



The Métis Archival Project, also known as MAP, is a multi-project research facility based at the University of Alberta. Since 1999, a group of dedicated researchers have been conducting archival research on Métis historical communities, Métis economies and Métis scrip under the direction of Dr. Frank Tough, the Principal Investigator (Faculty of Native Studies). MAP specializes in the digitization and analysis of archival documents pertaining to the historical Métis Nation, which allows for a greater accessibility of archival sources.

MAP employs undergraduate, graduate and non-student researchers throughout the year. Our team has gained valuable work experience in primary research, databasing techniques, writing, map-making, Geographical Information Systems, and other relevant computer applications. MAP researchers are also given the opportunity to travel widely to various archives where the original historical documents are located.

The innovative database approach MAP is utilizing in the study of archival records allows both researchers and community members to: preserve and store valuable documents and records; organize documents chronologically or thematically; sort material by individuals, communities or relations; spatially display analyzed data through the use of geographical information systems (GIS); access information easily; analyze data with digital aids; and copy records to CD/DVD ROM for wider community access.

By making relatively inaccessible archival records available to Métis communities and the general public, MAP is increasing the awareness of the important contribution the Métis have made to Canada's history and heritage.

MAP has secured project-by-project funding from several sources, most importantly, the Métis National Council, through its National Research Initiative. The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and the Prairie Métis Leaders Forum also supported database activity directed towards "Putting the Métis Back on the Map: An Historical Geography of the Métis Nation, 1870-1901." Additionally, the principal investigator and graduate/undergraduate students participate in the archival component of the Otipimsuak Project, which is supported by the Community University Research Alliance SSHRC.