



# Finding Data

**IAT 814**

November 17, 2017

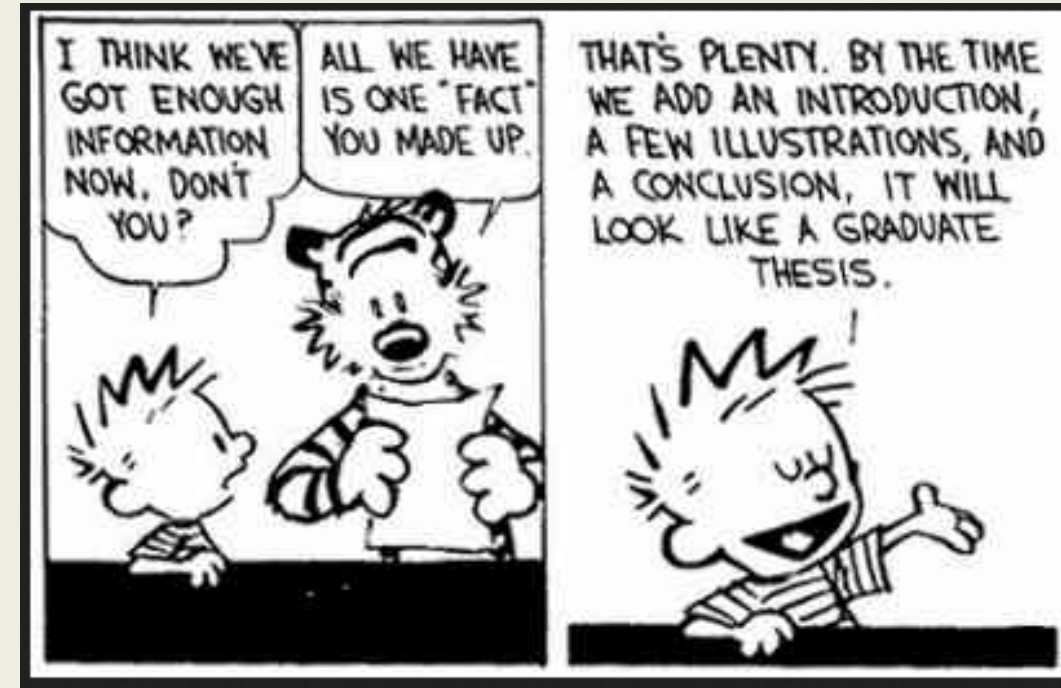
Carla Graebner

<cgraebne@sfu.ca>



# Overview

- Research approaches with data and statistics
- Navigating datasets
- Help?



<http://www.gocomics.com/calvinandhobbes/1989/10/31>

# Research Approach

## Start with a question

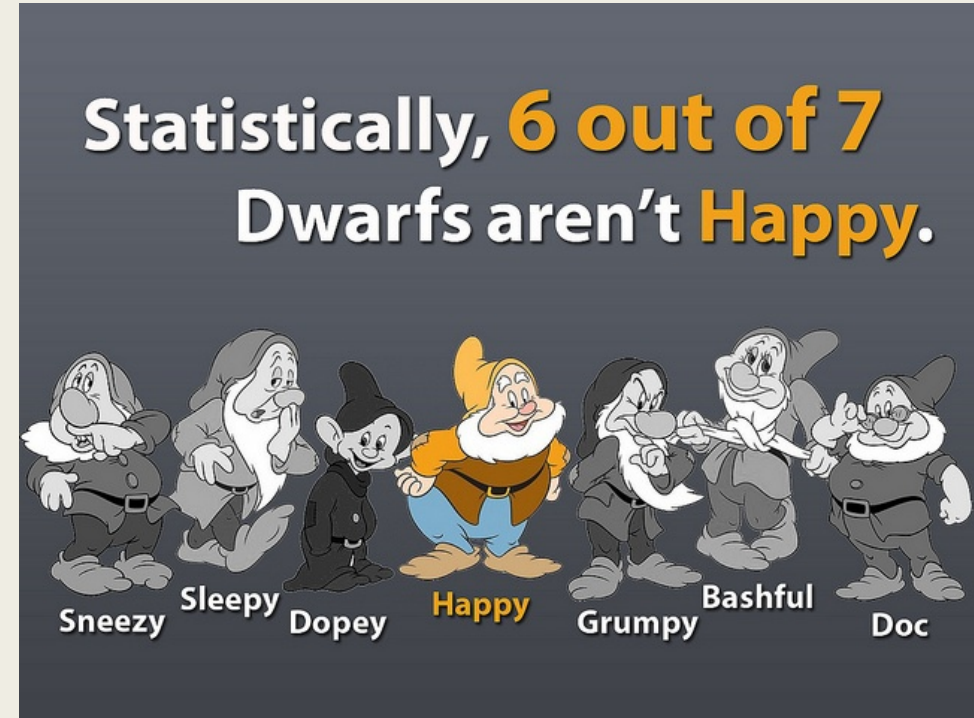
- Think about what kind of data you need and who may produce it
- Locate and assess data
- Access and analyze data

