



# Research for Radicals

*A how-to manual for  
activists of all kinds*



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**Introduction**

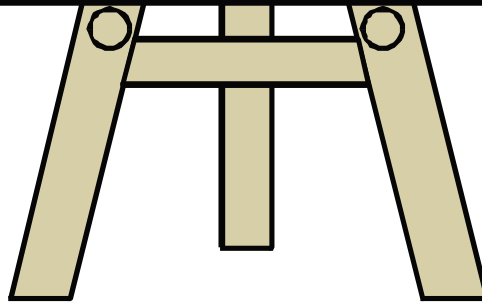
**Basic Research Guidelines**

**Avenues of Research**

The Internet, Libraries, ATIP and FOI, Interviews

**Resources**

Research - Places to Get Started, Research - Corporations,  
Research - Government, News Sites, Activist Resources,  
Misc Research Institutions



Prepared May 2000 by Megan from the Vancouver local of TAO Communications. To get more copies of this document or receive further information, please contact TAO-VAN at [vancouver@tao.ca](mailto:vancouver@tao.ca) or take a look at our website, <http://vancouver.tao.ca>. My thanks go out to the folks at Corp Watch in Britain who's DIY Guide to Corporate Research was copied in part in this document. This document is anti-copyright which means that you should feel free to copy and distro it however you would like in part or in full.

# INTRODUCTION

**Too often, research is the last task activists think of when they engage in a campaign, usually coming only at the point that someone sits down to write a leaflet or a press release and then discovers that the one thing missing is the information required to really condemn the company or other agency being targeted. Being a good activist means knowing and using all available tools - including solid research skills.**

Having good research in the beginning helps activists in a number of ways. It helps us choose targets for action, it assists us in unearthing information about what we are fighting, and it can aid us in being confident when arguing our case to the public and to other activists. Doing research into law enforcement agencies can allow us to follow patterns of investigation and documentation, thus assisting our ability to strategize as a movement.

This handbook is meant to give you - the activist - a short tour through the world of research and help you identify methods and means by which you can get the information that you need in order to not only fight - but win the struggles that face us today. Researching corporate and government information need not be difficult - but does require good organization and documentation along the way. There are a number of strategies that you may employ in gaining access to the information that you seek - it's up to you to determine what is necessary.

This particular document focuses mainly on Canadian regulations - including the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act (BC) and Access to Information legislation due to my familiarity with these pieces of legislation. Near the back of this guide, there are other internet resources mentioned where further info is available.

However, the basics in this pamphlet hold true for many places. Legislation like that which exists in BC and in Canada exists in many western industrialized countries including the United States and Britain. You can do your own research to figure out what exists where you are and how to use it. If there is a local civil liberties association -they usually will be able to help you determine what information rights exist for citizens and how to exercise them. Other places that may be able to give you assistance would be local libraries, university libraries, and your own municipal and provincial (or state) governments.



**Security Note:** If you are conducting your research with the aim of carrying out an illegal action - be very careful that you do not leave a paper trail that could lead the police to you as a suspect. Make sure, for example, that any requests for info to government agencies are untraceable, that you search web sites using proxies, and that you don't become so conspicuous while searching that you become noticeable to others. There is security information available at a couple of the web sites mentioned in our resource section - please read through these web pages if you are considering using your research for activities that could get you in trouble (if caught!)

# BASIC RESEARCH GUIDELINES

**There are a few simple rules that apply no matter what type of research you are doing and will assist you in ensuring that your research is accurate, thorough and well documented.**

## **1) KNOW WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR:**

When you are doing research - and especially when you are filing requests to the government for info - you need to know exactly what you are looking for. Being too vague can either result in getting too much useless info - or not getting any at all. Often, if you start out vague, the process of doing the research will help you narrow your searches down to the actual info that you need. When filing official requests (especially those that cost money) - be very sure of what you want before you do to avoid wasting both time and cash in the process.

**2) MAKE A RESEARCH PLAN:** Doing solid research requires good organisational skills. Don't start with the more complex search methods first - plan out what you need to know and the various ways that you are going to get it. Start with web sites and other publicly accessible information such as annual reports and press releases and then move into searches that may cost money such as Access to Information (ATIP) requests. Interviews and other person-to-person information gathering are best saved until the end.

**3) GIVE YOURSELF AMPLE TIME:** Don't start doing your research when you need it done - try to give yourself as much time as possible. ATIP and FOI requests can take between one and three months to complete, even web research and other easier routes take time (and usually more than you expect). For complete research you don't want to end up rushing over leads that may take time to follow up, but will result in good and usable information.

