

Atlantic Canada Newspaper Survey

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Introduction – Atlantic Canada Newspaper Survey (ACNS)

This manual is designed to provide a general understanding of the Atlantic Canada Newspaper Survey (ACNS) database and its structure. The ACNS project was designed to provide a machine-readable database of goods and services offered for sale in important east coast regional newspapers before 1900. This newspaper research database has as its focus nine broad categories of commodities based upon Statistics Canada's "Trade of Canada Commodity Classification."

In Nova Scotia the focus was slightly expanded to include land transactions and public service and legal announcements appearing before 1800.

This project is a collaborative initiative which has involved various federal and provincial departments and agencies including:

- [Canadian Museum of Civilization](#), Hull
- [Canadian Heritage Information Network](#), Hull
- [Newfoundland Museum](#), St. John's
- New Brunswick Museum, Saint John
- [Nova Scotia Museum](#), Halifax
- [Prince Edward Island Museum and Heritage Foundation](#), Charlottetown
- [Gorsebrook Research Institute](#), St. Mary's University, Halifax
- [University of New Brunswick](#), Saint John
- [Memorial University of Newfoundland](#), St. John's

What is the Atlantic Canada Newspaper Survey?

The initial impetus for the development of the ACNS lay in the experience of re-opening the Newfoundland Museum over twenty years ago. To plug the gaps in artifact documentation, museum staff were obliged to refer frequently to primary documents, principally newspapers. Often the same sources were canvassed several times for different reasons. The prospect of a single reading of the richest source of information, newspaper advertisements, for information on objects had great allure.

In 1979, the National Inventory Programme (NIP) of the National Museums of Canada was approached by the Newfoundland Museum to participate in such an endeavour using the technology which was being developed for the documentation of major museum collections. Three years later the Canadian Museum of Civilization sponsored a similar project in conjunction with the New Brunswick Museum and the Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN) successor to NIP, to develop a body of data for that province. Data from the Newfoundland project, which had become dormant, was incorporated with the research from

New Brunswick and made available online. In subsequent years projects were undertaken as well in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. In all cases the national agencies worked in collaboration with the provincial museums. More recently three universities, St. Mary's in Halifax, Nova Scotia, University of New Brunswick in Saint John, New Brunswick, and Memorial University in St. John's, Newfoundland, have joined the consortium. The database at present includes approximately 56,000 records.

Field Definitions – Introduction to Field Definitions

The Atlantic Canada Survey database consists of 50 fields arranged into four groups according to function.

- Administrative Fields
- Bibliographical Fields
- Subject Fields
- Descriptive Fields

Field Definitions – Administrative Fields

Various fields in this category principally meet the need of the project members, or the Canadian Heritage Information Network to manage their affairs, although some of them may be useful to segment the database for ease of searching.

PARIS NUMBER (PAR)

DEFINITION:

A unique number assigned automatically by the computer when the record is originally entered. Specific records can be identified and retrieved by use of this number.

DATA CLASS:

integer, full field

EXAMPLES:

1

2000

DATE OF BIRTH (DOB)

DEFINITION:

Contains the date the document was first added to the database.

DATA CLASS:

integer, full field

EXAMPLES:

850131

861007

DATE OF CHANGE (DOC)

DEFINITION: Indicates the date on which a modified record was updated in the database.

DATA CLASS:

integer, full field

EXAMPLES:

851208

880813

RECORD LANGUAGE (RL)

DEFINITION: Indicates in which official language the document is recorded.

DATA CLASS: alpha-numeric, full field

EXAMPLES:

E

F

PROVINCE OF ORIGIN (ORPR)

DEFINITION:

The name of the province or territory where the item cited in the newspaper name field (NPNAM) originated. This field is useful in isolating the records of individual provinces.

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, full field

EXAMPLES:

NFLD

PEI

NB

NS

CONTRIBUTOR (CON)

DEFINITION:

Identification of the institution or project (and sometimes its source of funding) which indexed and entered the record.

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, full field

EXAMPLES:

P.E.I. NEWSPAPER SURVEY 1984; COSEP

N.S. EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY NEWSPAPER PROJECT

CATALOGUER (CAT)

DEFINITION:

Identification of the cataloguer who indexed the record.

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, phrase

EXAMPLES:

Martin, G.
Sabada, M.

CATALOGUE TRANSCRIPTION DATE (CDTR)

DEFINITION:

The date on which the cataloguer began the record.

DATA CLASS:

integer, phrase

EXAMPLES:

19840101
19851231

RECORD NUMBER (CRN)

DEFINITION: A number assigned by a project manager for the purposes of record management. Each project creates its own series of record numbers. Numbers are not sequential for the entire database.

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, full field

EXAMPLES:

901
83-1024

CATALOGUER'S REMARKS (CREM)

DEFINITION:

Comments of cataloguers are recorded here. These usually refer either to a problem or quirk of the source or its physical appearance, or to connections between advertisements. This field is searchable by keyword.

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, free text

EXAMPLES:

A portion of this ad is illegible.
See ad crn 2056 for a reference to Mr. Smith as a joiner.

Field Definitions – Bibliographical Fields

These fields identify the source of the advertisement and the precise location of the data in the source.

NEWSPAPER NAME (NPNAM)

DEFINITION:

Name of the newspaper in which the advertisement appeared. "The" is omitted from newspaper names.

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, full field

EXAMPLES:

NEWFOUNDLAND EXPRESS

NOVA SCOTIA GAZETTE

NEWSPAPER VOLUME NUMBER (NPVOL)

DEFINITION:

A volume number, if such exists, identifies a series of newspaper issues. This field is not used for New Brunswick data.

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, full field

EXAMPLES:

1

10

NEWSPAPER ISSUE NUMBER (NPISS)

DEFINITION:

An issue number usually identifies a specific newspaper in a series. Occasionally issue numbers are duplicated in the source material. This field is not used for New Brunswick data.