## Start with data

- [Visualize the data](#)
- Identify trends
- Identify gaps
- Formulate the question

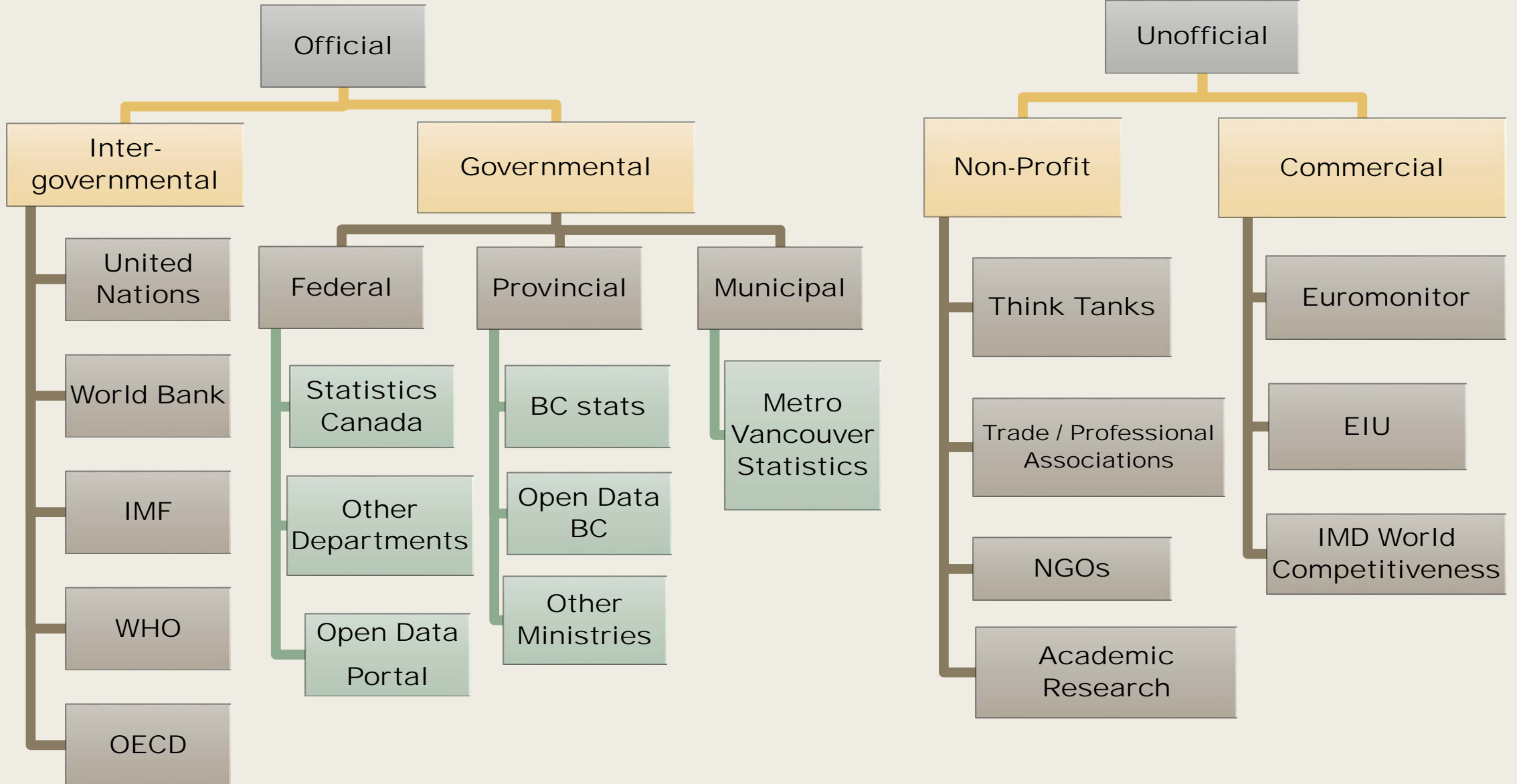
# Searching for data

- Subject / discipline specific repositories
- Secondary sources
  - *Public policy journals, monographs and white papers*
  - *Newspaper articles*
  - *The Daily*
- Data Centres:
  - *Statistics Canada*
  - *Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research*
- Google hack(s)
- Ask a librarian