**4) LOOK FOR LEADS and ASK OTHERS:** Look for leads in the form of other information already out there instead of starting from scratch. Leads appear

in many places, in the form of campaign material from another organisation, news and magazine articles (watch the business section of your local paper for all sorts of interesting info on your favourite local corp.), comments made on the evening news by government or corporate figures.... Don't forget to ask others who are involved in different aspects of the movement - better-funded research groups like the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives or the Council of Canadians (as examples) may already have some information that they would be willing to share with you that you could use to create a better research plan at the very least.

**5) DOCUMENT EVERYTHING:** Nothing is worse than getting challenged on your sources and then not being able to remember where you dug up a particularly decent piece of information. Make sure that you write down where you got all of your information (well - unless you went to illegal means to get it - don't write that down of course), so that if challenged, you can back your statements up with a source (print, interview, etc.). In the case that you are using comments from individuals who wish not to be named you should refer to them in your notes with a pseudonym. This ensures that your sources are protected in the event that your notes are seized by the police or otherwise fall into the wrong hands.



**Security Note:** The only time that the "document-everything-approach" goes out the window is if you are using the research for illegal activities. In the event that the police search your house, that research dossier could be used to tie you to the incident in question. A good standard when conducting research for the purpose of breaking the law is to destroy everything completely (leaving not trace of it) before the action occurs.

# AVENUES OF RESEARCH

Some of the following information may seem straight forward to some of you - but for others, using a web search engine or even entering a public library is an extremely foreign experience. This is just a brief overview of places that you might begin your searches and some basic points on methods and approach. It's up to you to determine what sources and material will work best.



## The Internet - WWW Searching:

Radical Researchers in North America have it a lot better today than any other generation before largely due to the emergence of the internet. For those of you without computer access at school or at home, keep in mind that the public library system in British Columbia usually offers one or more computers for public internet use. Just go in to you local library and ask what computers they have available for surfing the web and you will likely find that there are several (though you may have to wait in line to use one.) The one thing to watch out for is that public institutions regularly set up filters, which often block sites that are “offensive” to the public (this can include anarchist and other political sites). Searching through a proxy can help alleviate this to some degree. The federal government has also recently committed to creating public access points for the internet in rural and urban centres across Canada- so keep an eye out for federal and provincial projects that may be bringing computers into your community!

So where to start on the internet? The web is a vast array of interconnected documents that contain information from the irrelevant to the highly useful. At the end of this pamphlet - I have compiled a list of sites that I have found to be most useful for doing activist research - so look there for more detailed information on sites that you might find helpful. For this section, I would like to explore the most common method of searching on the web - which is the search engine.

There are a number of good search engines out there that are relatively easy to use. Good places to start

include the AltaVista search engine (<http://www.altavista.com>) or the Metacrawler Engine (<http://www.metacrawler.com>). AltaVista is a good engine for pulling up absolutely everything under a few key words (20 pages or more usually), whereas Metacrawler sorts the results and only gives you the most likely pages where you will find your info (between 1 and 5 pages). Remember that putting a search term into quotations will direct the engine to search it as a phrase rather than as individual key words. For example, if you type in - genetic engineering research - AltaVista will conduct the search as - genetic and/or engineering and/or research. If you wanted to search it as a phrase - you would type - “genetic engineering research” and the engine would only return items that matched that exact search phrase.



**Security Note:** Something to remember when visiting corporate web sites from your home computer is that companies and government agencies (as well as many individuals with web sites) track all the users that come to their pages. If you are surfing from home, via ADSL, cable or dial-up access, it is pretty easy for the corporation to find out not only where you are coming from, but who you are (login at least) from the information that your browser gives it.

Why is this important? You may not want the company or government agency or individual to know that you are doing research on them - especially if the research is being done to support an illegal action. To circumvent the visit from being tied to you personally

- you can do one of two things: 1) surf from a public computer, at a library, university workstation or web cafe that you are unconnected to or 2) use a proxy - which basically masks the location that your computer is coming from. For more information on proxies and other computer security measures for activists - visit <http://security.tao.ca> for the full lowdown.

Anyhow - a here is the basic process for starting research on the World Wide Web (this could easily apply to many different types of database research).

1) **Pick your topic** - this can be a general, sketchy idea to get started. Maybe just the name of the company that you want to research, or a new government program that you are trying to learn about.

2) **Browse a little** - once you have thought of your topic in general terms, try typing some of them into a search engine. Some of the terms you pick will likely be so vague they return hundreds of irrelevant sites - whereas some will be so obscure they will return nothing at all. Also make a habit of browsing web directories - most search engines now have directories attached to them with sites catalogued under subject which means that you can follow the subjects down into sub-directories quite easily. Web directories can also help you read "around" a narrow topic. If you are not hunting for specific facts, but are looking for a range of related ideas, a web directory can point you to sites representing all of the issues surrounding the topic.

