

American Environmental History: A Historian's Whole Earth Catalog

Abstracts, periodical indexes, computer services, encyclopedias
Reviewed by Susan Haswell & Peter Thorsheim 12 October 1994

The following items represent a sampling from the treasure trove at Memorial Library's Reference department, Room 262. Many of the books also may be found at other campus libraries or at the Madison Public Library. For locations and call numbers, consult the MadCat electronic catalog (formerly NLS) or call the reference department at Madison Public Library, 266-6350. Many of the electronic data bases and abstracting services are accessible from terminals in libraries and computer labs across campus or on your home computer via WiscWorld. Others are "stand alone" products, available only at certain campus libraries. Memorial's Reference Department provides lists of journal and information databases specifying the general content and availability of each.

Sheehy, Eugene P., ed. Guide to Reference Books (10th ed.) Chicago: American Library Association, 1986. Memorial Library Reference desk; second copy in stacks, Z/1035.1/S43/1986

This hefty one-volume compendium is a useful introduction to the English-language reference universe. Essentially a bibliography of bibliographies, the book is organized into five sections: general reference works; the humanities; social and behavioral sciences; history and area studies; and science, technology and medicine. The section on United States history, pp. 994-1009, includes guides to research; bibliographies; manuscripts and archives; regional and local sources; societies; encyclopedias, dictionaries, and handbooks; atlases; source books; and biographies.

I. Guides to research methodology

Mann, Thomas. A Guide to Library Research Methods. New York: Oxford University Press, 1987. Memorial Library stacks, level 4M, Z/710/M23/1987

This well-written guide by a former librarian (who once also worked in a detective agency) was our favorite of several such handbooks available. According to Mann, "most researchers unconsciously work within a framework of very limited assumptions about the extent of information that is easily available to them." He encourages browsing library shelves as a surprisingly rewarding strategy for "discovery by serendipity." Similar guides of this nature include: Mona McCormick, The New York Times Guide to Reference Materials, Z/1035.1/M17/1986; and John Ullmann and Steve Honeyman, The Reporter's Handbook: An Investigator's Guide to Documents and Techniques, PN/4781/U56/1983.

II. Abstracting services

America: History and Life (see III., below)

Economic Abstracts. Memorial Reference stacks, HB 1/E24

Published as Economic Abstracts from 1953 to 1975, this service subsequently was renamed Key to Economic Science. As of 1987, the most recent bound volume in the stacks, it was published by the Netherlands Foreign Trade Agency as a "semi-monthly review of abstracts on economics, finance, trade and industry, management and labour." An author/subject index is at the back of each bound volume; but you might find it easier to use one of the on-line abstracting services covering the economics literature, such as Econlit (1969-date), Social Sciences Citation Index (1981-date), or Social Sciences Index (1983-date).

Sociological Abstracts. Memorial Reference main room, HM/1/S67

This service, "reflecting the world's serial literature in sociology and related disciplines," began in 1952. The abstracts are organized under 29 subject headings. Among the topics of interest to environmental historians are rural sociology and agriculture, sociology of knowledge/history of ideas; community/regional development; and environmental interactions. As with so many other fields, abstracts from the current literature of sociology are available now on-line. You might want to check the Social Sciences Citation Index (covering 1981-date), or the Social Sciences Index (1983-date).

Dissertation Abstracts. (see III., below)

III. On-line and CD-ROM services

Access to on-line and CD-ROM databases of articles and books has expanded tremendously in the past year at UW-Madison. Dozens of free computer indexes are now available at library terminals and at computer labs throughout campus. Given the ever-increasing number of databases, how do you know which to use for research in environmental history? One way to evaluate a database is to see whether it contains a citation you already know of in the topic you are searching, or whether it indexes a journal related to your topic. If not, try a different index. Once you have found a good database, experiment with various combinations of keywords and try entering truncated terms to discover what generates the most references to the kinds of material you want. If your search is unsuccessful, talk with a reference librarian. She or he might suggest a different strategy and can also connect you to on-line services that charge for each search. Databases vary in the ways they let you search, the commands they require, and the information they provide. Yet these differences are often superficial, and techniques useful in one may work with others. If you experience problems, try using the built-in help feature. Additional information is available on the QuickGuide information sheets hanging from the right side of the terminals in the Reference room. These guides explain which function keys to use in navigating each database and how to download information onto your own disk.

A good place to begin searching for books and articles on any historical topic is **America: History and Life**. The computerized version of this resource is far easier to use than its paper counterpart (SHSW Reading Room, Z/1236/A48). You can search by author, title, date of publication, keyword, format (book or article), source journal, language, period discussed, or all of the above. Computer coverage begins with materials published in 1983 and is updated three times a year. (For subject areas other than the U. S. and Canada, use **Historical Abstracts**, Memorial Reference, D1/H5. It provides the same search capabilities but does not cite book reviews).

The bound volumes of **Dissertation Abstracts** are now shelved in the Memorial Reference Room non-current collection, stack level 2M; the computerized version is much more useful. This database is divided into four chronological sections: 1861-1981, 1982-87, 1988-92, and 1993-present. Dissertations completed before 1982 are not abstracted on the computer version; for these, you need to check the paper copy of **Dissertation Abstracts**. For all other uses, stick with the computer version. Like most other computer databases, this one lets you search an immense quantity of material for any key word you choose, instead of having to come up with the specific subject heading used in the index. This feature is particularly useful to interdisciplinary work like environmental history, where relevant citations may exist in dozens of separate subject categories.

The **Social Sciences Index** and **Humanities Index** use the same commands as MadCat and are easy to use, but they do not allow sophisticated fine-tuning. They provide extensive coverage of book reviews from a wide range of journals. Each also produces a separate Citation Index, useful in tracing historiographical debates and gauging the impact of earlier books and articles.