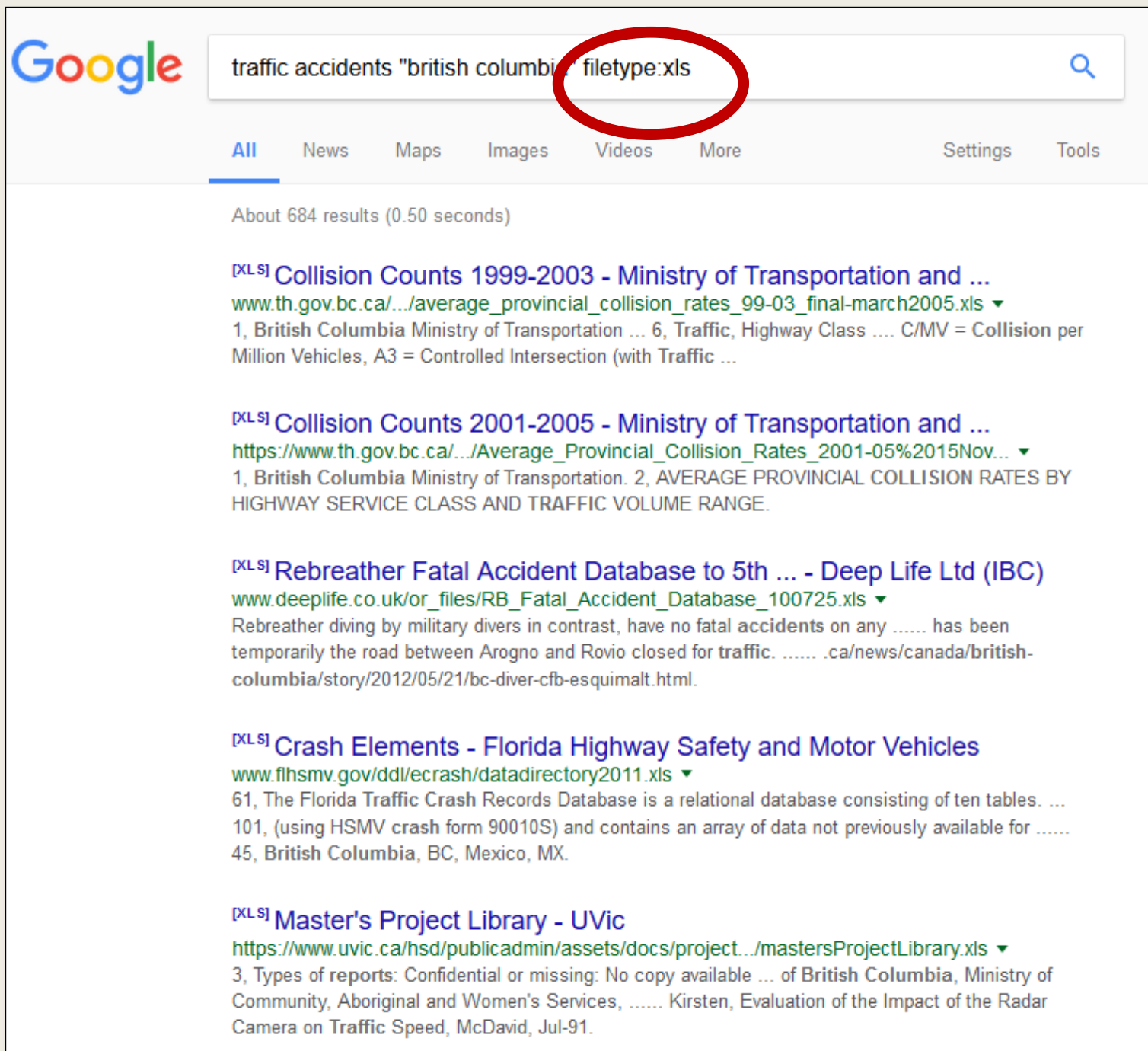


<https://www.articulatemarketing.com/blog/false-statistics-in-marketing-promotion>

# Sources by category



# Google hack:



Google

traffic accidents "british columbia" filetype:xls

All News Maps Images Videos More Settings Tools

About 684 results (0.50 seconds)

[XLS] Collision Counts 1999-2003 - Ministry of Transportation and ...  
[www.th.gov.bc.ca/.../average\\_provincial\\_collision\\_rates\\_99-03\\_final-march2005.xls](#) ▼  
1, British Columbia Ministry of Transportation ... 6, Traffic, Highway Class .... C/MV = Collision per Million Vehicles, A3 = Controlled Intersection (with Traffic ...



[XLS] Collision Counts 2001-2005 - Ministry of Transportation and ...  
[https://www.th.gov.bc.ca/.../Average\\_Provincial\\_Collision\\_Rates\\_2001-05%2015Nov...](#) ▼  
1, British Columbia Ministry of Transportation. 2, AVERAGE PROVINCIAL COLLISION RATES BY HIGHWAY SERVICE CLASS AND TRAFFIC VOLUME RANGE.

[XLS] Rebreather Fatal Accident Database to 5th ... - Deep Life Ltd (IBC)  
[www.deeplife.co.uk/or\\_files/RB\\_Fatal\\_Accident\\_Database\\_100725.xls](#) ▼  
Rebreather diving by military divers in contrast, have no fatal accidents on any ..... has been temporarily the road between Arogno and Rovio closed for traffic. .... .ca/news/canada/british-columbia/story/2012/05/21/bc-diver-cfb-esquimalt.html.