3) **Determining your keywords** - Browsing a little (or a lot depending on obscurity level) will give you a pretty good idea of what you are looking for and also what keywords are most likely to bring your topic up during a search. You should create a list of both key words and phrases most likely to find the topic you are searching on.

After you have produced a list of key phrases and words, enter them into a few selected search engines. As you see the results of your searches, add new terms to your list, or remove those that don't produce anything.

Don't be afraid to search using multiple search engines. Search engines send out "spiders" which are programs that index web pages to later be called up by the engine. Different spiders pick up on different pages - so where one engine may have a certain set of pages indexed, another will not. For comprehensive searching, try at least three different engines.

See the section at the back of this manual for further resources available to you on the web.



## Libraries:

Libraries provide a wealth of resources not limited to books. Below I will describe some library offerings that are available which you may find useful. Keep in mind that you will need a library card to access most of the below services. Cards for the public library are free, and attainable if you show them a piece of id and proof of address. University library cards are generally only available to university students and alumni - otherwise they cost a lot of money to buy and you have to pay on an annual basis.

Also keep in mind that it is perfectly okay to ask a librarian for help, and that you should treat them nicely cause they know this research stuff better than anyone. I have largely found that librarians are often the best place to start because they will give you searching ideas no one else has thought of (it's their job after all).

**Books:** Okay - this seems obvious - but I mention them here for the reason that many researchers fail to do at least one check to see if any publications have been printed about their targeted institutions or individuals. A book on a given topic may lead you to further information, contain bibliographies that point to news and magazine articles about your subject, or could provide you with the names of people who in the past have been sympathetic to the work that you are trying to do (and may assist you now if you ask nice).

**Reference Books:** Go check out the section that houses reference books for some good general info.

Every library pretty much carries the *Who's Who* series of books in this section which are useful for compiling biographical sketches of "important" people. A quick search of the Vancouver Public Library online record turned up a number of books in the series including - *Who's Who in Biotechnology*, *Who's Who in British Columbia*, and *Who's Who in America* and *Who's Who in Finance and Business*. Getting some good ideas? These are good places to get at least some biographical information on the bastards you are trying to nail at the top. Most CEO's and other rich folk appear in these types of publications - so they are worth taking a look through.

**Newspapers and Periodicals:** Most libraries keep the paper copy of the newspaper for three months, and keep all back issues of periodicals exiting in their collections. Once the newspapers come off the shelves they are available in microfiche format. The university libraries have all British Columbia newspapers dating back to the very beginning on microfiche. Microfiche is essentially a film copy of printed docs which need to be read using a special reader and are indexed in big blue books (I think they are called the Canadian Periodical Index - but I'm not sure - the librarian can tell you). There you can search by year and by subject to find out which microfiche you will need to put in the reader. Get help the first time you use microfiche - those readers are kind-of funky but also can be a pain and you can easily damage film in them (which is a big no no). Once periodicals come off the shelves they may either be available in microfiche format or in bound copies that the librarian will have to get for you from their hiding place. More recent news and magazine articles are also available in databases - discussed below.

**Clipping Files:** Wonder of wonders - librarians often keep clippings files from newspapers and mags on a variety of topics. Always ask the librarian in a given area if they have a clippings file and look there first - it is surprising what some of them contain!

**Databases:** Computer databases are the most amazing of all inventions for researchers, and are worth getting to know intimately. If you have a library card at any of the college, university or public libraries -

you likely have access to a few databases that can either be accessed from the institution itself or from the web. Some of my favourites are the Canadian Business and Current Affairs and the Canadian News Disc databases which contain electronic copies of recent newspaper and magazine articles, among other things such as speeches (in the CBCA database at least) given by corporate bosses among others. Take a look on the library computer - or go to the Vancouver Public Library site located at <http://www.vpl.vancouver.bc.ca/VPL/gateway.html> and see what is available under their database section.

**Information Sheets:** I can't remember all the different resources that exist in the reference section of the library - but one very useful one is the Yellow Sheet series on Canadian companies. These are available in the university libraries and probably also the central Vancouver public library as well. These handy sheets can be accessed through the librarians and contain all sorts of useful info such as the boards of directors, the holdings of a particular corporation, annual earnings etc. These are updated every year and will contain some of the most current info on your chosen target.



**Security Note:** The RCMP and CSIS have both, in the past, requested the library records of activists to determine what type of material they are reading (this became an issue during the Gulf War in 1991 in particular). Read the book in the library if you don't want it on your record.



## Companies and Government Agencies

If you are looking for basic information, you should just phone the corporation or government agency that you are interested in and ask them. Corporations being publicly traded on the stock market are required to produce an annual report that includes annual earnings, board of directors listings, and overall planning information. Getting information about the locations of corporate offices, the number of employees in the firm and other basic information is

also a fairly simple process. Start by dialling the 1-800 number or other info line provided by the company and work your way from there. Always ask who you are talking to so that you can reference them later - especially if you make your way into an interview session - it can make you sound like you are "in the know" to other company employees.