OCLC is an extremely large and powerful on-line catalog of books and periodicals in major U. S. and Western European libraries. If it lists a book or journal, you can probably get it through interlibrary loan. Search by keyword, author, title, year or range of years, and type of publication. This database is available at one terminal in the main room of Memorial's Reference Department and at one terminal near the card catalog rooms on the second floor.

With half a million citations, the **Environmental Periodicals Bibliography** is perhaps the largest single source of articles on environmental topics. It contains information back to 1973 and is updated about once a year. Most of the articles listed pertain to current events or environmental research, but historical subjects are also included.

Lexis/Nexis is a truly amazing. It contains the complete text to news and legal documents from the past several years. It is not user-friendly; refer to the white QuickGuide for help. Twelve pages of its main directory are devoted to environmental topics, including federal agency decisions, Superfund and Toxic Release Inventory data, legislation, the Congressional Record, statutes, and state environmental regulations. It contains the complete text of articles from hundreds of U. S. and foreign newspapers, company reports, and broadcast transcripts. Because the University subscribes at a special educational rate, this database is not available between 1 and 3 p.m. weekdays.

Despite the incredible power of computerized searching, many materials are cataloged only on paper. Just as not all of Memorial Library's holdings from before 1976 are on MadCat, not all of the books and journals

available through interlibrary loan are on OCLC. If you are looking for materials published more than 15 years ago, be sure to check the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (Memorial Reference stacks, Z/6620/U5/N3). The first edition, which comprises over 700 volumes, cites every pre-1956 book held by a major U. S. library. Unfortunately, this edition lists books only by author. More recent editions (organized by title as well as by author) catalog books published in each subsequent five-year period up to 1978; annual editions cover the last 15 years. To avoid tedious searches among multiple editions for books published between 1959 and 1984, begin by looking up the author in the NUC's Index to Personal Names (Z/6620/U5/I53/1987; 2 vol.)

IV. Encyclopedic references

World Almanac and Book of Facts AY/67/N5/W7/12. Current issue available at Memorial Library Reference desk; previous years (going back to 1929) shelved in non-current collection, stack level 2M.

Published annually since 1868, the World Almanac represents "infotainment" at its best; trivia fans will appreciate the inclusion of curious lists such as "Notable Tall Buildings." More useful are the obituaries, a chronology of the year's events, and recent election results. The 1993 edition marked the 125th anniversary of World Almanac's publication with an article summarizing the contents of the 1868, 1893, 1943, and 1968 issues. Dictionary of American History (revised edition) New York: Scribner's, 1976. Memorial Reference stacks, E 174/D52/1976.

The original Dictionary project was launched in 1936 under the direction of James Truslow Adams. Its objective was "to do for factual history what the Dictionary of American Biography (see below) did for biography." The five original volumes were published in 1940. The revised edition, published in 1976, comprises seven volumes and an index. It features some 500 new entries, including expanded treatment of American Indian and African-American topics. Entries are organized in alphabetical order.

Morris, Richard B., ed. Encyclopedia of American History (6th edition) New York: Harper & Row, 1982. Memorial Library Reference stacks, E/174.5/E52/1982

This one-volume reference includes events up to Dec. 15, 1981. It's organized into four major sections: Basic Chronology; Topical Chronology ("the non-political aspects of American life," including sections on the American economy and science, invention, and technology); 500 Notable Americans (biographies in alphabetical order); and Structure of the Federal Government (including a list of Presidents and their terms of office and the full text of keystone documents such as the Constitution). The Encyclopedia obviously was designed as a companion to the dictionary, thesaurus, and other such "handy desk references" in a home library.

Dictionary of American Biography New York: Scribner's, 1928. Memorial Reference stacks, E 176/D56

Frederick Jackson Turner sat on the committee that designed the Dictionary project in 1922. Funding was provided by Adolph Ochs, publisher of the New York Times. The compilers agreed to leave out biographies of living persons. The original Dictionary filled 20 volumes; the accompanying index is organized by subject, contributor, birthplaces, school and colleges, occupations, and topics. Nine supplements have appeared since 1944. The most recent, published this year, covers the period 1971-1975.

Sills, David L., ed. International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences. New York: Macmillan, 1968. Memorial Library Reference stacks, H 40/+A2/I5

This 16-volume work originated with the Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences, published in the 1930s and funded by the Rockefeller, Carnegie, and Russell Sage Foundations. Work on an updated version began in 1955, under the guidance of a study group composed of anthropologists, sociologists, psychologists, political scientists, statisticians, historians, and economists. Accompanying the expanded version are an index, biographical supplement, and a volume of quotations. Wisconsin's Richard Hartshorne wrote an introduction to the entry on Geography; not surprisingly, historical geography is completely ignored.

Porter, Glenn, ed. Encyclopedia of American Economic History: Studies of the Principal Movements and Ideas. New York: Scribner's, 1980. Memorial Reference stacks, HC/103/E52

The impetus for this study, as stated in its preface, is the "despite its central place in the evolution of American civilization, economic history has never been very well integrated into most historians' or most educated Americans' view of the past." Its three volumes contain contributions by prominent economic historians. The information is organized into five parts: historiography of American economic history; chronology; framework of American economic growth (including articles on natural resources, energy, technology, transportation, and agriculture); the institutional framework; and the social framework.

Lesko, Matthew. **Information U. S. A.: The Ultimate Guide to the Largest Source of Information on Earth.** New York: Viking, 1983. Memorial Reference stacks, Z/674.5/U5/I53/1983

The author, founder of a private research firm called Washington Researchers, tells you everything you ever wanted to know about obtaining information (and freebies) from the federal government. Government departments and agencies are listed with guidance on how to get information from each.

U. S. Library of Congress, **A Guide to the Study of the United States of America: Representative Books Reflecting the Development of American Life and Thought.** Washington: Library of Congress, 1960. Memorial Reference stacks, Z/1215/U53 [1976 supplement, Z/1215/U54]

Chapters of special interest to environmental historians in this formidable one-volume work are VI, Geography (including historical geography and atlases); XII, Local History: Regions, States, and Cities; XIII, Travel and Travelers; XVII, Science and Technology; and XXVII, Land and Agriculture. The appendix lists selected readings in American studies, and there is an index. In 1976, a one-volume supplement to the Guide was published to cover the period 1956 to 1965.

