Archives Canada Upgrade SEARCH & BROWSE WIREFRAMES

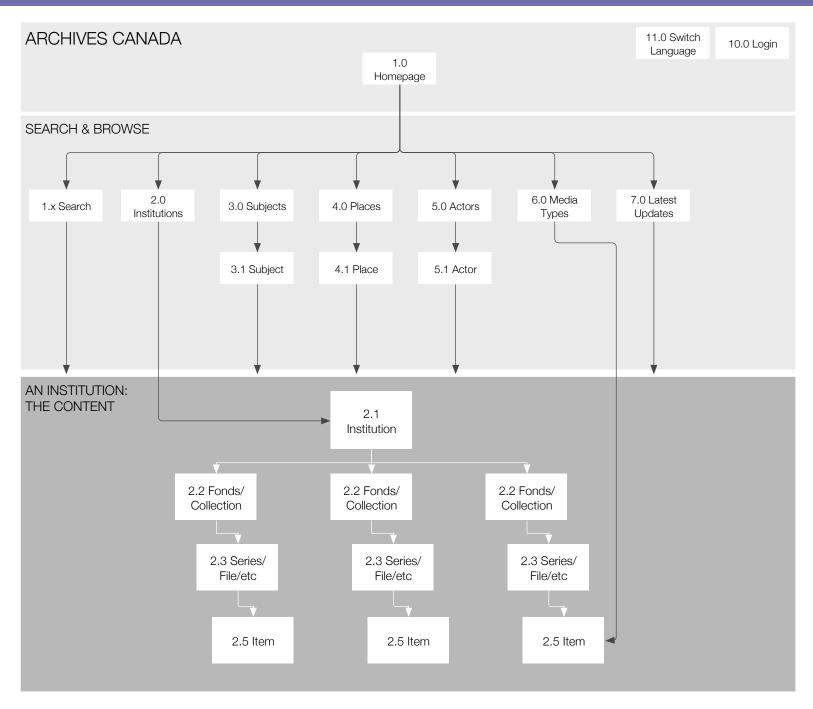
2012-01-25







Sitemap / Mental Model of Site



The main idea of this page is to show the high-level architecture of the Archives Canada portal and the discovery path available to Users.

By dividing the page into Archives Canada and a single Institution, one can understand how a User can search and browse different a large body of information, then pick different entry points that filter the selection until the User arrives at holdings in a specific institution.

Iconography

All icons here are just placeholders and *not* final icons. They merely indicate where icons would be a useful addition to the user interface.



Institutions

- f/c Fonds/Collection
 - Series / Sub-Series / Sub-Fonds / etc
 - f File
 - Item

Note: In the end, there will be icons for every hierarchical level.