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, full field

EXAMPLE:

28

55

NEWSPAPER PAGE NUMBER (NPPAG)

DEFINITION:

Notation of the page on which an advertisement is found. Although pages may not be numbered in the source material, they are counted as if they were for reference purposes. New Brunswick does not use this field.

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, full

EXAMPLES:

3

6

NEWSPAPER COLUMN (NPCOL)

DEFINITION:

To add greater precision to references, the column number in which a particular advertisement appears is indicated. New Brunswick does not use this field.

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, full field

EXAMPLES:

1

2,3

DATE FIRST APPEARANCE (NPFA)

DEFINITION:

The date of the newspaper issue in which the advertisement first appeared. Standard data entry rules determine the format for recording dates.

DATA CLASS:

integer, phrase

EXAMPLES:

17700130

18010502

DATE CONTINUING APPEARANCE (NPDA)

DEFINITION:

Subsequent appearances of the same advertisement in the same newspaper are indicated in this field. Slight variations in information may be described as “new details” in DESCRIPTION (DE). More substantial variances in essentially the same advertisement result in separate and unique records. Standard data entry rules determine the format for recording dates.

DATA CLASS:

integer, phrase

EXAMPLES:

17691017; 17691024; 17691107

18210718

ILLUSTRATION (NPILL)

DEFINITION:

A notation of the presence or absence of any illustration or in some cases a diagram, symbol or special lettering to the advertisement.

DATE CLASS:

alpha-numeric, phrase

EXAMPLES:

YES

NO

Field Definitions – Subject Fields

These fields identify key elements of advertisement content to aid cross-referenced retrieval on the basis of subject. There is a hierarchical structure ranging from general context (e.g. trade, foreign; military installation; community structures) and broad classifications of advertisements (e.g. commodity, land, business opening, runaways/slaves) to more specific references to person and place (country, province, state, county, municipality, street, landmark). The Subject fields are designed to isolate records that share common information. To group shared data in a specific field for retrieval means that information always must be described in exactly the same way within that field. Terms found in these fields are selected from standardized authority lists and therefore do not necessarily conform to the exact language of the advertisement. They are, however, representative of the content of the advertisement.

SUBJECT – GENERAL CONTEXT (SUB)

DEFINITION:

This field contains the broadest references to content of all the Subject fields. Key themes or points related to the subject matter of an advertisement or announcement are represented by words and phrases drawn from George P. Murdock's Outline of Culture Materials. That list is found in Field Authority Lists. This classification system was chosen to avoid the idiosyncrasies of the index derived solely from the database by using one more familiar to the original targeted users in the museum community. The unavoidable limitations resulting from matching this prescribed indexing system to the historical newspaper information content requires a broad interpretation of the definitions of the indexing phrases in formulating search requests. This field is not used by New Brunswick.

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, phrase

EXAMPLES:

MARKETING, RETAIL; PROPERTY, MOVEABLE
FINANCE; ACCOUNTING; LAW; PROBATE; CONTRACTS

GROUP / ANNOUNCEMENT / TYPE (SGRP)

DEFINITION:

This field draws together the advertisements under general headings which refer to the most obvious aspects of their content. Headings include "COMMODITY", "LAND", and a number of other terms as indicated in the authority list for SGRP found in Field Authority Lists.

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, phrase

EXAMPLES:

BUSINESS ACCOUNTING; COMMODITY
PRIZE MONEY; ELECTIONS

PRODUCT CATEGORY CODE (SCAT)

DEFINITION:

An index to the occurrence of the nine commodity classification fields in each record. The commodity fields are identified by their mnemonics. This field can be used to isolate records

containing specified categories. See the DESCRIPTION fields for a fuller identification and explanation of the commodity fields. See COMMODITY CATEGORIES AND RELATED SUB-CATEGORIES.

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, phrase

EXAMPLES:

DEFFBT; DECM; DEOET;

DEFFBT; DEPHG; DEMEP;

PRODUCT SUB-CATEGORY CODE (SSCAT)

DEFINITION:

A further index of commodity groupings in each record. The content of each of the nine broad commodity fields has been sub-divided into more specific sub-categories. See COMMODITY CATEGORIES AND RELATED SUB-CATEGORIES. The sub-categories are narrower groupings of similar commodities.

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, phrase

EXAMPLES:

TOOL; TEX; KITCH;

ARMORN; FOOT; WCR

PRODUCT TRANSACTION (SPROD)

DEFINITION:

A field used only for commodity advertisements to indicate the type of transaction or exchange involving goods. Because of the project's original interest in imported goods, this field also distinguishes between imports and goods locally produced in the province in which the newspaper originated. "Auction" has been included on the list because of its prevalence as a medium of exchange. A limited authority list (See Field Authority Lists) indicates the possibilities. This field is not used by New Brunswick.

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, phrase

EXAMPLES:

FOR SALE; IMPORTED, ASSUMED

TO BUY; LOCAL, STATED

LAND TRANSACTION (SLTR)

DEFINITION:

In provincial databases containing local information in addition to commodities and services, land transactions represent a significant number of advertisements. Together with SLTY, SLFE and SLSZ, this field extracts key points of information from advertisements for real property (this includes land and/or buildings or portions of buildings). Similar to the SPROD field for commodity exchanges, SLTR indicates the type of transaction involving real estate. It distinguishes between requests to buy real property and advertisements for its sale or rental. As

well, distinctions can be made between auction sales and those by individuals. This field is not used by New Brunswick and Newfoundland.

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, phrase

EXAMPLES:

FOR SALE; AUCTION

FOR RENT; INDIVIDUAL

LAND TYPE (SLTY)

DEFINITION:

To facilitate more specific searches within real estate advertisements, SLTY indexes land types. Descriptive phrases referring to land have been standardized into an authority list (See Field Authority Lists). The original language of land references may be retained in the DESCRIPTION (DE) field. This field is not used by New Brunswick and Newfoundland.