[XLS] Crash Elements - Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles  
[www.flhsmv.gov/ddl/ecrash/datadirectory2011.xls](#) ▼  
61, The Florida Traffic Crash Records Database is a relational database consisting of ten tables. ... 101, (using HSMV crash form 90010S) and contains an array of data not previously available for ..... 45, British Columbia, BC, Mexico, MX.

[XLS] Master's Project Library - UVic  
[https://www.uvic.ca/hsd/publicadmin/assets/docs/project.../mastersProjectLibrary.xls](#) ▼  
3, Types of reports: Confidential or missing: No copy available ... of British Columbia, Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services, ..... Kirsten, Evaluation of the Impact of the Radar Camera on Traffic Speed, McDavid, Jul-91.

# Google hack:




[All](#) [News](#) [Maps](#) [Images](#) [Videos](#) [More](#) [Settings](#) [Tools](#)

About 92 results (0.47 seconds)

**[PDF] Health Status of Children and Youth in Care in British Columbia**  
[www.health.gov.bc.ca/library/publications/year/2001/cyicreportfinal.pdf](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/library/publications/year/2001/cyicreportfinal.pdf) ▼  
Commission, and the British Columbia Vital Statistics ... Statistics. 3. Children - British Columbia – Mortality -. Prevention. 4. Children – British ..... traffic accidents.

