http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/sosc3701/

The following examples illustrate the wealth of resources in the York University Map Library and beyond that may be useful for urban research. These examples cover the Toronto and some parts of Southern Ontario. Included are resources available at other libraries and websites. Please consult this guide before visiting the Map Library. At the Map Library, the staff can help you find the maps, airphotos, and other map resources for your project. The Map Library is open: Monday to Thursday 10 am to 7 pm; Friday, 10 am to 5 pm. If you require additional help in finding "hard to find" map resources, you can contact Rosa Orlandini (Map and GIS Librarian) at rorlan@yorku.ca to book an appointment. If you retrieve a map from a map cabinet or an atlas from the shelves, please don’t reshelve it! Please notify the Map Library staff that you no longer need the map or atlas.

**What is Toronto?**

The boundaries of Toronto haven’t always been the same. This is important to keep in mind when you are finding books, maps, government information, and other documents about Toronto. The City of Toronto was created out of the County of York and what is formerly called the York Township. From 1783 until 1967, the city of Toronto annexed many outlining villages, towns, and unincorporated areas. An annexation map for the City of Toronto is available on the City of Toronto Archives website at http://jpeg2000.eloquent-systems.com/toronto.html?image=s0727\s0727\_fl0009\_it0001.jp2. It is also important to note that the other municipalities in the area also annexed small villages and towns, for example the town of Weston was annexed into the City of York in 1967.

The Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto (Metro Toronto) was a senior level of municipal that existed from 1954 to 1998. It comprised of all of the municipalities (boroughs): City of Toronto, East York, Etobicoke, North York, Scarborough, and York. In 1998, Metro Toronto was dissolved and the five municipalities/boroughs were amalgamated to form the current city of Toronto. A map of the former boroughs – municipalities is located at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amalgamation_of_Toronto#/media/File:Toronto_map.png. For a comprehensive list of mergers, amalgamations, and annexations, go to: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amalgamation_of_Toronto

**Print Maps & Atlases about Toronto, Metropolitan Toronto and the former boroughs/towns**

The York University Map Library has a collection of print maps and atlases about Toronto, Metropolitan Toronto, and the five former boroughs/municipalities. Below is a list of relevant call numbers and locations.

- Metropolitan Toronto / Current City of Toronto, Cabinets 31-33, Call Numbers G3524 T61
- City of Toronto until 1783-1998, Cabinet 34, Call Numbers G3534 T62
- East York, Cabinet 34, Call Numbers G3534 T65
- Etobicoke, Cabinet 34-35, Call Numbers G3534 T66
- North York, Cabinet 35, Call Numbers G3534 T67
- Scarborough, Cabinet 35, Call Numbers G3534 T68
- City/Town of York, Cabinet 35, Call Numbers G3534 T69
- Illustrated historical atlas of York County, 1878, Scott Map Oversize G1148 Y6 M5 1878B

If you need assistance finding maps of former municipalities that were annexed prior to 1968 (ex. Weston, Swansea etc.) or finding maps of municipalities outside of Toronto (Vaughan, Port Credit, Bramalea, etc.), please ask the Map Library staff for assistance.
**Fire Insurance Plans**

A fire insurance plan is a large scale urban map or set of maps of a community. These plans show in detail by means of colour or symbols: the character of the outside and inside construction of buildings; building heights; occupancy or use of individual or groups of buildings; street widths; street numbers; property lines; water pipes or mains, fire hydrants and fire alarm boxes.

**At York University**

York University has a small collection of fire insurance plans at the Map Library and Archives and Special Collections. To find out more, please consult our guide: [http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/fips/](http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/fips/)

**Toronto Archives & Toronto Public Libraries**

The City of Toronto Archives has many of their fire insurance plans available online (1880 to 1924). [http://www.toronto.ca/archives/](http://www.toronto.ca/archives/). Direct link to their Fire Insurance Plan webpage.


Fire Insurance Plans – University of Toronto Collection. These plans are available in JPG format. Individual plans: [https://mdl.library.utoronto.ca/toronto-fire-insurance-plans](https://mdl.library.utoronto.ca/toronto-fire-insurance-plans)

Fire Insurance Plan Atlases: [https://mdl.library.utoronto.ca/toronto-fire-insurance-atlases](https://mdl.library.utoronto.ca/toronto-fire-insurance-atlases)

**Ontario Archives**


**At Other Libraries in Toronto**

For a listing of Toronto fire insurance plans located in other institutions in the City of Toronto check: Catalogue of Canadian Fire Insurance Plans 1875-1975 Z 6026 17 D82 2002 (Map Library Service Desk)

**Property Data Maps**

Property Data Maps depict buildings, railway lines, major watercourses, curbs, catch basins, hydrants, streetlights/poles, street names, park names, property lines, street lines and right of way boundaries.