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, phrase

EXAMPLES:

ISLAND LOT; UPLAND; DYKELAND

IMPROVED LAND; FREEHOLD PROPERTY

LAND SIZE (SLSZ)

DEFINITION:

A further index to the land advertisements, this field records references to measurements, including acreage, lot areas/dimensions and building dimensions. For acreage references, the total of all lots for which acreage is given is recorded, rather than separate references to each lot size. The intention is to give a crude indicator of size as a means of identifying advertisements involving specific acreages, (such as 100,000 acres to indicate a township). Nova Scotia data consists of acreage references only; Prince Edward Island also includes lot and building dimensions in field. New Brunswick and Newfoundland do not use this field.

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, phrase

EXAMPLES:

2045 acres

120 FEET BY 40 FEET

LAND FEATURES (SLFE)

DEFINITION:

The content of this field includes anything found on land that enhances its value and is therefore mentioned in an advertisement. Usually this means some kind of building or structure. Buildings can be further described in terms of their interiors and reference to this detail is included in this field. Also, it is possible to have descriptions of land features without having any reference to land itself (e.g. rooms for rent). This field is not used in New Brunswick and Newfoundland. (See Field Authority Lists).

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, phrase

EXAMPLES:

COTTAGE; HOUSE; BARN

WHARF; OFFICE; KILN

PLACE – COUNTRY / PROVINCE / STATE (SPCRY)

DEFINITION:

This field and the next three (PLACE – COUNTY (SPCTY); PLACE – MUNICIPALITY (SPMUN); PLACE – STREET / ADDRESS / LANDMARK (SPADL)) index place references at a number of levels. They provide an essential link between commodities, services, individuals and regions. All mentions of place are included, such as place of business, place specified by an advertiser, place where land is to be sold. It does not include, however, the provenance of individual commodities such as Irish linen, Philadelphia flour, or Cork butter. This broadest of the place fields includes references to countries, provinces and states.

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, phrase

EXAMPLES:

UNITED STATES; MASSACHUSETTS

ENGLAND; IRELAND; NEWFOUNDLAND

PLACE – COUNTY (SPCTY)

DEFINITION:

County references are not usually stated in advertisements, but county names are recorded by cataloguers to identify common data according to geography. County references are made only for places within the originating province. For example, survey projects originating in Prince Edward Island provide county references for places named within Prince Edward Island but not for places found outside Prince Edward Island. Twentieth-century names and boundaries are used. Newfoundland does not use this field.

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, phrase

EXAMPLES:

ST. JOHN COUNTY; HANTS COUNTY

KINGS COUNTY; QUEENS COUNTY

PLACE – MUNICIPALITY (SPMUN)

DEFINITION:

The most important of the place fields, SPMUN indicates all references to cities, towns, villages and smaller settlements either stated in an advertisement or implied by its content. An “implied” municipality is usually the community in which the newspaper is published. In this case, it is assumed that locality was not mentioned in the advertisement because it was understood.

These “implied” references are included to make possible comprehensive retrieval on the basis of locality. All references to municipalities (including vessel provenance) are recorded.

Twentieth-century place names are used where they exist. Obsolete place names are retained in the DESCRIPTION (DE). In Nova Scotia, township references are included in this field because they lack modern geographical equivalents.

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, phrase

EXAMPLES:

SAINT JOHN; HORTON TOWNSHIP
CORK; CHARLOTTETOWN; BAY FORTUNE

PLACE – STREET / ADDRESS / LANDMARK (SPADL)

DEFINITION:

The most specific of place references, SPADL consists of street and landmark locations for places named in SPMUN. Street references are most often given for the city or town in which the newspaper was published. “Landmarks” are points of reference used in advertisements to describe relational location when sites could not be pinpointed (e.g. by street number). In urban areas, they are usually prominent buildings, wharves, structures or meeting places and are usually prefaced with phrases such as “across from”, “next to” or “adjoining”. Descriptions of rural areas include specific farms or roads or geographical features such as rivers or beaches. Landmark information was included in this field to provide detailed spacial data as context for economic, political, religious and social activities, particularly in urban areas. Street, road, and wharf references have been inverted (e.g. STREET, WATER, 42).

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, phrase

EXAMPLES:

GOLDEN FISH; STREET, WATER, 42
APOTHECARIES HALL; WHARF, FAIRBANKS

PERSON / BUSINESS (SPER)

DEFINITION:

All individuals named in an advertisement, regardless of how marginal their role, are recorded in this field. Names are recorded in the format surname comma (,) first name (e.g. CALDWELL, SARAH). References to persons named in company titles (e.g. “A. & L. SMITH LTD.”) are included in this field as individual names (SMITH, A.; SMITH, L.). Surnames mentioned as part of a company name but without a first name or initial (e.g. “Cook’s Fish Market”) are not included in SPER. Company names are recorded in the field for business name (see SBUSNM).

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, phrase

EXAMPLES:

CAIRNS, THOMAS; HEARD, WILLIAM
O’DONNELL, JOHN F.; DICKSON, C.

OCCUPATION (SOCC)

DEFINITION:

Occupations stated in advertisements or assumed from their content are listed in this field. "Implied" occupations are recorded to index vocational activities described in advertisements. For examples, "Mr. Alpheus Jones has for sale at his store..." is a common format used in advertisements to describe the selling of goods. In such a description it is never stated that "Mr. Jones" is a "merchant", but because of the activity described in the ad, "merchant" will be recorded in SOCC. An implied occupation is defined by an individual's activity in a specific ad and therefore could change from ad to ad or in some instances not exist at all. SOCC can be manipulated to reveal the number of records containing a specific occupation, but it cannot tabulate the number of individuals having that occupation. An authority list (See Field Authority Lists) standardizes occupational references. To distinguish between stated and assumed occupations and to link occupations to individuals, DISPLAY the field DE for the records in question.