**[PDF] Page 1 CLIFF 252099 Ministry of BRITISH Transportation COLUMBI...**  
[docs.openinfo.gov.bc.ca/Response\\_Package\\_TRA-2016-61883.pdf](https://docs.openinfo.gov.bc.ca/Response_Package_TRA-2016-61883.pdf) ▼  
There is no significant statistical difference regarding incident counts in the .... average increase in traffic accidents of 8% on ... workplaces in British Columbia.

**Traffic accidents - BC Archives - Royal BC Mus**  
[search.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca/traffic-accidents](http://search.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca/traffic-accidents) ▼  
Results 1 - 30 of 7832 - Part of Beautiful British Columbia maga  
on the outskirts of Vancouver. E-00277; Item; 1914.



Ministry of  
Transportation  
and Infrastructure

**BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION**

**DATE:** February 19, 2016

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Todd Stone, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

**ISSUE:** Daylight Savings Time

**SUMMARY:**

- The findings of studies which have analyzed the impact of Daylight Savings Time (DST) on motor vehicle accident rates are inconsistent.

# Consider

- Source:
  - *Reliability*
  - *Methodology*
  - *Codebooks and ReadMe files*
- Scope
  - *Variables*
  - *Geography*
  - *Time*
- Accessibility:
  - *Format*
  - *Availability*
- Presentation:
  - *Accurate or misleading*