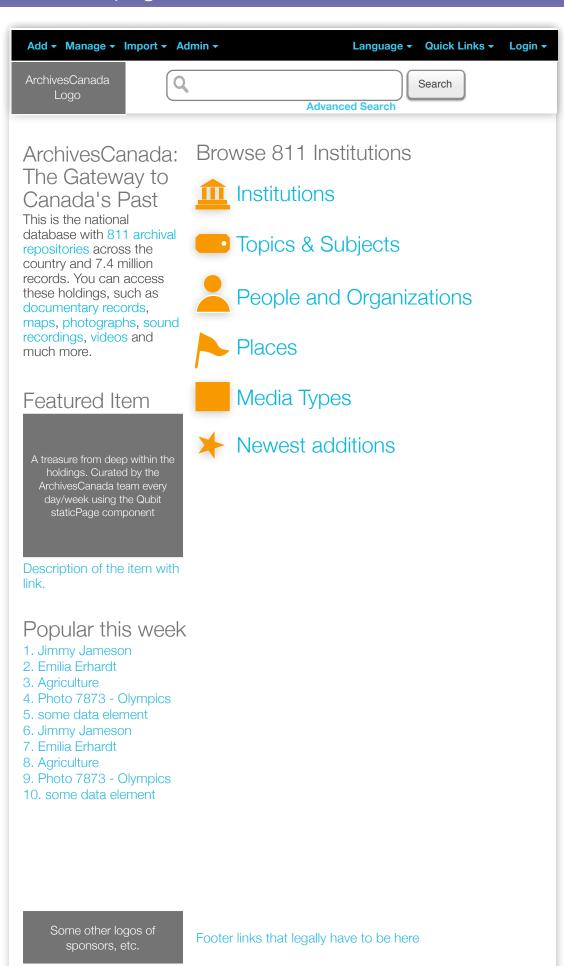
People and Organizations







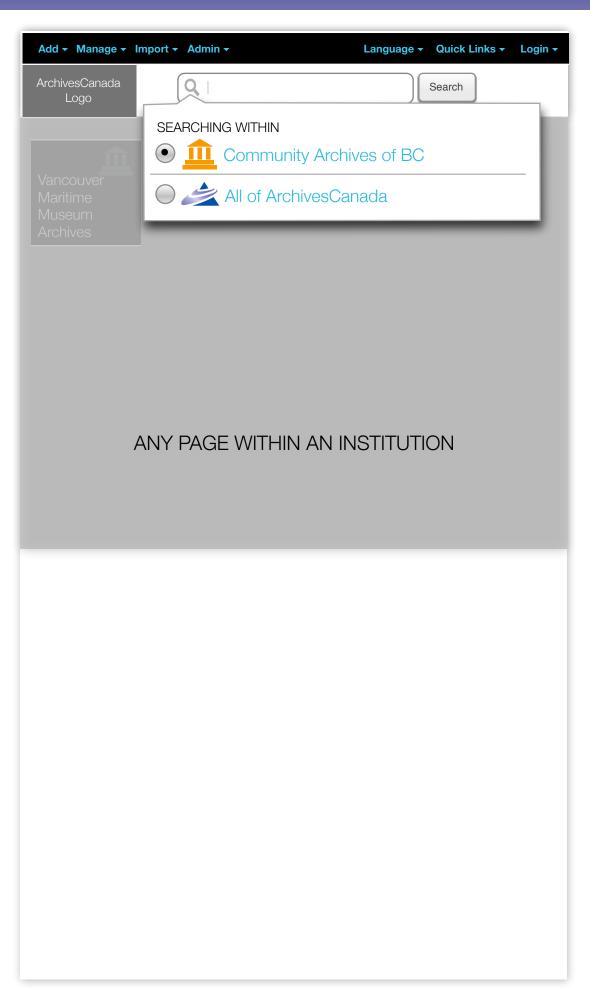
1.0 Homepage



Short introduction to the who, what and why of Archives Canada. Header bar is consistent with all other pages.

Whether the Browse section is laid out as a list with icons or in a different way can be determined later.