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, phrase

EXAMPLES:

MERCHANT; CARPENTER

SHIP CAPTAIN; WETNURSE

BUSINESS NAME (SBUSNM)

DEFINITION:

Company or business name is recorded here in exactly the same form as it occurs in an advertisement. That is to say that personal names that form part of a company name are not inverted in data entry to aid in alphabetical retrieval of surnames (See SPER).

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, phrase

EXAMPLES:

A & J DUNCAN & CO.; BOSTON MERCANTILE ACADEMY

PIERS & HILL; CITY DRUGSTORE

TYPE OF BUSINESS (SBUSTY)

DEFINITION:

Individuals may have occupations; companies are likewise identified by their type of business. In the same way that SOCC is a list of occupations for individuals named in advertisements, SBUSTY provides a controlled index to the kind of activity or type of business advertised by companies named in SBUSNM.

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, phrase

EXAMPLES:

MERCANTILE; DRUGSTORE

AUCTIONEERING; INSURANCE AGENCY

VESSEL NAME (SVNAM)

DEFINITION:

This field and SVTY and SVPROV provide cross-referenced data on water transport. SVNAM contains the names of all vessels referred to in advertisements, whether they are carriers of goods or are listed as “port news” (18th-century Nova Scotia only). To facilitate alphabetical retrieval, only names are entered; descriptors such as “H.H.” or “Am”, “American” or “S.S.” are preserved in the DESCRIPTION (DE).

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, phrase

EXAMPLES:

PACIFIC; GRAND LAKE

ANN; MINERVA

VESSEL TYPE (SVTY)

DEFINITION:

Vessel types are recorded here according to a standardized authority list (See Field Authority Lists). Sometimes vessel types can be matched to vessel names (SVNAM) and vessel provenance (SVPROV); other times only one or the other of these points of information accompany vessel type and in some instances a kind of vessel is named without any additional information.

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, phrase

EXAMPLES:

BRIGANTINE; SLOOP

SHIP; STEAMER

VESSEL PROVENANCE (SVPROV)

DEFINITION:

The immediate provenance (place of origin) of vessels listed in one or both of the fields SVNAM and SVTY. This is not necessarily the port of registry of a vessel. In commodity advertisements, it usually represents the origin of a shipment of goods. Provenance is recorded exactly how it occurs in the advertisement.

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, phrase

EXAMPLES:

LONDON; GREENOCK

JAMAICA; BOSTON

SUBJECT – RAILWAY (SRAL)

DEFINITION:

This field is used in the same way as the SVNAM field to indicate the name of the carrier transporting goods. In this case, the names of railways are recorded according to a limited authority list. This field is used only by New Brunswick.

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, phrase

EXAMPLES:

INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY; GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY
SAINT JOHN & MAINE RAILWAY

Field Definitions – Descriptive Fields

The focus of the ACNS database on advertisements for goods is reflected in the Descriptive fields, most of which organize commodities into broad groups to ease retrieval. The nine commodity fields represent the core of the database around which most of the other fields have been built. All searches for records containing individual commodities must include the field in which the commodity will be found. To understand the content of the various commodity fields and to match individual terms to their commodity groupings consult the supporting document THE ANY FILES. See also COMMODITY CATEGORIES AND RELATED SUB-CATEGORIES. The Descriptive fields also include fields for services (DESERV) and general information (DE). Because of the nature of the Descriptive fields and since they do not provide controlled indexes in the way most of the Subject fields do, an attempt has been made to retain as much of the language of the advertisement as possible, including verbatim descriptions and obsolete spellings.

DESCRIPTION (DE)

DEFINITION:

This field provides the detail of advertisement content. It usually includes a summary statement regarding the nature of the advertisement or announcement either taken verbatim from the source or paraphrased for the sake of brevity. It often consists of whatever information remains after all other indexing has been completed. In addition, the DE is used to retain connections between pieces of information transcribed into separate fields (e.g. links between Person and Occupation, Vessel Name, Vessel Type and Vessel Provenance). This field is searchable by keyword.

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, free text

EXAMPLES:

FOR SALE NEXT TUESDAY, AT 11 O'CLOCK, AT THE SUBSCRIBER'S STORE. SUNDRY OTHER GOOD TERMS – UNDER 15 ENGLISH POUNDS TO 30 POUNDS, THREE MONTHS. 30 ENGLISH POUNDS TO 75 ENGLISH POUNDS, FOUR MONTHS. OVER 75 ENGLISH POUNDS, SIX MONTHS.

A WILTON GREEN CARPET WAS STOLEN FROM MR. ROUBAELET AT THE PONTAC. IT WAS BOUND WITH GREEN TAPE, 17 FEET LONG AND 14 FEET WIDE. A REWARD OF ONE GUINEA OFFERED, NO QUESTIONS ASKED.

LIVE ANIMALS (DELA)

DEFINITION:

A classification of commodities consisting of wild and domestic animals including pets, but only living animals.

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, partial phrase

EXAMPLES:

BULL, 1 PURE-BRED, AYRESHIRE; RAM, SHROPSHIRE
GEESE, 112; TURKEYS, 20; DUCKS, 8 PAIR

FOOD / FEED / BEVERAGES / TOBACCO (DEFFBT)

DEFINITION:

A large category including all food items, such as animal products, cereals, fruit, vegetables, all beverages, feed for animals and tobacco products.

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, partial phrase

EXAMPLES:

POTATOES, NEW, 300 BARRELS; PORK, PRIME, 40 BARRELS
PEPPER; CINNAMON; PORTER, BOTTLED; SNUFF, IN BOTTLES

CRUDE MATERIALS (DECM)

DEFINITION:

Inedible primary products, including furs, seeds and nursery stocks, agricultural products such as cotton and wool, metals, minerals, waste and scrap material. It includes the sub-categories MINERAL, SKIN – CRUDE and WOOD – CRUDE.