Don't forget to visit their web sites - companies often boast about the most hideous stuff (Monsanto for example - has a whole schedule of when they want to roll-out their latest genetically-engineered products on their home page).

Companies also give tours - especially resource-based companies (they are just itching to show you their latest "tree-farm" or experimental crops if you approach them the right way). Obviously, you wouldn't want to do this if there was a chance of being identified later in connection with dodgy activities - but for general research purposes, you can sometimes learn a lot by pursuing this avenue.

Government is much the same in terms of getting information. If the info isn't classified as Confidential, Secret or Top Secret, and most of it isn't, it shouldn't be too hard to get. The trick with government agencies in particular is knowing exactly what you are looking for and then being able to find out who the person is who can give it to you. Look at an agency's web site for a list of contacts and their areas of specialization. This is the best starting point. Phoning general information numbers in the government is usually an exercise in frustration and should only be done as a last resort. The Government of Canada site at <http://www.canada.gc.ca> is a good place to start for complete listings of employees and web sites. If that fails - check out the next section which includes tips on how to do formal searches for government held information.



## ATIP and FOI

The one advantage that we have with government that doesn't exist when doing corporate research is legislation passed by both provincial and

federal governments regarding information access. This legislation guarantees the public to a certain amount of access to government and other institutional documents (universities for example also fall under Freedom of Information guidelines in BC). Below is a description of the legislation - what it means and how to access the documents you want by using it.

### **Access to Information and Privacy (ATIP):**

This is the name of the act passed by the federal government to ensure that Canadians have at least a minimal right to view protected information (though you will quickly find out what the limits of those rights are once you start doing the searches). You can find out all about ATIP at the Justice Department Site set up to answer questions, and provide forms for fulfilling the requests which is located at <http://canada.justice.gc.ca/en/ps/atip/>

Like all other research methods - before you file an ATIP, make sure you know exactly what you are looking for. ATIPs differ from other types of government requests in a few ways. First of all - you \*have\* to use the form that they offer you on the web site for your request to be valid. They will ignore any other requests that come in the form of letters, emails etc. Second - each ATIP request costs \$5 - so you don't want to make more requests than necessary. There may be additional charges if copying, computer processing or search and preparation time is required. (The first five hours of search and preparation are free.). One way to get around this is to ask for small bits of information over a long time period and from a few different agencies.

Once you file a request - the government agency in question has 30 days to respond to your request. It's been my experience that they usually respond by invoking their right to an extension which can be for a period of up to 90 days. At the three-month cut off they either have to give you some of the information you are seeking or a reason why they are denying you access to the info in question.

You may find that you are either denied at the end of this period, or that the material you receive is so



heavily vetted (big sections of it blacked out) as to be useless to your research. In either of these cases, if you feel that you have been improperly denied info you have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner of Canada. All complaints are supposed to be investigated confidentially. An investigator assigned to your complaint will contact you for further information and will also obtain the institution's representations and possibly mediate a resolution of your complaint.

Many complaints are settled by clearing up misinterpretations or errors. Of course, the investigation may conclude that the institution acted properly. Before he makes a finding, the Commissioner considers the results of the investigation, your arguments as well as those of the government institution and any third party affected by disclosure of the information. The finding is reported directly to you. Once you have received the Commissioner's report, you may apply to the Federal Court of Canada for a review of the department's decision to deny access to requested information - whether or not he supports your complaint. In some cases, the Commissioner may decide to take the case to the Federal Court of Canada himself.

Obviously - the complaint process is designed to deter people from doing anything more than applying for the original ATIP, since there is little one can do, short of going to court, to make the government cough up the info no matter what the Commissioner decides.

A partial list of some of the most commonly requested federal government access points (addresses and telephone numbers) is at the back of this guide, a more complete version exists online at the Justice Department ATIP site - noted above.

**Freedom of Information and Privacy Act (FOIPA):** Most provinces have a provincial counterpart to the federal ATIP legislation. The following refers specifically to the Freedom of Information and Privacy legislation introduced in BC in 1993 - but similar information is available for each province at the Justice Department site listed above. Under the FOIPA you have two major rights: 1) the right of

access to records in the custody or under the control of a public body, including your own personal information, and 2) the right of protection of the privacy of your personal information in the custody or under the control of a public body.

Public bodies include most provincial government, local government, and self-governing professional bodies in British Columbia. They are ministries, agencies, boards, and crown corporations; hospitals, municipalities, regional districts, municipal police, school districts, universities, and colleges; and numerous professional bodies, such as the British Columbia College of Teachers, the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and the Law Society of British Columbia. The Act does not apply to private businesses or associations.