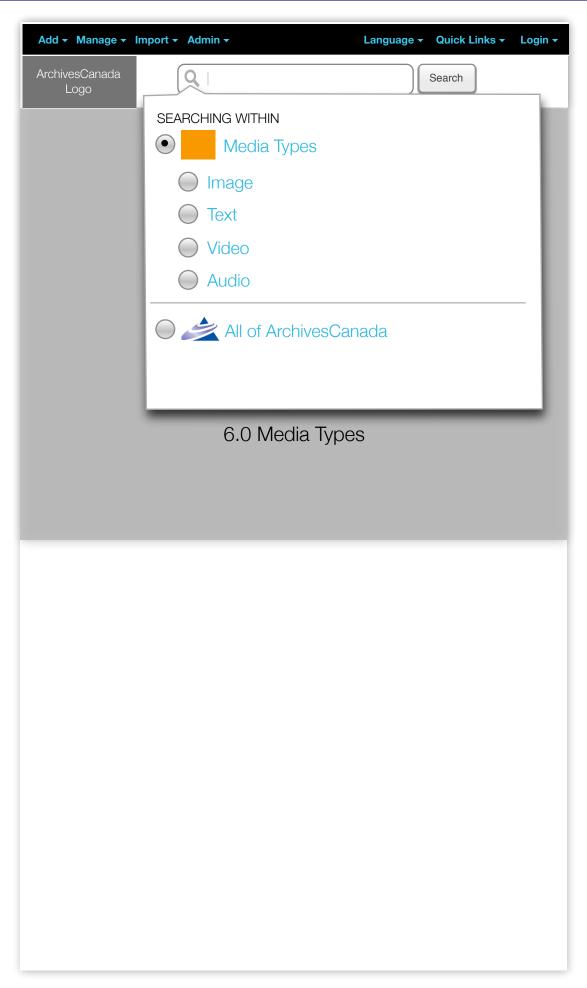
1.1.1 Search Realm



When user clicks into the search field while on a page within an institution, then this layer appears.

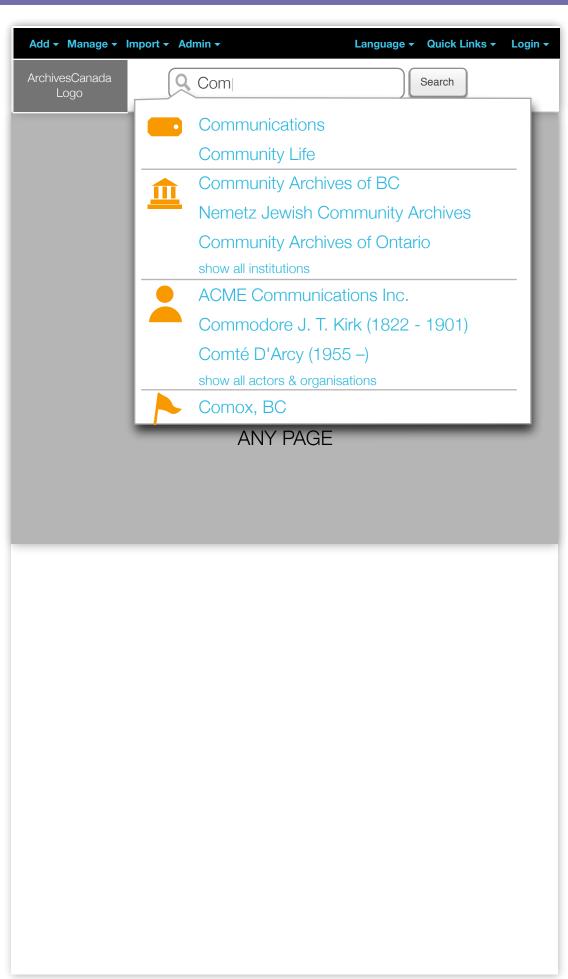
It makes it very clear what the search realm is that the user is searching within and allows him to change the search realm.

1.1.3 Search Realm 3



For 6.0 Media Types page, there is a special search realm, which allows users to simply limit a search to digital objects.

1.2 Search Suggestions



When the user starts typing, suggestions start to appear. Suggestions are *not* content (i.e. results) but entry-points into content. The idea is that it is preferable to know what type of entity the user is searching for instead of just showing content that matches the search string.

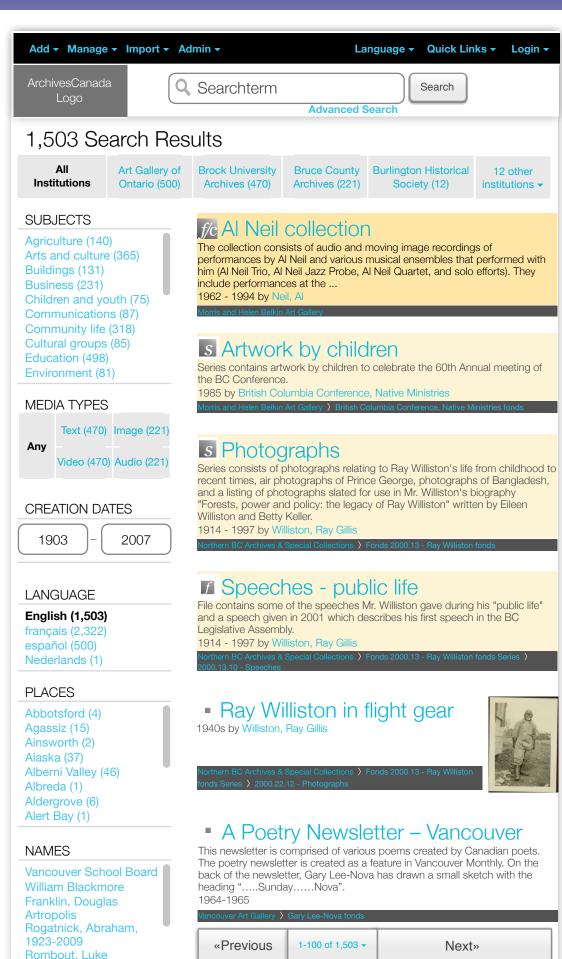
For example, if the user starts typing "Com" because he wants to find something in the Jewish Community Archives, he will always have an easier time finding the content he wants by selecting the institution from the suggestions and then searching or browsing within that institution for whatever it is he wants. The alternative would be to hit ENTER and get to the 1.3 Search Results page, which will allow vast amounts of filtering, but does not know what the user actually meant with his search term.