V. Guides to manuscript collections

Although it is more than 30 years old, Hamer's **Guide to Archives and Manuscripts in the U.S.** (Memorial Reference stacks, CD/3022/A45, 1961) remains the most detailed one-volume description of major historical collections in this country, Puerto Rico, and the Panama Canal Zone. It lists fewer repositories than The Directory of Archives and Manuscript Repositories (see below), but it gives highly detailed accounts of those it does cover. For example, it notes that the Midwest Interlibrary Center (now called the Center for Research Libraries) contains 418 volumes and 6 portfolios of studies and reports produced by a Chicago smoke-abatement committee from 1912-15. The guide's index is extensive, but narrowly conceived. Rather than containing comprehensive subject categories, it's organized by the names of individuals, organizations, and seemingly arbitrary topic words from the text. The book contains no references to environment or pollution and only one to ecology (The Charles Adams Center for Ecological Studies in Kalamazoo). Try words like land resources, geology, geography, and pioneers.

As mentioned above, The Directory of Archives and Manuscript Repositories (Memorial Reference stacks, CD/3020/D49, 1988) provides information about many more archives than Hamer's guide. The trade-off is that each location receives comparatively brief and generalized treatment. Although it refers readers to guides published by individual repositories for further information, the directory's lack of specific detail can be frustrating. On the other hand, its index is much more comprehensive than Hamer's and includes references to broadly-defined subject areas. The book also provides useful practical information, such as hours of operation, phone numbers, and photocopy policies.

VI. Major periodical indexes

Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature. New York: H. W. Wilson. Main room, Memorial Library Reference, AI/3/R48.

Published continuously since 1900, the Readers' Guide is "a cumulative author/subject index to English language periodicals of general interest." Authors and subjects are listed alphabetically, with book reviews published in a separate section at the end of each volume. The operative term here is general interest: among the periodicals indexed are TV Guide and Sassy (whatever that is). However, such heavyweights as Atlantic Monthly, the New York Times Magazine, and Newsweek also are indexed, as well as several Canadian periodicals.

Social Science Index and **Humanities Index** (see III., above)

Book Review Digest. New York: H. W. Wilson. Memorial Reference stacks, Z/1219/C96

The Digest includes citations to and excerpts from reviews of current juvenile and adult literature, fiction and non-fiction, in English. Not included are government publications, textbooks, and technical books. Reviews are listed alphabetically by author. The Digest has been published continuously since 1905, thus providing coverage for years not included in on-line services such as Books in Print with Book Reviews Plus, which is available on the campus computer network.

New York Times Index. Main room, Memorial Reference, AI/21/N44.

Established in Sept. 1851, the Index provides the means to track a story of national or international importance over an extended period. For more information, see Grant W. Morse, Guide to the Incomparable New

York Times Index, AI/21/N453/M67, shelved next to the most current Index. If your research pertains to events taking place in 1980 or later, however, you might prefer using one of the on-line newspaper abstracting and indexing services, such as Nexis (including NYT full text, June 1980 to date) or Newspaper Abstracts Ondisc (selected articles, abstracted from 8 major U. S. newspapers, including NYT, 1985 to date)

Poole's Guide to Periodical Literature . Main room, Memorial Reference, AI/3/P7 [1908]

Poole's is the nineteenth-century equivalent to the Readers' Guide. It's an invaluable source of references to articles that appeared in popular American and British periodicals between 1802 and 1906. Unfortunately, its subject classifications are arbitrary and its citation system is cryptic. The guide is organized by the most important word in each article's title. Searching for articles on a particular topic becomes an exercise in thinking in nineteenth-century language (instead of air pollution, you need to use terms like smoke, nuisance, and noxious vapor). Once you discover a promising citation, you must decipher it. Each reference contains an abbreviated periodical name, a volume number, and a page number. Most likely, this volume number differs from the one on the issue you want. Nineteenth-century periodicals are notorious for instituting "new series" beginning at volume one when they thought their numbers were getting too high. Yet the compilers of Poole's pretended that such volume numbers continued where the publishers ended. To sort out this muddle, consult the Transfer Vectors Guide (AI/3/P7S; stored after the last volume of Poole's). It contains a key to the abbreviations and tables that convert the volume number from each Poole's periodical reference into the year, series number, and real volume number you need to find the article.

Another valuable guide to primary articles is the Wellesley Index to Victorian Periodicals (main room, Memorial Reference, Z/2005/H6). All of the periodicals it covers were British, but many of these had considerable American readerships. Organized by periodical, this guide provides a table of contents for each issue that appeared. An author index in the final volume directs you to each citation.