You do not have the right to access Cabinet confidences, someone else's personal information, or information that could harm another individual's business interests. You also will not generally get access to records that could harm law enforcement, the economic or financial interests of a public body, other individuals, or the public.

Generally to access records - just request them directly from the public body that you believe holds them. Write to the Information and Privacy Office of the agency and describe the records as clearly and completely as possible and request access to them. You should receive a response within 30 days - if additional time is required by the agency it must tell you so and explain why. It also must tell you when you can expect its full response.

A public body can not charge you for access to your own information - it may, however, charge you for access to non-personal information if it takes more than three hours to find or prepare the records for release. It also may charge you for the cost of copying and sending records to you. If a public body intends to charge a fee for records, it must first give you a fee estimate. It also has the authority to excuse a fee. You have the right to complain to the Information and Privacy Commissioner about a fee.

For more information about the FOI request process

and where to make complaints - check out the Information and Privacy Commissioner's web site at: <http://www.oipcbc.org/>

Although it seems like a giant hassle to make ATIP and FOI requests - it is often a really useful way to get some information from government agencies such as the RCMP and the Vancouver Police - among others - that would not readily be available any other way. Learning your information rights and learning how to use them are important steps in the research process, and what you learn may prove to be invaluable.



**Security Note:** Records are kept of all individuals filing ATIPS and FOI's - you can, however, get away with making them using an alias and a P.O. Box. Be careful however, that none of it is traceable to you if that is going to be a concern in the future.



## Interviews:

(this section was taken from the DIY guide to Corporate Research):

I thought that these folks had a really good section on Interviews and so decided just to append it here instead of writing my own!

Interviewing your target company should usually be saved until the end of your research - at this stage you have a much clearer idea of what you still need to know, and how to find it out. You will also have as good a case as possible, and it's harder for them to lie to you or squirm out of it.

Prepare for your interviews: brush up on your jargon and background knowledge; work out three or four different ways in which you can squeeze out the information you require, and anticipate possible responses. Decide beforehand whether you're going to leave your source friendly or hostile to you after the interview.

Bear in mind that companies contain many people. If one is unhelpful, you can always try someone else, possibly with a different alias. Looking at the company's website beforehand, or even talking to a receptionist, may give you an idea of how the company's structured, so who you want to speak to. Getting direct line numbers is always useful. On the other hand, if you ask two different people in a company for the same information, they might both go to the same colleague for it. So be careful here.

Always document your interviews, including time, place, who you spoke to and their position, any alias you used, major points, important quotes.

In interviews, open-ended questions allow the subject to tell you more - you may get something unexpected. Throw in a few dummy questions to put your subject at ease and if necessary cover your real interests. Look for leads (eg other people) as well as answers. What the subject doesn't want to talk about may provide interesting leads.

It's up to you whether you tell the company who you really are. That may lead to them seeing you as an enemy and not helping. If however, you have good credibility and the company thinks you will publicise your findings, they may help you for fear that you will publish anyway, and their non-cooperation will make that look worse.

If you tell them you're someone else, adopt an identity of someone they actively want to talk to (ie it's in their interests) - a potential customer, client, supplier, employee, journalist, local historian etc. It often helps to flatter the company or the person you're talking to, to make them feel good and relaxed. And give them an opportunity to boast (eg "I know your company is one of the most efficient in the sector" - "yes we've massively streamlined our workforce"; or "your company has an excellent relationship with government..." etc).

Generally it's easier to be someone of low rank - this is less threatening, and gives you an excuse for not knowing the answer to all their questions ("I'll have

to ask my boss / client”). If you can throw in chatty comments, that helps too (“sorry about my voice, I’ve got this throat bug”, “I can’t find my notes, our office is just being re-decorated”, “when I took my daughter to school this morning...”, etc). Occasionally you might find it useful to be more authoritative and confident, and semi-intimidate your interviewee into helping you.

When using an alias, try to keep a grain of truth in it, so that you can talk about yourself if pushed. It’s probably worth keeping a note of who you are somewhere - forgetting your own name, for instance, can be highly embarrassing! If you’re meeting subjects in person, remember that people tend to be remembered by their most prominent features (eg “oh yeah - the guy with the red hair / round glasses / lapel badge / stammer”). You should therefore cover any memorable features of yourself, and create some that you don’t usually have. If you normally smoke, don’t. If you don’t wear glasses, do etc etc. Consider getting a postbox (register as ‘no fixed abode’); make phone calls from a pay phone, and not the one just outside your house or office. You want to learn about the company, not make it easy for them to learn about you.