And it should be established that Search only finds "Content", i.e. Fonds, any hierarchy elements below fonds, items, and digital objects. If the user wants to search for institutions or subjects, he may draw a blank on the search results, *but* he will find exactly those items in the search suggestions.

On commercial sites, it is a good practice to anonymously record the entered search terms and provide a weekly / monthly report of the most popular search terms. This allows fine-tuning of the search results, facets, suggestions, etc. in future releases.

"Show All Institutions" link goes to 2.0.1. And same respective for all other "show all" links. Only the first 3 of each entry point are shown here. If there are more, a show all link is shown.

7/16



100 ▼ RESULTS PER PAGE

This page is still work in progress - there are many ways to lay out the facets and the results. At this stage, we want to establish the principles of faceted search, not the exact layout of the modules.

As shown in the sitemap, the institutions have a special place in the whole framework, i promoted the institution-facet to the top row. Institutions are sorted by number of results in them.

We would like to very clearly distinguish results in different hierarchical levels: fonds, series/file/etc and items. The background colours and icons are crude ways in the wireframes to do this, we will explore other ways later. It should be immediately clear what an item is.

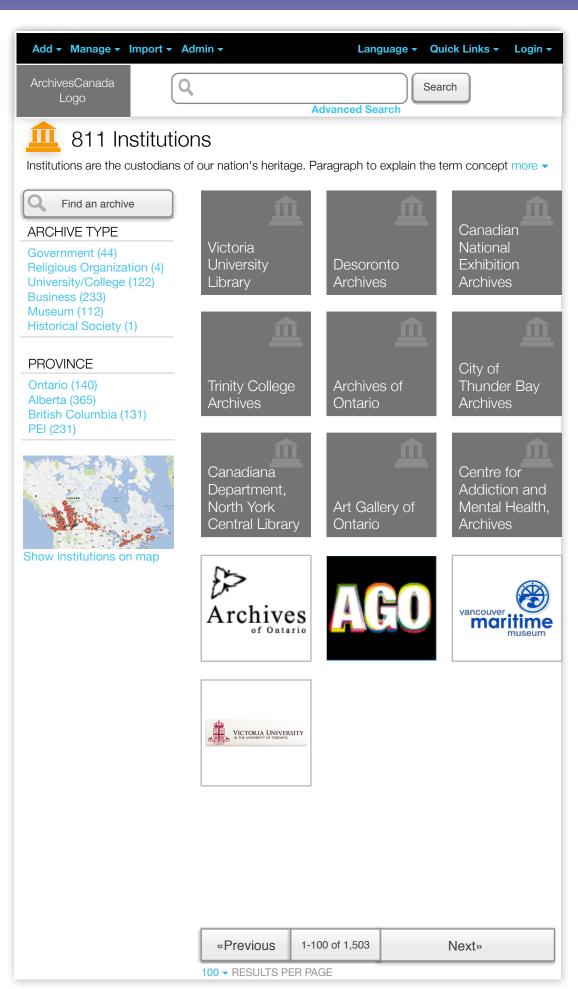
Currently, search results are too long and hard to read. We envision a simpler style of displaying them as shown here (i.e. removing the reference code).