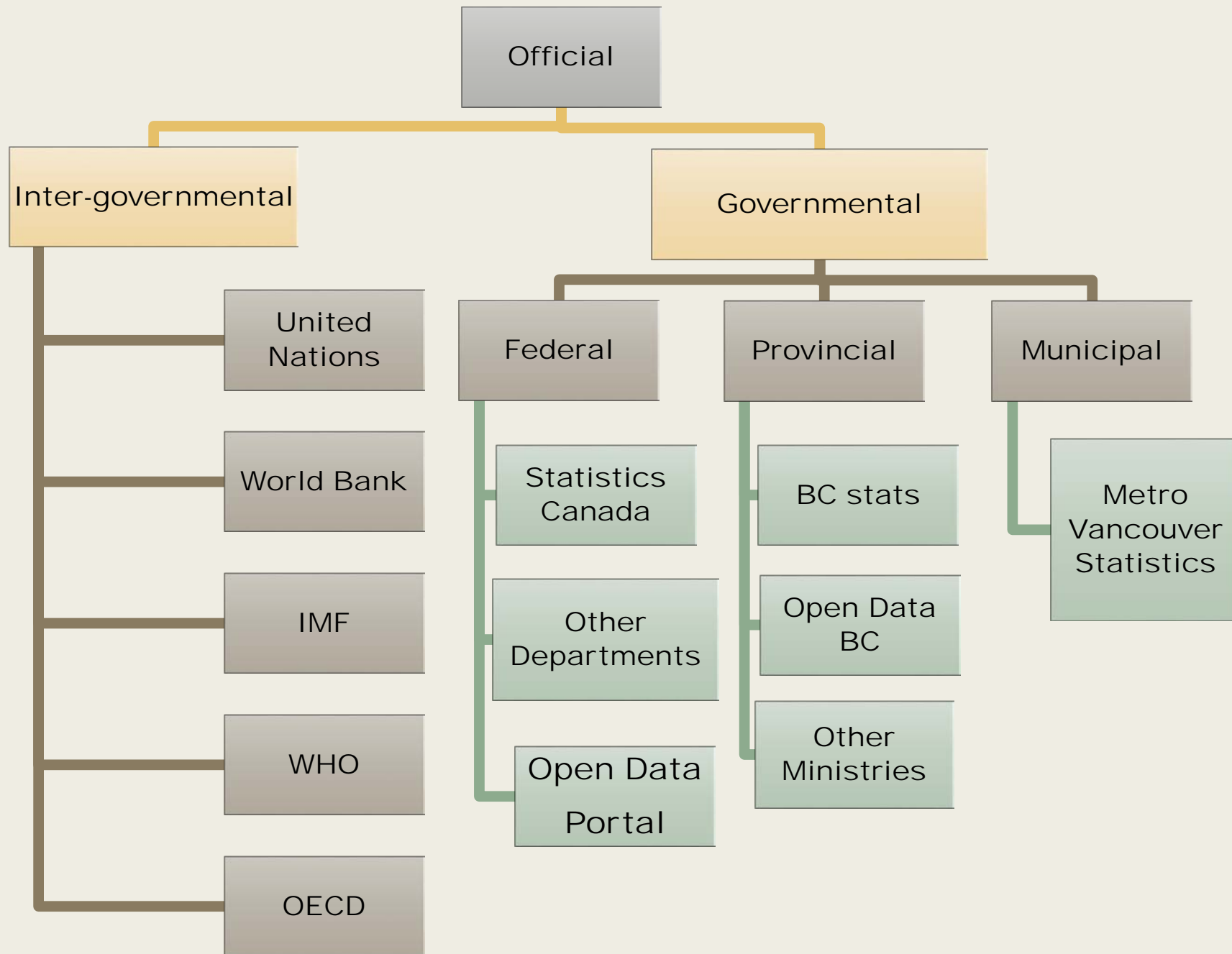




# Limits you may have to work around

- Timeframe available is too short
- Information is too old
- No info for your country of interest
- Wrong measurement (e.g. raw number versus %)
- Inconsistent methodology (over time, between governments)
- Hard to define your variable of interest





# Library

[A-Z DIRECTORY](#)

[SIGN IN](#)

☒ [This site](#) ☐ [SFU.ca](#)

## FIND

### ARTICLES, BOOKS, JOURNALS, MEDIA

[Articles, books, media \(Library catalogue\)](#)

[Article databases](#)

[Course reserves](#)

[A-Z journals list](#)

[New books](#)

## HELP

### OTHER MATERIALS

[Databases](#)

[Background sources](#)

[Reference type](#)

[Data + GIS](#)

[Open Library digitized collections](#)

## BORROW

### RESEARCH BY SUBJECT + COURSE

[Materials by subject + course](#)

[Course reserves](#)

[Contact a librarian](#)

## FACILITIES

### RESEARCH TOOLS

[Citation management software](#)

[Assignment calculator](#)

[Off campus + wireless access bookmarklet](#)

[Search other libraries](#)

## ABOUT

# Statistics Canada

- Census
- Surveys



- Website
  - *The Daily*
  - *Publications*
  - *CANSIM\**
- Canadian Census Analyzer\*
- Statistics Canada Web Data Server
- Public Use Microdata Files