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, partial phrase

EXAMPLES:

COALS, ENGLISH, STRONGLY RECOMMENDED TO HOUSEKEEPERS AS BURNING
WITHOUT WASTE; FEATHERS; CORD-WOOD

FABRICATED MATERIALS (DEFM)

DEFINITION:

The output resulting from the processing of primary goods, including ceramics, chemicals, cordage, ornaments, textiles, and fabricated metal, skin, stone, textile and wood products.

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, partial phrase

EXAMPLES:

BRICK-DUST, BRISTOL; POLISH, PLATE, FURNITURE; KERSEYMERES; MARBLE WORK;
FENCE RAILS

MACHINERY (DEMACH)

DEFINITION:

Manufactured end products consisting of an engine or a mechanism of interrelated moving parts.

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, partial phrase

EXAMPLES:

FIRE-ENGINE; CAMERA; DIVING-APPARATUS; SEWING-MACHINES, SINGER'S NO.2

TRANSPORTATION / COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT (DETCE)

DEFINITION:

Manufactured end products related to movement on land or water or for communications.

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, partial phrase

EXAMPLES:

WHEELS, CART, 2 PAIRS; SADDLES, MEN'S; WOMENS' BRIGANTINES, NEW, FIVE OF THE FOLLOWING TONNAGE, 142, 184, 127,115, 118.

OTHER EQUIPMENT / TOOLS (DEOET)

DEFINITION:

Equipment not related to transportation or communication, (chiefly consisting of armaments), and tools and hardware.

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, partial phrase

EXAMPLES:

RIFLES, 6; FOWLING-PIECES, 4, CART, 4 SETS; DUBBIN; COAL HUDS; RECKONERS; SCIZARS

PERSONAL HOUSEHOLD GOODS (DEPHG)

DEFINITION:

Inedible manufactured end products related to personal adornment, or used to furnish a household or maintain a family.

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, partial phrase

EXAMPLES:

FURNITURE, AT REDUCED PRICES; LOOKING GLASS, IN VARIETY; EAR-DROPS; EPAULETS; NEEDLE-CASES.

MISCELLANEOUS / END PRODUCTS / OTHER (DEMEP)

DEFINITION:

Inedible manufactured end products which are not included in other product classifications. It includes the sub-categories CONTAINERS, PAPER, and STATIONERY.

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, partial phrase

EXAMPLES:

CASES; CRATES; GOODS, ASSORTMENT OF SHOP AND FANCY BLANKS; SEAMAN'S ASSISTANTS; SERMONS

SERVICES (DESERV)

DEFINITION:

Products of a tertiary, or service nature. It includes professional, artisanal, educational, and technical services.

DATA CLASS:

alpha-numeric, phrase

EXAMPLES:

BLACKSMITH; ENGRAVER

Field Summary

MNEMONIC	LABEL
PAR	PARIS NUMBER
DOB	DATE OF BIRTH
DOC	DATE OF CHANGE
RL	RECORD LANGUAGE
ORPR	PROVINCE OF ORIGIN
CON	CONTRIBUTOR
CAT	CATALOGUER
CDTR	CATALOGUE TRANSCRIPTION DATE
CRN	RECORD NUMBER
CREM	CATALOGUER REMARKS
NPNAM	NEWSPAPER NAME
NPVOL	NEWSPAPER VOLUME NUMBER
NPISS	NEWSPAPER ISSUE NUMBER
NPPAG	NEWSPAPER PAGE NUMBER
NPCOL	NEWSPAPER COLUMN
NPDFA	DATE FIRST APPEARANCE
NPDCA	DATE CONTINUING APPEARANCE
NPILL	ILLUSTRATION
SUB	SUBJECT – GENERAL CONTEXT

SGRP	GROUP / ANNOUNCEMENT / TYPE
SCAT	PRODUCT CATEGORY CODE
SSCAT	PRODUCT SUB-CATEGORY CODE
SPROD	PRODUCT TRANSACTION
SLTR	LAND TRANSACTION
SLTY	LAND TYPE
SLSZ	LAND SIZE
SLFE	LAND FEATURES
SPCRY	PLACE – COUNTRY / PROVINCE / STATE
SPMUN	PLACE – MUNICIPALITY
SPCTY	PLACE – COUNTY
SPADL	PLACE – STREET / ADDRESS / LANDMARK
SPER	PERSON / BUSINESS
SBUSTY	TYPE OF BUSINESS
SOCC	OCCUPATION
SBUSNM	BUSINESS NAME
SVNAM	VESSEL NAME
SVTY	VESSEL TYPE
SVPROV	VESSEL PROVENANCE
SRAL	SUBJECT – RAILWAY
DE	DESCRIPTION
DELA	LIVE ANIMALS
DEFFBT	FOOD / FEED / BEVERAGES / TOBACCO
DECM	CRUDE MATERIALS
DEFM	FABRICATED MATERIALS
DEMACH	MACHINERY
DETCE	TRANSPORTATION / COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT
DEOET	OTHER EQUIPMENT / TOOLS
DEPHG	PERSONAL HOUSEHOLD GOODS

DEMEP	MISCELLANEOUS / END PRODUCTS / OTHER
DESERV	SERVICES

Commodity Categories and Related Sub-Categories

Abbreviated form of sub-category names are shown in brackets as they would appear in the database.

