Canada's first national census in 1871 recorded detailed descriptions of over 45,000 industrial establishments in Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick. This previously unpublished manuscript information provides a rich and unique view of industrial activity in Canada just after Confederation. Researchers at the University of Guelph have developed an automated system for accessing and interpreting this wealth of historical data.

The CANIND71 project:

- Timely in Canada's 150th anniversary year: the 1871 census was Canada's first after Confederation and the only one for which manuscript industrial data survived
- Methods of accessing, analyzing and displaying data illustrate evolving digital methods
- Associated with Geography Department's graduates, students, staff and faculty for 25 years
- CANIND71 website at http://www.canind71.uoguelph.ca/ guides searches for enterprises, families and communities
- Research reports may be found in the Internet Archive Digital Library at ARCHIVE.ORG

The project advanced in four stages:

1. **Transcribing the Manuscript Census (1981-1990):** Information from the handwritten census schedules was carefully transcribed into a digital database (CANIND71) using a systematic standardized format. Records for each industrial establishment were given standardized industry codes and geo-referenced to allow for subsequent cartographic display of the data.

2. **Reconstructing the 1871 Census Boundaries (1985-1992):** No maps survived with the original 1871 census. Census district and sub-district boundaries were reconstructed from written reports and more recent extant maps. These maps were digitized into boundary files with the polygon ID's matching those in the database.

3. **Thematic Mapping of the Data on Microcomputer (1991-1997):** This poster displays a variety of computer-generated thematic maps that illustrate themes gleaned from the CANIND71 database, and experimenting with graphic design flexibility and symbolization capabilities of commercially available microcomputer mapping software. These maps were all created using Atlas*GIS or Atlas*MapMaker and output on a HP Paintjet printer (180 dpi).

4. **Creating the CANIND71 website at http://www.canind71.uoguelph.ca/ (2000-2006) to give an overview of the resource with access for searching it by up to 100 variables for each establishment.**

**Uses:**

The CANIND71 database offers scope for varied research in several disciplines. Prospective users include economic historians, social historians, labour historians, economists, sociologists, political scientists, historical geographers, industrial geographers, heritage conservationists and industrial archaeologists. There are many potential thesis topics for graduate students while datasets for particular topics or localities can form the basis of undergraduate class projects. Biographers want details on particular entrepreneurs in relation to others in their line of business. Local historians and genealogists are interested in specific businesses or proprietors in particular localities and regions.

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