**City of Toronto & Metropolitan Toronto**

**Airphotos, Orthophotos, and Photomaps**

**York University Library Collection**

York University Libraries has a collection of airphotos of Toronto and region for 1954, 1971, 1978, 1982, 1986; and a collection of photo maps of Toronto and Southern Ontario for 1954, 1974, 1980-1998. To find out if we have photos of your area of interest go to: [http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/airphotos/](http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/airphotos/). Please note that these airphotos and photo maps are in print format and not digital. They are available to view at the Map Library.

We also have orthophotos (geo-corrected aerial photographs in digital format), of Southern Ontario and the Greater Toronto area this includes:


For the latest orthoimagery, go to the City of Toronto map viewer at: [http://map.toronto.ca/imapit/iMapIt.jsp?app=TOMaps](http://map.toronto.ca/imapit/iMapIt.jsp?app=TOMaps)

**Other Collections**

The City of Toronto Archives has made available their aerial photograph series from 1947 to 1992. For more information visit this [website](http://www.library.yorku.ca/web/map/collections/orthophotos/).

**Maps with Socio Economic Data about Toronto**

- [Simply Map](http://www.library.yorku.ca/web/map/collections/orthophotos/). Interactive census mapping at the census tract level for the 2006 and 2011 census.
- [Census Atlases](http://www.library.yorku.ca/web/map/collections/orthophotos/) (in Print) format from the Map Library and Scott Library
- City of Toronto Demographic Maps (Data from the 1971 Census). Map Library Maps G3524 T62 E1 75 1972-73. Map cabinet 34.

For detailed census data for specific census tracts, please consult the Canadian Census Data guide for more information: [http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/content.php?pid=227895&sid=1894196](http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/content.php?pid=227895&sid=1894196)

**City Directories**

City directories contain information about specific street addresses, as well as listings of businesses and individuals. York University Libraries' has a small collection located on the 3rd Floor of Scott Library, located at call number FC 3097.18.

The Toronto Public Library has a much larger and comprehensive collection, located at the Toronto Reference Library. For a complete list of the print version of Toronto City Directories, go to [http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/history-genealogy/lh-print-city-directories.jsp](http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/history-genealogy/lh-print-city-directories.jsp). For a list of the digital versions of the Toronto City Directories from 1833-1922, go to: [http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/history-genealogy/lh-digital-city-directories.jsp](http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/history-genealogy/lh-digital-city-directories.jsp). Please note, that due to copyright restrictions directories published after 1922 are not available in digital format.
Additional Resources about Toronto

- York University Digital Library – Toronto Telegram Collection [https://digital.library.yorku.ca/](https://digital.library.yorku.ca/)
- City of Toronto Archives Photograph Collection [http://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vgnextoid=c3db757ae6b31410VgnVCM10000071d60f89R0CRD&vgnextchannel=6df0226b48c21410VgnVCM10000071d60f89R0CRD](http://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vgnextoid=c3db757ae6b31410VgnVCM10000071d60f89R0CRD&vgnextchannel=6df0226b48c21410VgnVCM10000071d60f89R0CRD)
- Robertson's landmarks of Toronto. Map Library and Scott Stacks. FC 3097.3 R62 1974 v.1,3
- The Toronto guide: the city, the fringe, the region. Map Library FC 3097.18 R44 2002.
- City of Toronto maps [http://www.toronto.ca/torontomaps/index.htm](http://www.toronto.ca/torontomaps/index.htm)
- City of Toronto Archive, Scanned Map Collection [http://www.toronto.ca/archives/](http://www.toronto.ca/archives/)
- [Scholars Geoportal](http://www.library.yorku.ca/research/research.mitigation/), Geospatial data search, discovery and analysis tools to make the data readily available to Ontario researchers. Resources include data licensed by Ontario academic libraries, such as land-based vector data (water, cultural features, etc.), census geography, and orthophotography.

Resources about Buffalo

- City of Buffalo – GIS Map Section [http://www.ci.buffalo.ny.us/Home/GIS_Maps_Section](http://www.ci.buffalo.ny.us/Home/GIS_Maps_Section)
- University at Buffalo (SUNY) Online Map and Air photo collection [http://library.buffalo.edu/maps/buffalo-wnymaps/](http://library.buffalo.edu/maps/buffalo-wnymaps/)
- University at Buffalo (SUNY) Digital Collections [http://digital.lib.buffalo.edu/](http://digital.lib.buffalo.edu/)
- Buffalo and Erie County Public Library Digital Collections [https://www.buffalolib.org/content/digital-collections](https://www.buffalolib.org/content/digital-collections)
- Buffalo City Directories (Buffalo & Erie County Public Library) [http://cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/VHB011](http://cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/VHB011)

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