DELA LIVE ANIMALS

LIVESTOCK (LIV)

DEFFBT FOOD / FEED / BEVERAGES / TOBACCO

ALCOHOL-SPIRITS (ALCH)

BEVERAGE (BEV)

CEREAL-GRAIN (CGR)

DAIRY (DY)

FISH (FIS)

FOOD (FD)

FRUIT-VEGETABLE (FRV)

SPICE (SPC)

SUGAR (SUG)

TOBACCO (TOB)

DECM CRUDE MATERIALS

MINERAL (MIN)

SKIN – CRUDE (SCR)

WOOD-CRUDE (WCR)

DEFM FABRICATED MATERIALS

CERAMIC (CER)

CHEMICAL (CHEM)

CORDAGE (CORD)

METAL-FABRICATED (MFAB)

ORNAMENTS (ORN)

SKIN-FABRICATED (SFAB)

STONE-FABRICATED (MFAB)

TEXTILE (TEX)

TEXTILE-FABRICATED (TEXF)

WOOD-FABRICATED (WFAB)

DEMACH MACHINERY
MACHINERY (MACH)

DETCE TRANSPORTATION / COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT
MARINE (MAR)
TRANSPORTATION-COMMUNICATION (TRCOM)

DEOET OTHER EQUIPMENT / TOOLS
AGRICULTURE (AGR)
ARMAMENTS (ARM)
HARDWARE (HARD)
TOOLS (TOOL)

DEPHG PERSONAL HOUSEHOLD GOODS
BEDDING (BED)
CLOTHING (CL)
COSMETIC-TOILETRIES (COS)
CUTLERY (CUT)
FASHION-ACCESSORY (FASH)
FOOTWEAR (FOOT)
FURNITURE (FURN)
GAMES-TOYS (GAME)
HOUSEHOLD GOODS (HOUSE)
JEWELLERY (JEWL)
KITCHENWARE (KITCH)
LIGHTING (LIGHT)
MEDICAL AIDS (MED)

DEMEP MISCELLANEOUS / END PRODUCTS / OTHER
CONTAINERS (CONT)
PAPER (PAP)
STATIONARY (STAT)

ACNS Data Content By Contributor

The underlying organizational philosophy of ACNS is that each of the four database participants are required to contribute data on advertisements for commodities and services, but that each is also free to include information on other types of newspaper advertisements and announcements as long as it is suited to the database field structure. The kinds of information that each provincial project has appended to ACNS has been determined by the research priorities and internal needs of the local sponsoring agency. As well, variable content has been

influenced by the autonomous status of each project. The content contributed to the database by each member is as follows:

- NEWFOUNDLAND: Commodity and service advertisements from select Newfoundland newspapers (principally St. John's), 1811-1899. The earliest Newfoundland material added to the database must be used cautiously because the recording methodology predated the current database field structure and vocabulary controls.
- NEW BRUNSWICK: Commodity and service advertisements except those for mail-order goods, commodities available "at all fine stores", and shipments expected daily, and not including services advertised for places outside New Brunswick. The New Brunswick data also includes some business announcements and references to manufacturing. Data has been extracted from select Saint John newspapers for extant issues for the years 1800-1833, 1840, 1842, 1850, 1860, 1862, 1863, 1879, 1880, 1890, 1897.
- PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND: All commodities and services. As well, Prince Edward Island's portion of the database contains all land advertisements excluding only those that contain no more information than the fact that land and/or a dwelling has been offered for sale. It also includes virtually all business announcements, social events such as concerts, contests and exhibitions, employment notices, crime, government regulations, lotteries and shipping references. Data has been extracted from select Charlottetown newspapers for years in the period 1850-1895.
- NOVA SCOTIA: The Nova Scotia project contains virtually all local information found in extant Nova Scotia newspapers (Halifax and Shelburne only) and includes data from years in the period 1752-1799. The only content of these eighteenth-century newspapers not included is foreign news, foreign literature and reprinted N.S. statutes. The Nova Scotia segment as yet does not contain any data for the period 1800-1900.

Field Authority Lists – Introduction to the Authority Lists

The authority lists are intended to provide vocabulary control for the Subject fields. The Subject fields are listings of terms used to index documents to express content from a number of levels and perspectives. To group shared data in a specific field for retrieval, means that information always must be described in exactly the same way within that field. The authority lists standardize terminology for retrieval. Together these lists comprise an artificial language that links the language of the source (historical newspapers) to the language of the database user.

They therefore do not necessarily conform to the exact wording of advertisements. Terms are, however, representative of the content of advertisements. It should be noted that the authority list for SUB differs from the others in that it is not derived from the database, but is directly extracted from an external source (Outline of Cultural Materials).

All other authority lists have been derived from information encountered in advertisements to date: as such, they are not exhaustive listings of all possibilities. The "PREFERRED TERM"

may be the one most often encountered in advertisements, or it may be one that does not actually appear in the source, but which best incorporates the term’s synonyms and quasi-synonyms found in advertisements. “USE FOR” does not include all possible variations, but only those words and phrases that as yet have been transcribed from advertisements. All terms (except in the authority list for SUB) occur in the singular for the sake of consistency and in keeping with data entry conventions.

- Product Transaction (SPROD) Authority List
- Occupation (SOCC) Authority List
- Land Type (SLTY) Authority List
- Land Features (SLFE) Authority List
- Announcement Type (SGRP) Authority List
- Subject Cross-Reference (SUB) Authority List
- Railway (SRAL) Authority List

Field Authority Lists – Product Transaction (SPROD) Authority List

SPROD is used only for commodity advertisements to indicate the type of transaction or exchange involving goods. Because of the project’s original interest in imported goods, this field also distinguishes between imports and goods locally produced in the province in which the newspaper originated. “Auction” has been included on the list because of its prevalence as a medium of exchange. The following phrases are usually found in combination in this field:

PREFERRED TERM:	USE FOR:
FOR SALE	
IMPORTED, STATED	“lately imported” “of recent importations” “just arrived from Boston”
IMPORTED, ASSUMED	all goods obviously not made locally at the time of the advertisement
LOCAL, STATED	“Mr. Benson has for sale chairs lately made at his factory”
TO BUY	call for tenders; local produce wanted
AUCTION	public auction; sold at public vendue

Field Authority Lists – Occupation (SOCC) Authority List

Occupations stated in advertisements or assumed from their content are listed in the field SOCC. “Implied” occupations are recorded to index vocational activities described in advertisements. An implied occupation is defined by an individual’s activity in a specific ad and therefore could change from ad to ad or in some instances not exist at all.