Respect “off the record” comments (use them only as leads) - otherwise you’re damaging your and other people’s chances of getting them in the future, and also your reputation! However, convention is that “off the record” must be said BEFORE the comments are made, rather than afterwards when the subject realises what he/she has said; in this case it’s up to your own scruples. Don’t OFFER to keep something off the record, except as a last resort. Check whether “off the record” just means “not for attribution”.

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Obviously - there are many other places that you can look for information and ways of going about your information gathering. It is up to you to decide how you want to do your research and what tools you will need to use. Following this section is a resource area with some suggested starting points!

# RESOURCES FOR RADICAL RESEARCHERS

You will notice that a lot of this guide is dedicated to resources - which is because there are so many good ones out there that it seems silly to replicate the work already done by folks!

## Research - Places to get started:

### **Best Guide to Canadian Legal Research**

<http://legalresearch.org/>

A really good primer on legal research tricks and techniques in Canada.

### **Search Engine Watch**

<http://www.searchenginewatch.com/>

how search engines work and some good tips for utilizing them to their full potential

### **DIY Research from Corp Watch (Britain)**

<http://www.corporatewatch.org/pages/res4.html>

a good progressive research guide

### **Corporate Strategic Profile Research Guide**

[www.rh.edu/dept/library/courses/mgmt6650/](http://www.rh.edu/dept/library/courses/mgmt6650/)

## Research - Corporations:

Below are some of the many resources that exist to help you research corporations and their plunder of the earth and our communities - there are tons of resources out there - so look around if what you want isn't here.

### **Annual Report Gallery**

<http://www.reportgallery.com>

hundreds of annual reports online

### **About.com Business Pages -**

<http://globalbusiness.about.com/>

really - go check these out - there is sooooo much information here including news pages and research tips for looking into company backgrounds - if you are trying to get info on a company - this is a good starting place!

### **McSpotlight**

[www.mcspotlight.org](http://www.mcspotlight.org)

everything you could ever want to know about

McDonald's

### **Boycott Shell**

<http://www.essentialaction.org/shell>

obviously - a site about Shell Oil and it's legacy of international human rights abuse

### **Sprawl-Busters**

<http://www.sprawl-busters.com>

Walmart: why it sucks so bad and how you can fight it

### **Project Underground**

<http://www.moles.org>

a lot of info here on the oil and mining industries as well as info on various campaigns

### **PR Watch**

<http://www.prwatch.org>

magazine that focuses on PR companies and their latest strategies for major corporations

### **Rainforest Action Network**

<http://www.ran.org>

lots of info on logging and other rainforest industries, indigenous resistance and campaigns

### **Genewatch UK**

<http://www.genewatch.org>

genetic engineering and crop trial locations in Britain

### **INFACT: Tobacco**

<http://www.infact.org/helpstop.html>

the tobacco industry and all it's evils

### **Corporate Watch USA**

<http://www.corpwatch.org>

has lots of info on different corporations and campaigns

### **Investor Research and Responsibility Centre**

<http://www.irrc.org>

even though you probably have no interest in investing - this place is a good one for looking up ethical issues that corporations may be involved in....

### **Public Citizen**

<http://www.citizen.org>

Ralph Nader's consumer/citizen watchdog group

## **Research - Government:**

### **Canadian Government Web Gateway**

<http://www.canada.gc.ca>

this houses a complete listing of all federal government web sites - lots of information is available right here - especially if you are just looking for general statistics and other basic info.

Below are a few of the federal enquiry points for ATIP - we selected out those departments that are probably the most likely ones people will want to do research under.

### **Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada**

Sir John Carling Building

930 Carling Avenue

Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C5

General Enquiries: (613) 759-1000

Publications: (613) 759-6610

Library: (613) 759-7068

Access to Information / Privacy: (613) 759-6768

Internet Site: [www.agr.ca](http://www.agr.ca)

### **Bank of Canada**

234 Wellington Street

Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G9

General Enquiries: (613) 782-8111

Fax: (613) 782-7713

Public Information Service: (613) 782-7506

Toll-free: 1-800-303-1282

Access to Information / Privacy: (613) 782-8322

Internet Site: [www.bank-banque-canada.ca](http://www.bank-banque-canada.ca)

E-mail: [paffairs@bank-banque-canada.ca](mailto:paffairs@bank-banque-canada.ca)

### **Canadian Human Rights Commission**

Canada Place

344 Slater Street, 8th Floor

Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1E1

General Enquiries: (613) 995-1151

Toll-free: 1-888-214-1090

Access to Information / Privacy: (613) 943-9505

Internet Site: [www.chrc.ca](http://www.chrc.ca)

E-mail: [info@chrc.ca](mailto:info@chrc.ca)

### **Canadian Security Intelligence Service**

P.O. Box 9732, Station T

Ottawa, Ontario K1G 4G4

General Enquiries: (613) 993-9620

Fax: (613) 783-9363

Communications Branch: (613) 231-0100

Access to Information / Privacy: (613) 231-0334

Internet Site: [www.csis-scrs.gc.ca](http://www.csis-scrs.gc.ca)