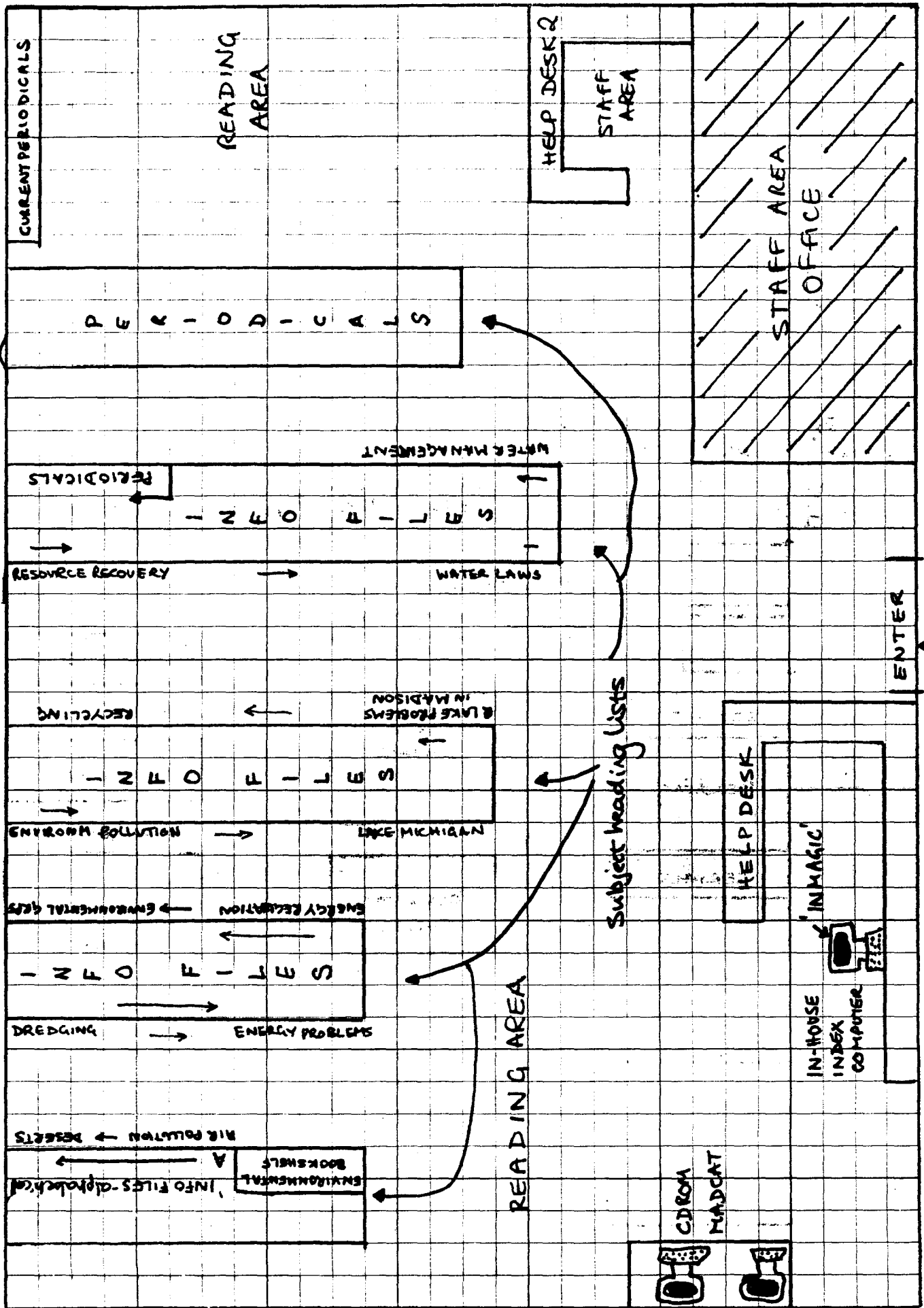
VII. And don't miss...

Conzen, Michael P., Thomas A. Rumney, and Graeme Wynn, eds. A Scholar's Guide to Geographical Writing on the American and Canadian Past. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1993. Geography Library E/179.5/C66/1993; MC/C433/Univ. of Chicago Research Paper, no. 235; SHSW Reading Room, Z/1247/C66/1993.

Salzman, Jack, ed. American Studies: An Annotated Bibliography. Cambridge, U. K.: Cambridge University Press, 1986. Memorial Reference stacks, E/169.1/A43/1986 [Supplement covering period 1984-1988, E/169.1/S243/1990]

Schlereth, Thomas J. Material Culture: A Research Guide. Memorial Reference stacks, E/161/M35/1985. Note article on reading the landscape by geographer Peirce F. Lewis, "Learning from Looking."

SCIENCE HALL RM 15 (basement) IES: ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES LIBRARY



Biology Library

Location: B146 Brige Hall, 430 Lincoln Drive, 262-2740
(Side Down just behind South Hall leads directly to library)

Architecture of Knowledge:

The Biology Library is center for research in the "hard," non-applied biological sciences as opposed to the applied science (e.g., forestry, soil science, wildlife ecology plant pathology) that are located in Steenbock Agricultural Library. This division in resources is evidence of the politics of science and the division of labor within a land-grant university.

As a result of its limited focus, the Biology Library resources focus on botany, zoology (not to be confused with wildlife ecology), ornithology, and aquatic biology. The Library is small and crowded with resources leaving little room to review materials. Like the Geology and Geophysics Library, this library's resources can be divided into the following categories:

- Σ Typical of the sciences, much of the material is located in specialized journals and serials. (call number starting with O). These journals are arranged alphabetically and are the single largest part of the collection. The collection is comprehensive and most journals are available from volume one to the present.
- Σ The available reference material is also rich and is located in front of the stacks containing journals and monographs. Particularly useful are the abstracts (call numbers starting with), including Biological Abstracts, Ecology Abstracts, Zoological Record, and Animal Behavior Abstracts.
- Σ The monographs section of this library is rich in many ways for the environmental historian. This section includes many text books, biographies of important biologist, bibliographies, surveys of research in subdisciplines, monographs of biological resources of particular regions, specialized field guides to plants and animals by geographic areas, and significant volumes in the history of science relating to the biological sciences. Edited volumes are also worth noting, especially those volumes that cover the biological resources of a place through time.

The layout of the collection within the library indicates the central role of journals and serials as a mode of academic discourse in the sciences and the lesser role played by monographs. In addition, the increasing importance of CD ROM catalogs is clear by their placement at the center of the library right by the doors. Compact discs available include indexes of journal articles over the last decade and inventory of dissertation abstracts.

Relevant Material:

Much of the material in the Biology Library is relevant is useful for the environmental historian. The key, however, is maneuvering around the collection and avoiding getting bogged down in the academic jargon of subdisciplines and research methods (e.g., systematics and cladistics).

The best way to move around this collection is to start with the very general (e.g., a textbook) and work toward the specific (e.g., the important journal articles that relate to your topic). This library is loaded with textbooks and surveys of subdisciplines that can help a historian move through her work. For example, the Oxford Surveys in Evolutionary Biology is a helpful advanced introduction to the wealth of information available in this area.