A breadcrumb on each item may be a nice way of showing what repository each result belongs to and where it fits in the hierarchy.

Pagination: I would set the default to 50 results, as paginating results is always a hassle and confuses people.

I recommend a large "Next" button in the pagination. Being able to click on page 15 of the results directly is not as important as having a large NEXT.

2.0 Institutions



User gets to this page from the homepage. It allows him to browse all archival institutions / repositories.

At the top, we included a line of descriptive intro, which is meant for the casual visitor or amateur researcher as a little bit of help.

The page lists all archives (paginated), order tbd.

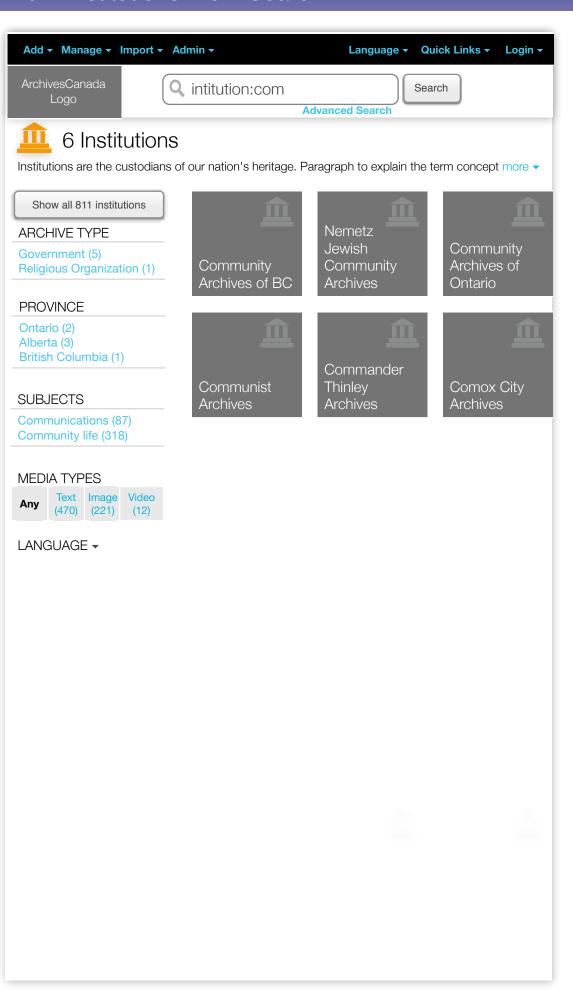
It's unclear how we represent each archive. Logo? Not all archives will have logos, and many won't scale well (see Victoria University). A combination is possible where on hover with the mouse, the logo is replaced with the text so that an ambiguous logo such as the AGO is clarified.

I want to establish a clear visual ID for archives as they are the key entity of the system, as you will see in the following screens.

Users can use facets on left to filter the list of archives.

The "Find an archive" button may not be necessary in the end ... i wanted to give a way to search for an archive name