### **Citizenship and Immigration Canada**

Journal Tower South

365 Laurier Avenue West, 19th Floor

Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1L1

General Enquiries: (613) 954-9019

Access to Information / Privacy: (613) 957-6512

Internet Site: [cicnet.ci.gc.ca](http://cicnet.ci.gc.ca)

### **Communications Security Establishment**

719 Heron Road

Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K2

General Enquiries: (613) 991-7316

Internet Site: [www.cse.dnd.ca](http://www.cse.dnd.ca)

### **Correctional Service of Canada**

Sir Wilfrid Laurier Building

340 Laurier Avenue West

Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0P9

General Enquiries: (613) 992-8423

Toll-free: 1-800-665-8948

Access to Information / Privacy: (613) 992-8248

Internet Site: [www.csc-scc.gc.ca](http://www.csc-scc.gc.ca)

### **Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade**

Lester B. Pearson Building

125 Sussex Drive

Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2

General Enquiries: (613) 944-4000

Toll-free: 1-800-267-8376

Access to Information / Privacy: (613) 992-1425

Internet Site: [www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca](http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca)

E-mail: [sxci.enqserv@extott09.x400.gc.ca](mailto:sxci.enqserv@extott09.x400.gc.ca)

## **Department of Justice Canada**

Justice Building  
284 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H8  
General Enquiries: (613) 957-4222  
Access to Information / Privacy: (613) 952-8361  
Internet Site: [canada.justice.gc.ca](http://canada.justice.gc.ca)

## **Environment Canada**

Les Terrasses de la Chaudière  
10 Wellington Street  
Hull, Quebec K1A 0H3  
General Enquiries: (819) 997-2800  
Toll-free: 1-800-668-6767  
Access to Information / Privacy: (819) 997-4552  
Internet Site: [www.ec.gc.ca](http://www.ec.gc.ca)  
E-mail: [enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca](mailto:enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca)

## **Fisheries and Oceans**

Centennial Towers  
200 Kent Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E6  
Access to Information / Privacy: (613) 993-2937  
Internet Site: [www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca)  
E-mail: [info@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:info@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

## **Indian and Northern Affairs Canada**

Les Terrasses de la Chaudière, North Tower  
10 Wellington Street  
Hull, Quebec K1A 0H4  
Toll-free (For areas without bilingual service): 1-800-567-9604  
Library: (819) 997-0811  
Access to Information / Privacy: (819) 994-0867  
Internet Site: [www.inac.gc.ca](http://www.inac.gc.ca)  
E-mail: [InfoPubs@inac.gc.ca](mailto:InfoPubs@inac.gc.ca)

## **Industry Canada**

C.D. Howe Building  
235 Queen Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H5  
General Enquiries: (613) 941-0222  
Access to Information / Privacy: (613) 954-2752  
Personnel Enquiries: (613) 954-2788  
Internet Site: [info.ic.gc.ca](http://info.ic.gc.ca)  
E-mail: [hotline.service@ic.gc.ca](mailto:hotline.service@ic.gc.ca)

## **Natural Resources Canada**

580 Booth Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E4  
General Enquiries: (613) 995-0947  
Access to Information / Privacy: (613) 995-1236  
Internet Site: [www.NRCan.gc.ca](http://www.NRCan.gc.ca)  
E-mail: [questions@NRCan.gc.ca](mailto:questions@NRCan.gc.ca)

## **Offices of the Information and Privacy**

### **Commissioners**

Place de Ville, Tower B  
112 Kent Street, 3rd Floor  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1H3  
General Enquiries: (613) 995-2410  
Toll-free: 1-800-267-0441  
Fax (Privacy Commissioner): (613) 947-6850  
Internet Site:  
Information Commissioner: [infoweb.magi.com/  
~accessca/index.html](http://infoweb.magi.com/~accessca/index.html)  
Privacy Commissioner: [infoweb.magi.com/  
~privcan](http://infoweb.magi.com/~privcan)

## **Royal Canadian Mounted Police**

1200 Vanier Parkway  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0R2  
General Enquiries: (613) 993-7267  
Access to Information / Privacy: (613) 993-5162  
Internet Site: [www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca](http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca)

## **Royal Canadian Mounted Police Public Complaints Commission**

P.O. Box 3423, Station D  
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L4  
General Enquiries: (613) 952-8040 / 1471  
Toll-free: 1-800-267-6637  
Fax: (613) 952-8045  
Western Regional Office: 1-800-665-6878  
Access to Information / Privacy: (613) 952-1302

## **Security Intelligence Review Committee**

Jackson Building  
122 Bank Street, 4th Floor  
P.O. Box 2430, Station D  
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5W5  
General Enquiries: (613) 990-8441  
Access to Information / Privacy: (613) 990-8052  
Internet Site: [www.sirc-csars.gc.ca](http://www.sirc-csars.gc.ca)

## Research - Radical Activism:

The below sites all contain intensive how-to information from how to hang off a billboard to how to set a fire or uproot crops. It is suggested that when visiting these sites, you do so through a proxy!