Geographic cover of fauna and flora of the world is also available. The collection comprehensively covers the globe with guides to everything from grasses to mollusks for a particular region. These resources can help an environmental historian with the plant and animal life of a region before a visit.

The journals are an important source of information on the historical development of subdisciplines. For example, much about the transformation in ecological sciences is hidden in the pages of unlike journals, including:

Henry Chandler Cowles, "The Ecological Relations of the Vegetation of the Sand Dunes of Lake Michigan," 1899, *The Botanical Gazette*, 27:95-391.

Frederic E. Clements, "Nature and Structure of Climax," 1936, *The Journal of Ecology*, 24:252-84.

A.G. Tansley, "The Use and Abuse of Vegetational Concepts and Terms," *Ecology*, 16:284-307.

J. Roger Bray and J.T. Curtis, "An Ordination of the Upland Forest Communities of Southern Wisconsin," *Ecological Monographs*, 27:325-49.

Margaret B. Davis, "Climatic Changes in Southern Connecticut Recorded by Pollen Deposition at Roger Lake," *Ecology* 50:409-22.

Finally, biogeography is a subdiscipline of botany, zoology, and geography. Material in this field is especially important in understanding the ecological and evolutionary relations in the biological world. The Biology Library and the Geography Library both have material on biogeographical methods and biogeographic studies of specific plants and/or places.

The William S. Middleton Health Sciences Library

Architecture of Knowledge

The William S. Middleton Health Sciences Library is located at 1305 Linden Drive near Charter. Together with the F.L. Weston Library (in the Clinical Science Center) it houses the University's Center for Health Sciences (CHS) library collections. The Middleton Health Sciences Library is organized around three major themes: basic biomedical sciences, health care administration, and allied health. A mile and a half away (at the west end of campus) the Weston Library contains a much smaller clinical sciences and nursing collection. While the CHS collection is split because of limited space issues, the physical separation of nursing from other health sciences is telling indeed.

Originally part of the Medical School's post-war expansion, the Middleton Library (1960s construction) feels like an old hospital, particularly in the cold stair wells with their metal railings. The basement houses bound periodicals while the first floor is primarily administrative (circulation, staff offices, computer lab). The second floor houses current periodicals and about a third of the general collection (R-Z); the third floor holds the remaining two-thirds of the general collection (A-QZ) and the historical collection.

What Is There

For the purposes of our environmental history seminar, we concentrated on the historical collection which consists of the history of medicine reference, journal, and general stacks, two cutter stacks, a rare book room (books published before 1850), and the caged Nineteenth Century Collection (books published between 1851 and 1913). Phyllis Kauffman is the History of Medicine librarian and she is eager to assist students. She has an office on the third floor and her phone number is 262-2402. The third floor has a "graduate student" feel to it; it is not a place for the non-serious student!

The Current Historical Monograph Collection (published after 1913, located in stacks 3-7 of the third floor) contains a great deal of social history related to public health and disease. Industrial disease and medicine, occupation health and safety, nutrition and diet, social darwinism, human genetics, sociobiology, religion and medicine, diseases of children, public health engineering, pollution and health effects, crime and insanity, mental health, marriage and family, and sexuality are major subject area groupings in this collection. Also, on one end of Stack 3 are copies of all UW medical students' MD theses.

The caged Nineteenth Century Collection (1851-1913) is an eclectic mix of titles. Everything from Diseases of Women, the Science and Practice of Midwifery, Tuberculous Disease, Endemic Cholera, Malaria and Greek History, Yellow Fever, the Science of the Mind, Methods of Darwin, Diseases of Children, Diseases of the Blood, Diseases of the Lung, and Military Hygiene grace the shelves. The Rare Book Room (before 1850) includes more classically medical titles although most of them are in either Latin, French, or German.

In addition to the stack materials, the historical collection includes historical microfilms (medical imprints published in the U.S. before 1820, for example) and an extensive historical pamphlet collection (housed in six vertical, locked filing cabinets). Pamphlets are of both primary and secondary nature; those published after 1900 are arranged by National Library of Medicine subject headings (listing is available). For flavor, the nineteenth-century pamphlet subject headings include: air pollution, almanacs, domestic animals, cholera, communicable diseases, dysentery, eugenics,

folklore, hygiene, infant care, leeches, lung, midwifery, quackery, sanitation, vaccination, and women. The collection also includes some biographical portraits as well as a series of hospital photographs, floor plans, and artists' renderings (organized by state and city) dating from the 1930s.

Particularly Relevant Sources

The most strikingly relevant sources for environmental historians are those related to endemic disease and environmental pollution. Tuberculosis, yellow fever, smallpox, malaria, dysentery, and cholera are well-represented as are early studies of environmental pollutants like dust and smoke. The historical journals collection is small but helpful in looking at the history of particular diseases and public health issues. Sample titles from the stacks include: Wisconsin Medical History Seminar (1913-1956), Medical History (1957-present), Journal of the History of Medicine (1946-present), Journal of the History of Biology (1968-1989), Current Work in the History of Medicine (1954-1993), and Annals of Medical History (1919-1942). In addition to MADCAT, a paper copy of all Health Science Library journal holdings is available for easy reference. The library also has many published bibliographies.

Quirky Titles & Topic Ideas

Some quirky titles:

I Believe in God and Evolution by William Keen (1922)
Keep Well Stories for Little Folks by Pauline Wright (1916)
The Crux of Pastoral Medicine (1911)

Some topic ideas:

An environmental history of twentieth-century childhood
An environmental history of nineteenth-century midwifery
An environmental history of smoking

Geology and Geophysics Library

Location: 440 Weeks Hall, 1215 W. Dayton Street, 262-8956
(corner of Dayton and Charter, across from the DoIT and Computer Sciences Building)

History:

The Geology and Geophysics Library was previously part of the Earth Science Library. The old Earth Science Library housed material relating to the geology, meteorology, and geography and was in Science Hall. The Earth Sciences Library was broken up in the late 1970s, when the Geology Department moved into its new building on W. Dayton Street. The break up of the Earth Sciences Library also relates to academic boundary issues between the Geology and Geography Departments.