PREFERRED TERM:	USE FOR:
ACCOUNTANT	book-keeper
ADMINISTRATOR	government servants including: clerk (Clerk of Inferior Court, Clerk of the Licenses, Clerk of the Market, Clerk of Quarter Sessions, Prothonotary), secretary, commissioner, etc.
ADVERTISER	
AGENT	insurance dealer, land agent, shipping agent
APPRENTICE	
ARMOURER	
ARTIST	
ATTORNEY	barrister lawyer attorney at law notary public prosecutor
AUCTIONEER	
BAKER	
BANKER	
BARBER	
BLACKSMITH	
BOOKBINDER	
BRAZIER	
BREWER	
BRICKLAYER	
BROKER	ship broker

BUTCHER	“owner of a slaughterhouse”
CABINETMAKER	
CANDLE MAKER	tallow chandler
CARDER	
CARPENTER	
CARVER	stone carver, wood carver
CAULKER	
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR	clerk of vestry, church warden and all church officials except clergy
CLERGYMAN	priest, minister, reverend
CLOTHIER	
COACHMAN	cabman, stage driver
COMMISSARY	assistant commissary assistant commissary general commissary clerk commissary general commissariat officer naval storekeeper navy victualling officer quartermaster
CONFECTIONER	
CONSTABLE	
COOK	
COOPER	
COPPERSMITH	
COURT OFFICER	notary, coroner, provost marshal
CURER	meat-curer
CUTLER	
DENTIST	dental surgeon
DISTILLER	
DOCTOR	physician, surgeon, medical advisor, medical examiner
DRAYMAN	truckman

DRUGGIST	pharmacist
DYER	
ENGINEER	
ENGRAVER	
FARMER	
FARRIER	
FERRYMAN	
FISHERMAN	
FISHMONGER	
FOREMAN	overseer (in the labour sense)
FURRIER	
GARDENER	
GOLDSMITH	
GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL	officials who are not administrators
GOVERNOR	
GUNSMITH	
HABERDASHER	milliner
HABIT-MAKER	
HAIRDRESSER	
HOSTLER	groom
INNKEEPER	owner of "house of entertainment" boardinghouse keeper hotel keeper innholder tavern-keeper
IRONMONGER	
JEWELLER	
JOINER	
JUSTICE	chief justice judge justice of the peace

	justice of the sessions
LABOURER	country worker, farm labourer
LOCKSMITH	
MANUFACTURER	
MARINER	boatman, sailer, seaman
MASON	stone mason
MAYOR	
MERCER	
MERCHANT	bookseller commission merchant dealer dry goods merchant grocer shopkeeper stationer storekeeper trader vintner
MIDWIFE	
MILITARY OFFICER	
MILLER	
MINER	
MORTICIAN	undertaker
NURSE	nanny, nurser, nursery maid
PAINTER	gilder, glazer
PAWNBROKER	
PERFORMER	actress, actor, musician, singer
PHOTOGRAPHER	
PLUMBER	
POLITICIAN	governor, lieutenant-governor, elected representative
POSTMASTER	deputy postmaster
PUBLISHER	

QUARRYMAN	
RIGGER	
SADDLER	
SAILMAKER	
SEAMSTRESS	dressmaker
SERVANT	
SHERIFF	high sheriff
SHIP CAPTAIN	master of vessel
SHIP-CHANDLER	
SHIPWRIGHT	boatbuilder, shipbuilder
SHOEMAKER	bootmaker, cordwainer
SLAVE	
SOAP-BOILER	
SOLDIER	
SPINNER	
STATIONER	
STEVEDORE	
SURVEYOR	surveyor of highways, surveyor of His Majesty's Woods
TAILOR	taylor, breeches-maker
TANNER	
TEACHER	
THEATRE-MANAGER	
TINSMITH	
TOBACCONIST	
UNDERWRITER	
UPHOLSTERER	
WAITER	
WATCHMAKER	
WEAVER	

WETNURSE	
WHARFINGER	
WHEELWRIGHT	
WIG-MAKER	
WRITER	author, playwright

Field Authority Lists – Land Type (SLTY) Authority List

The field SLTY indexes kinds of land and references to non-structural improvements to land (garden, dykeland, well, but not fence or building etc.)

PREFERRED TERM:	USE FOR:
BUILDING LOT	
CLEARED LAND	cleared upland
COMMON LOT	common
DYKELAND	dyked marsh, dyked meadow
FARM	plantation
FREEHOLD PROPERTY	
GARDEN	
GRANT	reserved land
IMPROVED LAND	cultivated land, improved lot, tillage
INTERVALE	
ISLAND	
ISLAND LOT	
LEASEHOLD PROPERTY	
MARSH	non-dyked, undyked, salt marsh, salt meadow
ORCHARD	
PASTURE	grassland, hay, meadow, pasturage, pasture lot
QUARRY	

TOWN LOT	
UNIMPROVED LAND	unimproved upland
UNSPECIFIED LAND	lot, field, ground, parcel, plot, tract, yard, courtyard
UPLAND	
WATER	cove, harbour, river, stream (where mention of water is intended to enhance the value of the real estate)
WATER LOT	fish lot
WELL	
WILDLAND	outland
WOODLOT	forest, timber, uncleared land, wooded, woods, softwood, hardwood

Field Authority Lists – Land Features (SLFE) Authority List

The content of this field (SLFE) includes anything structural found on land that enhances its value and is therefore mentioned in an advertisement.