### Security for Activists

<http://security.tao.ca>

Take a look here for all aspects of secure advice regarding your computer searches. Learn how to use proxies and remailers and other fun stuff!

### Animal Liberation Frontline Site

<http://www.enviroweb.org/ALFIS>

Lots of how-to advice on security culture, animal liberation and corporate damage.

### Bioengineering Action Network

<http://www.tao.ca/~ban>

Check out the Night-time Gardener's guide for crop pulling advice and a complete list of anti-ge actions that have occurred in North America.

### Monkeywrench Cafe

<http://www.mokeywrenchcafe.org>

Decent site with links to monkeywrenching manuals and advice from all over.

### The Ruckus Society

<http://www.ruckus.org>

Has a lot of good manuals on climbing, hanging and video-taping activities.

## News Sites:

### Newspapers.com

<http://www.newspapers.com>

Links to most of the world's newspapers and some magazines.

### Jay's Alternative Media Links

<http://www.neravt.com/left/altmedia.htm>

Practically the best set of alternative media links out there.

### Globe and Mail Technology Site

<http://www.globetechnology.com/>

This is a very good site for corporate research, since it has an archive of all articles by subject and is free to access.

## Local Libraries:

Obviously - there are libraries in every city - this is a short list of four that I have used regularly and that also have online components - you can figure out what exists in your own locality for doing research.

### Vancouver Public Library Central Branch

<http://www.vpl.vancouver.bc.ca/>

350 West Georgia, Vancouver BC - the VPL also has branches all over the city where you can order in books from the central branch that you might want to check out. Surprisingly, the VPL also has a decent video and audio collection as well.

### Simon Fraser University Library

<http://www.lib.sfu.ca>

If you have a library card for the SFU library on the hill, they will actually send stuff down to the Harbour Centre Campus (which is located at 555 W. Hastings Street), so you don't have to go all the way up to Burnaby to access the books you want - just do a database search and order them!

### University of BC Library

<http://www.library.ubc.ca>

It's out there - but UBC has a book-sharing arrangement with SFU and some of the colleges, which means if you have a library card to some other institution, you can usually order books in - check at the library that you use to see if this is a possibility.

### BC Archives

<http://www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca/index.htm>

This is one of my favourite library services in the province, even if it is all the way over in Victoria. Over the past few years, the BC Archives have loaded tons of text and images online that are retrievable through a searchable database. For a fee, you can have them send you copies of photos or text (which is pretty cool if you want to order 8x10 prints of the 1938 sit-down strike for example). If you are doing archival research, this is the place to start in BC.

## Miscellaneous Research:

### **Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives**

<http://www.policyalternatives.ca/>

Solid progressive research to challenge the Fraser Institute.

### **BC Freedom of Information and Privacy Association**

[http://griffin.multimedia.edu/~fipa/logo\\_01.htm](http://griffin.multimedia.edu/~fipa/logo_01.htm)

Although this site is rarely updated, there is some useful stuff about info rights in BC here.

### **Canadian Federation of Students**

<http://www.cfs-fcee.ca/>

These folks do all sorts of research on post-secondary student issues concerning students including university funding, poverty, and international student concerns.

### **Canadian Council on Social Development**

<http://www.ccsd.ca/>

Research on concerns such as income security, employment, poverty, child welfare, pensions and government social policies.

**A Final Note: The material contained in this document is only the beginning of where to go and how to do good research. The trick however, is to explore what is out there until you feel comfortable with many different search avenues. Please do take some time to check out some of the resources provided here, and you will probably find the answers to many of your questions.**

# TAO Communications

Tao Communications is a regional federation comprised of local autonomous collectives and individuals. We organize networks in order to defend and expand public space and the right to self-determination. We create knowledge through independent public interest research, and distribute it freely through participatory education.

We actively promote the establishment of worker-owned and operated autonomous zones. Under the belief that all life should be free, we operate against capital or market-regulated forms of political, economic and cultural organization, and towards socially just, ecologically sound, international liberation. We advocate democratic exercise of the means of production to help achieve these beliefs. We also create tactical arts intended for such practical and inspirational application, as to encourage other autonomous groups and individuals to join us in our struggle for democracy.

**Contact TAO-Vancouver at  
[vancouver@tao.ca](mailto:vancouver@tao.ca) or  
<http://vancouver.tao.ca>**