Architecture of Knowledge:

The Geology and Geophysics Library is a highly specialized collection located on the fourth floor of Weeks Halls. The collection can be divided into the following categories:

- Σ Typical of the sciences, much of the material is located in specialized journals and serials. These journals are arranged alphabetically and located in the center of the library (call number starting with MC).
- Σ Unlike other sciences, however, this collection includes numerous government documents published by federal (call numbers starting with MNK), state (call numbers starting with MP), and international geological surveys (call numbers starting with MQ). Government documents are shelved by state and arranged chronologically.
- Σ The monographs section of this library is relatively small and somewhat dated, indicating the academic trends toward specialization and publication in peer-reviewed journals and serials. Several important edited volumes, however, are included in the monographs section.
- Σ Finally, the Cutter Collection of this library is hidden in a dark corner of the library and includes old textbooks, biographies and autobiographies of important geologists (e.g., Joseph LeConte), monographs, and early histories of the discipline.

The layout of the collection within the library indicates the central role of journals and serials as a mode of academic discourse in the sciences and the lesser role played by monographs. In addition, the increasing importance of CD ROM catalogs is clear by their placement at the center of the library right by the doors. Many of the Geological Society of America's journals, bulletins and indexes are now available on compact disc at the library.

Relevant Material:

Much of the material in this library is extremely relevant to environmental historians. The collection includes material on the following subdisciplines:

- Σ Economic Minerals
- Σ Geology and Human Affairs
- Σ Stratigraphy and Sedimentology
- Σ Paleontology, Paleoecology and Palynology
- Σ Oceanography

- Σ Structural and Field Geology
- Σ Mineralogy
- Σ Geophysics

The most relevant material will be the more dated material, for example The Mineral Industry: Its Statistics, Technology and Trade, published in 1896 as a supplement to the Engineering and Mining Journal. The material on economic geology is particularly interesting and voluminous because of the centrality of mining to the early Wisconsin economy. This material also provides a window into the development of engineering sciences in the United States, since mining provided the most important training ground for young engineers before the formation of professional colleges.

The government material is also of special importance, because it includes early surveys of the country and documents the role of the state in promoting economic development of geological resources. This collection includes the annual reports from John Wesley Powell to state prospecting reports in Kentucky, Arizona, and Montana. Coverage both spatially and chronologically is comprehensive.

Also relevant to environmental historians are the library's holdings on water resources. This library includes journals, books, and serials on hydrogeology and water chemistry, quality, and quantity. Unfortunately, material on water resources are scattered across the campus and also can be found in the Geography Library, Steenbock Agriculture Library, and Limnology Library.

The Cutter Collection is especially important, because it allows the historian to chart the changing character of geology as a discipline and its role in the academy. The increasing specialization in geology, the rise of subdisciplines, the role of geologist in evolution debates, and the importance of economic geology are just a few potential topics that can be mined from the Cutter Collection and the broader collection.

The library also includes several guides to regional geology to assist the environmental historian in reading the landscape. Recent additions to this collection of guides include:

Geologic Evolution of the Eastern United States: Field Trip Guidebook, NE-SE, Washington, DC: Geological Society of America.

Canyonlands Country: Geology of Canyonlands and Arches National Park, revised edition by Donald L. Baars.

Geological Survey of Prague, Ustredni Ustav Geologicky, 1990.

Additional resources include both undergraduate and graduate textbooks that can serve as an introduction to geology and its subdisciplines.

GEOGRAPHY & IES LIBRARIES....

....GEOGRAPHY & SHSW MAP COLLECTIONS

Between them these libraries & collections house a variety of resources including ATLASES, BIBLIOGRAPHIC GUIDES, MAPS and of course, BOOKS & PERIODICALS.

WHERE ARE THE RESOURCES LOCATED & IN WHICH COLLECTIONS?
- taking each library individually we shall list the types of resources that they hold.

GEOGRAPHY LIBRARY

It is located on the 2nd floor of Science Hall, to the right as you go up the stairs. The library is divided into 3 rooms, which we have denoted on the map as the Reading Rm and Stack rm1 & Stack rm2. The card catalogue is on right side of Stack Rm1. Stack Rm2 divides neatly with Human Geography Stacks on the left, and Physical Geog (& Oversize) on the right.

ATLASES: Are found in several parts of the library.

-The largest reference atlases are housed in numbered **Atlas Cases** in the Reading Rm. World atlases and country atlases, as well a few specialist ones relevant to North America, such as historical atlases, and atlas of Congressional Districts. The following cases will be most relevant to environmental historians of N.America: #81 through #89.
-Others are found in the Oversize bk shelving at far end of Stack Rm2. Wide variety of specialist atlases - historical, archeological, road maps, regional atlases of America, climatic atlases. eg Franz & Cox, Lure of the Land: Texas County Maps & the History of Settlement F 386 F7 1988...many regional atlases between Call Nos. G1200 thru G1546. eg Rand McNally, Atlas of American Frontiers E 179.5 R53 1993 which is well illustrated.

- the rest of the atlases - a substantial number - are within the regular stacks. These include 'Environmental Atlases' and gems like the rather old-fashioned Historical Atlas (of the World) by W.R.Shepherd G1030 S48 1956....includes maps on pp185-6 showing localities (place names) in England and Europe connected with American history - useful for tracing the 'paths out of town' - or out of the country.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL GUIDES:

Distributed throughout the library stacks, a whole range of them relating to the many areas of study. However, a concentration of bibliographical guides and catalogues are found in Stack Rm2, on Stack VK562-Z.../Oversize. eg Theodore Besterman's History & Geography Vols1-4 Z6201 A1B48 pp1306-1517 (Vol.4) for America.