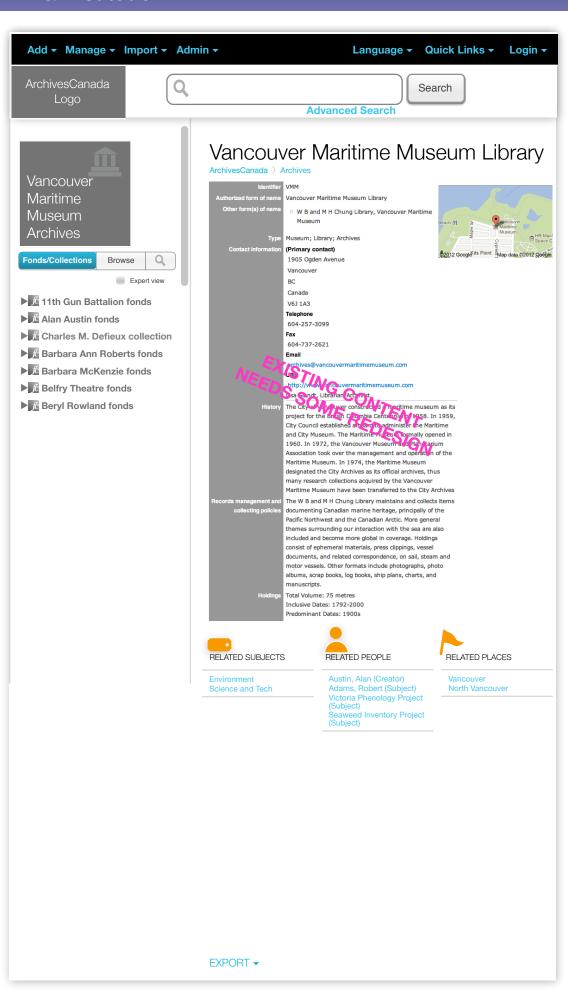
2.0.1 Institutions: from Search



This is the search results page the user would get to if he selects "Show all institutions" in the search suggestions (1.1.2). It is equivalent to using the search modifyer "institution:".

This page also shows nicely how the facets on the left react to the content on the right.

"Show All" button shows the normal institutions page (2.0)



This is the page where the institution itself is described. It also shows the framework of how the user explores archival descriptions within any institution:

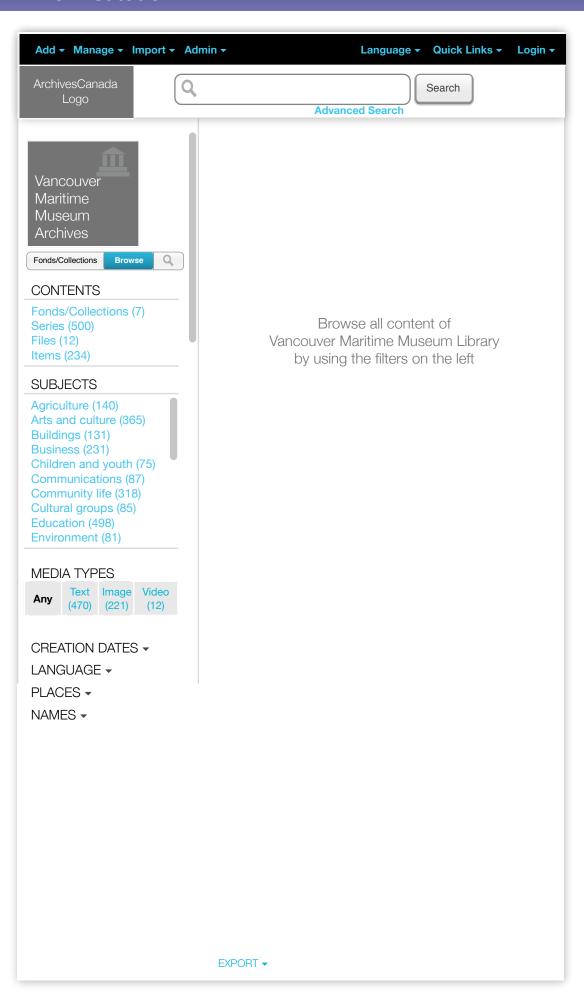
- clear logo area top left to provide orientation
- putting the tree left and giving it enough space to act as the main nav through the institution's holdings. The idea is: Everything is super hierarchical. It would be foolish to not give the user a very strong tool to a) understand and b) use this hierarchy.
- The tree is scrollable which gives it more space and allows us to progressively load more of the tree, as the user scrolls down, thereby limiting initial page load.
- "Browse" and "Search" are offered as alternative ways to browse the institutions holdings

The content on the right is upgraded with:

- breadcrumb
- maybe map of the institute location and big and easy contact links