# British Columbia

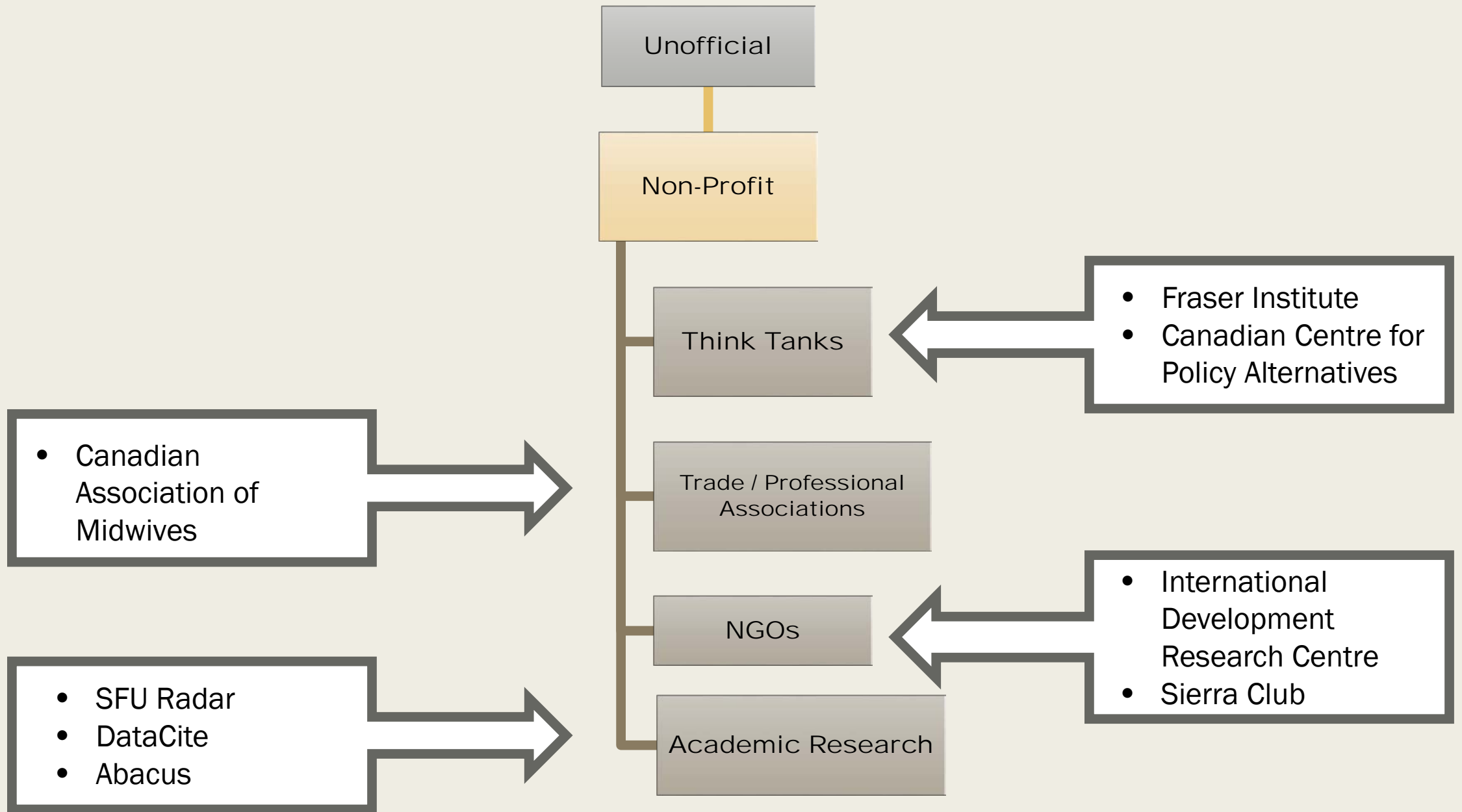
## ■ BC Stats

- *Business, Industry & Trade*
- *Economy*
- *Employment & Labour Market*
- *People, Population & Economy*
- *Nature & Environment*
- *Government*

## ■ BC Open Data

- *By sector*
- *By format*
- *By type*





# [Re]Sources

## Content

- Abacus
  - *Secondary data*
    - *Statistics Canada*
    - *Open data*
- Radar
  - *SFU's Research data repository*
  - *Primary data*
- Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)
  - *Curated data from researchers, government departments and agencies*
  - *Search by variable, study, theme or access data through the literature*

## Directories/registries

- [Re3data.org](https://re3data.org)\*
  - *Global registry of research data repositories*
- [DataCite](https://datacite.org)\*
  - *Registry of datasets, software and images*
  - *Provides DOIs*
  - *Link journal content with data*
- [Share.osf.io](https://share.osf.io)
  - *Directory of scholarly content including articles, presentations and datasets*



# Remember

- It's not you, it's the database
- Secondary sources are information gold mines
- Ask Google\*, really
  - [your search term here] site:.gc.ca or site:.org or site—you get it
- \*Don't give out your credit card information
- Ask a librarian



# For further assistance

Finding data & statistics: <http://www.lib.sfu.ca/find/other-materials/data-gis>

Carla Graebner [cgraebne@sfu.ca](mailto:cgraebne@sfu.ca)