BOOKS

Are in the two Stack rooms, with the exception of those at the Reserve desk or Reference shelves in the main Reading Rm. A glut of books on environmentalism and environmental issues in the USA are found at Stack HC79-HC256. For example:

The Shaping of Environmentalism in America HC110 E539 1991

High Tech America HC110 H53 M373 1986

American Environmental History (Petulla) HC 110 E5 P4279

Interdisciplinary Environmental Approaches HC110 E5 U79

...a list of other suggested books, grouped under subject search titles like 'geomorphology and north america/' 'climatology and north america', can be obtained for photocopying from Pam or I, and we'll leave a list in SHSW reading box.

PERIODICALS

Not sure quite how useful these will be unless you go with specific articles in mind but they are found on low shelves in the Reading Rm. The current serials are in the central aisle and to the right; reference periodicals are to the left. eg. Urban Geography Pub V.H.Winston Inc ISSN 0272 3638. Most seemed not to date back that far.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES LIBRARY @ IES

This is a small library and reading room found in the basement of Science Hall rm15. The most important thing to be aware of is that this library is not part of the University as such. The Institute represents part of a 'Public Outreach Service'. This means that their holdings are NOT on MADCAT. Furthermore, they try not to duplicate materials held elsewhere on campus, so you must go to them in person to get a better idea of what is there.

The library is quite new, established in 19??, and most of its materials were published/ written after 19?? thus their is a fairly contemporary feel to the collections. IES is a rich source of information on environmental issues of all kinds is particularly useful for research into the history of modern environmentalism, environmental issues and problems in Wisconsin and the other regions of the US.

Much of their material is donated and typically in pamphlet, report or even single sheet paper form. This has implications for cataloguing, and you will find that IES has its own cataloguing system, essentially based on subject headings organised alphabetically. They have an 'index' to their material on one of the computers; its called InMagic can do variety of searches on it - ask staff library staff for help. This is an in-house catalogue of the most important materials they hold - it is in NO WAY COMPREHENSIVE.

Some of their materials are available for loan: 'those materials that are professionally bound, excluding periodicals'.

Principal Sub-divisions of IES material: (spatially distinct - see map)

- 1) BOOKS: (a) '**Environmental Bookshelf**' - the most important of their books, those considered 'classics' in area of environmental concern - authors like John Muir, Leopold & Glacken. Conveniently compact for a survey of key works relevant to environmental history. Also current well-known literature on environment.
(b) General second rate books - a shelf of books on variety of topics, organised alphabetically by author. Useful for someone wanting to research popular environmental literature of last 20yrs or so.
- 2) PERIODICALS: They have the mega-popular and well-known magazines like National Geographic, Audobon, Sierra, but they do not go way back. The other category of periodicals are the very obscure, specialist and usually regional/ local publications....so helpful if trying to follow local opinion on local environmental issues for a particular county...again fairly contemporary. Periodicals are shelved separately from books &.....
- 3) INFO FILES/ BLACK BOX COLLECTION: This represents the bulk of the collection. IES worked out a list of subject areas or topics which can be found in form of alphabetical list hanging on the end of each stack. Each topic heading relates to a black box - labelled by topic - on the shelves. The books etc found between boxes relate to subject heading of nearest box to the left. NB within each box the items are not given specific call numbers - so rumage, and make a note of any box you wish to return to.
- 4) REFERENCE MATERIALS: Have the usuals; few atlases; and published reports that have been commissioned by the IES...regional studies etc.

Arthur H. Robinson Map Library

Third floor of Science Hall, North end.

Prepare to be bewildered! There are two kinds of sources here: catalogued and un-catalogued. Fortunately, there are very helpful and user-friendly handouts available to guide visitors through the catalogued collections, and what the card catalogue doesn't know, the librarian does. This is definitely a place where the most useful resource is a human being.

The collection consists of:

Maps, obviously. Those catalogued are in a card catalogue by place name. This library is also a depository for all U.S.G.S. topographical maps. Every edition of each state's maps is available in large map-drawers in the northeast corner of the map room.

Aerial photographs. The collection has a Wisconsin bias, but is by no means limited to Wisconsin photos. With a short introduction, the index is not hard to use.

CD-ROM resources. The Map Library either has or plans to purchase this year several ROM products including the on-line U.S.G.S. place name index, which provides brief information and the location of every federally recognized place name in the country. The library also plans to buy a set of discs of aerial photographs of the entire nation.

State Historical Society Map Collection

Most of the society's maps and map-related resources are in the Archives, some are in the main library's pamphlet collection, and a very few are in the main stacks. SHSW is the place for Wisconsin maps. The card catalogue in the reading room is minimally helpful; look up the place as a subject. There is a non-published, in-house guide to Wisconsin county maps in a red, thesis-type binder in the reference alcove. The most well-organized information is upstairs in the archives. Along the west wall of the reading room are the finding aids for their map collection. This is another place in which about an hour with the map-curator will likely save several confused hours later.

This collection contains:

Wisconsin plat maps and surveyors notes. The vertical file houses the finding guides for these sources. Large, laminated Wisconsin maps help locate township and range numbers, then the information in each file will lead you from there to an actual document.

U.S.G.S. Wisconsin Maps. All editions. These are in the large map file next to the plat map file. The index is in the top drawer.

Wisconsin Land Economic Inventory. A WPA project which sent people to re-walk the township and section lines roughly a century after the original survey. These notes and maps are available through the map curator.

Bibliographic texts, collection catalogues, Gazetteers. On top of the map files are several. Also look in the Map Curator's office for the several red volumes of Karrow, Robert, Checklist of Printed Maps of the Middle West to 1900--this is arranged alphabetically by state.