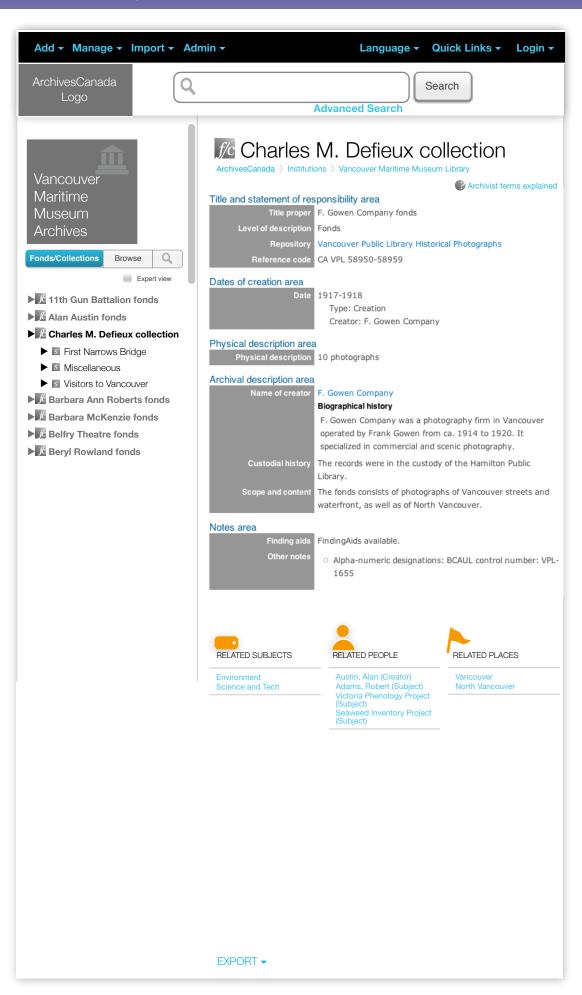
Related content at the bottom (or on right)

2.1b Institution



When in Browse mode, the user can use facets to narrow down content in different ways than the archive's hierarchy.

2.2a Fonds/Collection 2

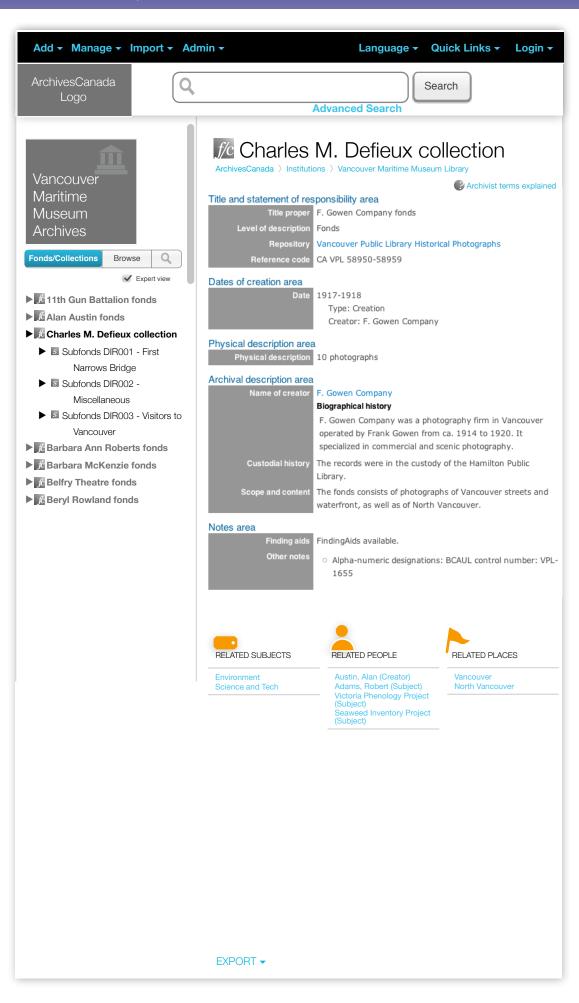


When exploring the hierarchy levels, the user always sees where he is in the tree on the left and the item itself on the right.

