada -- Politics and government -- 21st century.

Description: vi, 256 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.



These terms are called **Subject Headings** and were assigned from a set of standard terms called the Library of Congress Subject Headings. This means that if you do a subject search for multiculturalism you will find this book even though it does not use the word multiculturalism in the title, because a human being has looked at the book and determined that this is a major topic.

When you do a search in the library catalogue, you have two different subject search options: **Subject Browse** and **Subject Keyword**.



Subject Browse takes you to an alphabetical listing of subject terms.

In addition to the main heading, you may also find narrower subjects, such as by time period, by place, or by a specific aspect of the subject. You can also move backwards and forwards in this alphabetical list, by 10 subjects at a time:

[Prev 10 Subject](#) [Next 10 Subject](#)

Subject
1. Prostitution
2. Prostitution -- 20th century
3. Prostitution -- Asia.
4. Prostitution -- Asia, Southeastern.
5. Prostitution -- Canada
6. Prostitution -- Canada -- Provinces.
7. Prostitution - Cross-cultural studies
8. Prostitution - East Asia
9. Prostitution -- Economic aspects -- Asia, Southeastern.
10. Prostitution - England - London

Sometimes when you enter a term that is not a subject heading, the catalogue will refer you to the correct subject heading. This is done by using the word “See”.

Subject	
1.	Cigarette habit
2.	• See: Smoking

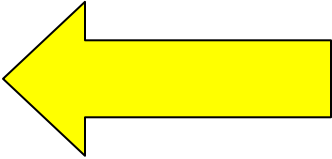
The **Subject Keyword** search looks for the term you entered anywhere in the subject headings, regardless of whether or not it appears at the beginning. For example, a Subject Keyword search for “parents” will find books that have the following subject headings:

- Parents -- Employment -- Canada.
- Children of working parents - United States
- Foster parents - United States - Interviews
- Single parents -- United States.

If you don’t know what the correct subject heading is, you can also try doing a **General Keyword** search (searching subjects, titles, authors, etc.) using whatever term you have in mind. Then examine some of the books in the results list. If any of them seem to be the kind of thing you’re looking for, click on them and look at their subject headings. Maybe you could try searching for some of these subject headings.

For example, a General Keyword search for “climate change” finds this book which has potentially relevant subject headings.

Understanding atmospheric change a survey of the background science and implications of climate change and ozone depletion.	
by Hengeveld, Henry, 1947-	
Ottawa : Minister of Supply and Services, 1991.	
Subjects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Climatic changes -- Environmental aspects• Atmospheric ozone - Reduction - Environmental aspects• Air - Pollution - Environmental aspects
Series:	State of the environment report
Description:	68 p. : ill., maps.
Notes:	Includes bibliographical references.
Additional Title:	Survey of the background science and implications of climatechange and ozone depletion



Don’t forget to brainstorm for terms that that are similar or related. For example, if your topic is about the environment, think of all the other terms that are related, such as pollution, air quality, sustainability, ecology, climate change, environmental protection, etc. Then use the catalogue to find out if there are subject headings for each of these.

If you’re having trouble finding books on your topic, ask for help at the Reference Desk.