PREFERRED TERM:	USE FOR:
APARTMENT	
BARN	stable, cow house, dairy, granary, hay house, pighthouse
COTTAGE	
DISTILLERY	
FACTORY	carriage factory, lobster factory
FARM	
FENCE	
FISHING BUILDING	bait house, fish house
FOUNDRY	
HOUSE	dwelling, mansion, tenement

HOUSE INTERIOR	attic, cellar, eating room, garret
INN	hotel, "house of entertainment", public house, tavern
KILN	
MARKET	market house, market stall
MILL	carding mill, grist mill, saw mill
OFFICE	outoffice, counting house
OUTBUILDING	bake house bake oven cook house back building coach house greenhouse outhouse shed smoke house wash house woodshed workshop
SHOP	all craftsmen's shops in which production and repair takes place
SMITHY	blacksmith's shop, forge
STORE	all retail outlets, including "stand for business"
WAREHOUSE	storehouse, ware rooms
WHARF	breakwater, pier

Field Authority Lists – Announcement Type (SGRP) Authority List

The field SGRP draws together advertisements under general headings which refer to the most obvious aspects of their content. The largest groupings are COMMODITY and SERVICE.

PREFERRED TERM:	USE FOR:
BUSINESS ACCOUNTING	calling of debts, payment of accounts between individuals and/or companies

BUSINESS ALTERATION	change of business practice, change of ownership, change of management, expansion, re-opening, transfer, renaming, improvement, to let, for sale
BUSINESS ANNOUNCEMENT	business hours, postponement of a sale
BUSINESS CLOSURE	bankruptcy
BUSINESS OPENING	
BUSINESS ORGANIZATION	partnership notices – i.e. formation and dissolution of, and changes to partnerships
COMMODITY	commodities for sale or wanted to buy
COMMUNICATION	
CRAFTSMEN	
CRIME	
ELECTIONS	
ENTERTAINMENT	
GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES	administrative activities, regulations, post office
HEALTH	disease, epidemics, vital statistics
HIGHWAYS	road construction and repair
LAND	the sale or rental of real estate
MILITARY	
PERSONAL NOTICES	family relationships
POOR RELIEF	
PORT NEWS	
POSSESSIONS	lost, found and stolen moveables
PRIZE MONEY	
PROBATE	estate notices
RELIGION	
RUNAWAYS-SLAVERY	
SERVICE	
SOCIETIES	meetings of clubs and organizations

Field Authority Lists – Subject Cross-Reference (SUB) Authority List

Subject – General Context (SUB)

PREFERRED TERM	USE FOR:
AGRICULTURE	
ANIMAL HUSBANDRY	Animal Science, Applied Domesticated Animals Pastoral Activities
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION	Building Supplies Industries Building Trades, Misc. Carpentry Construction Masonry
COMMUNICATION	Postal System Press Public Opinion Telegraph
COMMUNITY	Congregations Death Dependency Disasters Family Relationships Population Composition Poverty Social Control Sodalities Structures, Community
EDUCATION	Educational System Skills, Transmission of

ENTERTAINMENT	Entertainment Spectacles Lectures Musical Productions Theatrical Productions Art and Recreational Supplies Industries
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FINANCE	Accounting Banking Individual Enterprise Insurance Investment Savings Speculation
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FINE ARTS	Dancing Decorative Art Drama Literature Music
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FISHING	Fishing Fishing Gear Marine Industries
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GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES	Administrative Agencies Government Enterprise Government Regulation Public Assistance Public Works Taxation
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JUSTICE	Justice, Execution of Litigation
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LABOUR	Labour Supply
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LAW	Administration Agency Contracts Crime Inheritance Probate
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	Ceramic Manufacture Clothing Manufacture Hardware Manufacture Jewellery Manufacture Metallurgy Shipbuilding Skins, Work in Smiths and Related Crafts Stone Industries Textile Manufacture Vehicle Manufacture Woodworking
MARKETING	Commissariat and Supply Marketing, Retail Marketing, Wholesale Property, Moveable Property, Real
MILITARY	Military Installations Military Organizations
OFFENSES	Nonfulfillment of Obligations Offenses Against the Person Offenses Against the State Property Offenses
POLITICAL BEHAVIOUR	Elections
PROCESSING INDUSTRIES	Beverage Industries Canning Industries Food Preparation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Preservation Meat Packing Industries Photography Printing Publishing Tobacco Industries
PROPERTY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leasing Property Acquisition Property Exchange Transactions Property Relinquishment Property Survey Renting Slavery
RECREATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gambling Hobbies Recreational Facilities Rest Days and Holidays
RELIGION	
SERVICE INDUSTRIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beauty Specialists Domestic Service Drinking Establishments Food Service Industries Garment Care Legal Personnel Medical Care Mortuary Specialists
SETTLEMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Facilities, Misc. Urban Land Use Mining
STRUCTURES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Architecture Business Structures Dwellings Educational Structures

	Industrial Structures Miscellaneous Structures Outbuildings Public Structures Recreational Structures Religious Structures
TRADE	Trade, Domestic Trade, Foreign
TRANSPORTATION	Emigration Highway Construction Highway Maintenance Highway Services, Auxiliary Highway Transport Immigration Migration, Internal Rail Transport Railways Travel Travel Services Water Transport Waterway Improvements
WAR	War, Instigation of Warfare

Drawn from George P. Murdock et al., Outline of Cultural Materials, 4th revised edition, New Haven, Connecticut, USA: Human Relations Area Files, Inc. © 1971.

Field Authority Lists – Railway (SRAL) Authority List

Subject – Railway (SRAL)

PREFERRED TERM:	USE FOR:
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GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY

INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY Inter-colonial Railway; I.C.R.

SAINT JOHN AND MAINE RAILWAY St. John & Me. Railway

SHORE LINE RAILWAY