Breadcrumb helps the user to orientate himself

Help link to explain archivist terminology such as "Fonds"

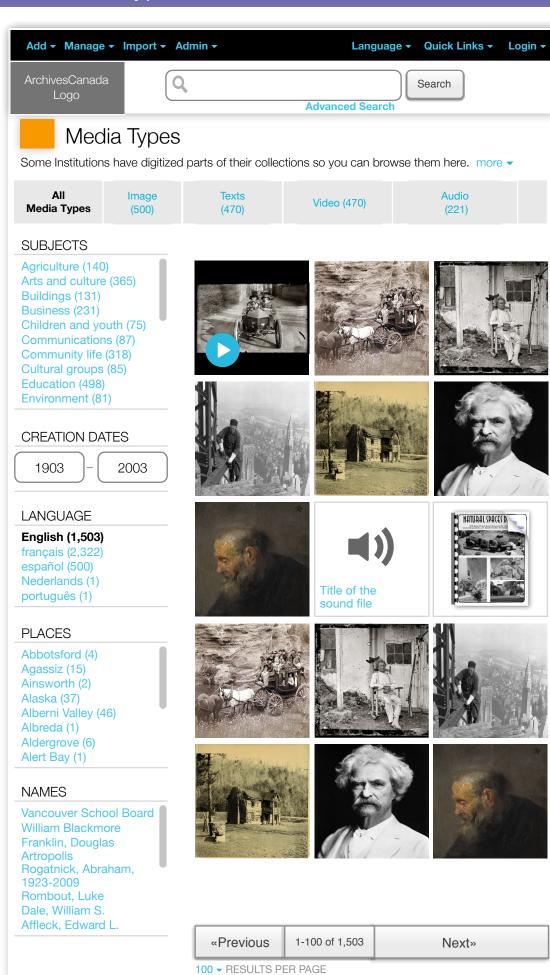
2.2b Fonds/Collection 3



Expert view shows more metadata in the tree view. Also possible to have a layer onmouseover to provide additional info, if necessary.

TBD: what are the key things to display here for expert users?

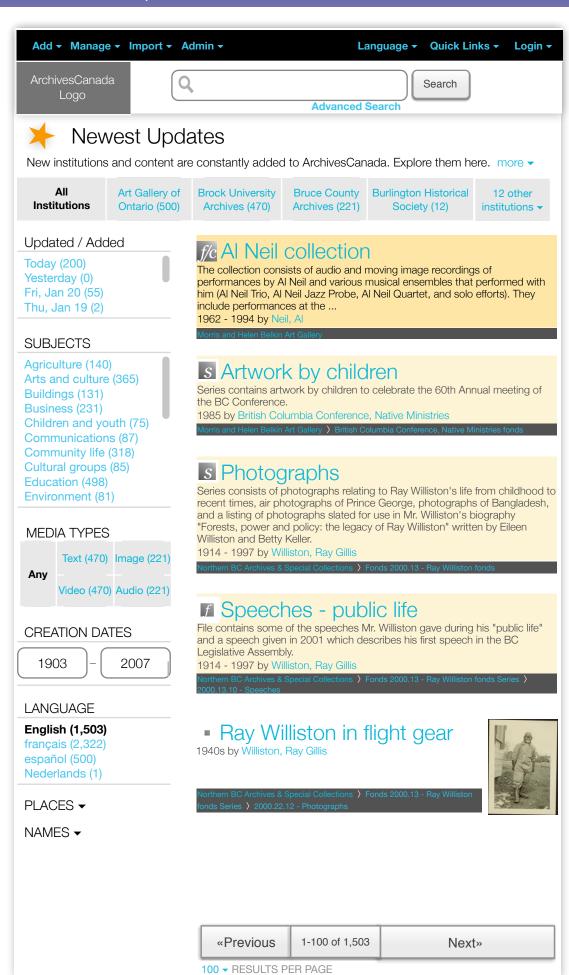
6.0 Media Types



This is the page the user sees when using the Media Types entry point on the homepage.

On hover over any thumbnail, a layer would appear with some meta data about the digital object.

7.0 Latest Updates



Newest updates.

I expanded this a bit from the current functionality by segregating newly added institutions, new/updated descriptions and digital objects.