Compiled by Cindy & Jared

I. Steenbock: (M-R 8a-11:45p; F 8a-5:45p; S 10a-4:45p; S 10a-11:45p)

a) *History*: In 1888, UW's pioneering dairy scientist Stephen Babcock (of Hall and Road fame) donated his salary check to establish an agricultural library for the university. Originally housed in South Hall, the library moved in 1903 to larger confines in Agriculture Hall (whose walls stubbornly bear a plaque insisting the building still houses the library). In 1969, the library was moved to its present location in Steenbock Library, west of Bascom Hill on the corner of Babcock and Observatory.

b) *relevant info*:

Information: 262-9635
Government Documents: 262-4581
Land Tenure Center Library: 262-1240
Reference: 262-9635
Circulation: 262-1371
University Archives 262-5629

b-2) *vital info*: 1) Even though it's across from the dorms and so it swarms with undergraduates after dinnertime, it's a great place for late night studying: it's comfortable, quiet, and heated; you can eat in some places and drink in all places but the stacks. 2) A block from Steenbock, on the southwest corner of Babcock and Linden lies the UW Dairy store, which if you haven't been there is a must. They hawk a complete range of yogurt, cheese, milk, and most importantly, ICE CREAM! The store closes at 6 pm weekdays, so have an early dinner and treat yourself to dessert.

c) *Stacks/periodicals*: Steenbock houses more than 2,000 periodicals that consume slightly more space than the books do. Titles range from standard agricultural, botanical, ecological, and biological journals to lesser known serials like Weed Abstracts, the School Foodservice Journal, and the Rural New Yorker.

The library's book stacks follow the Library of Congress cataloguing system. Relic works from the 1950s-1970s on medieval Europe, enlightenment philosophy, and how to throw a good party reveal an original Western Civ core on top of which Steenbock's acquisitions gurus have cultivated a more modern collection devoted to agricultural and biological sciences. The library gives high priority to collecting works relating to various topics of interest to environmental historians: Dairying; animal husbandry, breeding, and feeding, (Jenny take note); land use/marketing; irrigation, drainage, water management/pollution, fisheries (as Art's students we particularly appreciated this); forest conservation, management, forest trees as crops (that's for you, Sue); landscape architecture; and finally (for Joe) wetlands, wilderness, watershed conservation and restoration.

program. The original geographic research focus of the Center was Latin America and the Caribbean, but it has been expanded to include Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Oceania. Issues that are of a particular concern in the Center's current research program are (1) tenure aspects of natural resource management, (2) operations of land markets, (3) evolution and reform of property institutions, (4) creation of property in land in societies in transition from centrally-planned economies to mixed and market economies, and (5) the impact of tenure change on women.

The Land Tenure Library collects materials that complement the topical and geographical focus of the Land Tenure Center. This means that collections in Latin America, Africa, and Asia are very strong. Materials dealing with Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Republics are systematically collected only for limited topics. Materials on Western Europe, the United States, and Antarctica are not systematically collected at all. The collections contain a wide variety of types of materials including books, published and unpublished reports, journals, trade publications, government and international agency documents, published and unpublished articles, and newsletters. Materials received since 1986 are catalogued in the NLS. Those collected before 1986 are catalogued in drawers in the Land Tenure Library. Materials that because of their physical condition, cannot stand up on shelves are kept in file cabinets ("The Files") in the Library.

The Library collects materials dealing with contemporary conditions and issues and does not collect historical materials. Librarians make a "great effort" to acquire all materials on land tenure, agrarian reform, agrarian structure, and resource tenure for the targeted areas of the world. Land markets, land law, rural development and organizations, gender issues, urban land tenure, and settlement schemes are some of the other topics which are of high priority for the Library. The Director of the Library is Beverly Phillips. Her office is located next to the Library, and she can be reached at 262-1240 or phillips@mac.wisc.edu)

III. University Archives: (no set hours)

Some of the collections of the University of Wisconsin Archives are located in the basement of the Steenbock Library building. The entrance to the Archives is next to but separate from the entrance to the Library. University Archives contains documents relating to UW personnel, events, and departments and offices. Examples of the kinds of materials that might be found in the Archives include research notes and letters of professors; university legal documents; reports, minutes, and notes from UW committees; journals and newsletters; and research reports. All of Aldo Leopold's papers are deposited in this branch of the Archives. Jared has a copy of the index if you are interested in knowing what is in this collection.

Even though agricultural history is not a high collecting priority for the library, anyone working in that field should browse through call numbers beginning S 451 which cover agricultural history and are organized alphabetically by state.

d) *government documents*: This is perhaps the most interesting part of Steenbock for us enviro types. They've got almost every USDA publication you can dream up. In addition, they have rows and rows of other federal agencies' published reports (alpha by agency). Of particular interest here is the Department of Commerce's (Weather Bureau) Maps of Seasonal Precipitation Percentages of Normal by States, with which you can trace rainfall for anywhere in the country dating back at least into the 1910s), and the USDA Daily River Stages, which will tell you the daily flows of major (and even some minor) rivers. Joe, Greg, anyone else working on areas where watersheds and rivers play an important role, I've used these to reconstruct weather and run-off patterns for Wisconsin in the 1930s; you might find it helpful.

Additionally, the government docs collection houses state and local agency publications that relate to agriculture. The organization of these is alpha by state. Foreign government publications get their share of shelf space as well, though they are organized geographically, rather than alphabetically. Several rows of UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) publications stand opposite the state/foreign government stacks. One good thing to not about all of these is you can check them out of the library, which I believe is unusual for this type of material.

e) *Special Collections*: The Special Collections department at Steenbock holds a number of funky collections that might be interesting to environmental historians, though we're not exactly sure how. One is the 2000 books on historical bee-keeping, whose geographical scope covers the entire globe and whose chronological span goes back to the 1500s. Others include the Frederick M. Young Collection of equestrian material and a gift collection on pigeon racing. See our comments below on research topics that jumped off the shelves and out of the card catalog for more details on the department's collection on the history of agricultural cooperatives. Best to plan ahead because you can only use these collections under a librarians' supervision.

II. Land Tenure Center and Library: (Hours: 8:30 am-4:30 pm, M-F)

The Land Tenure Center is a research institute located on University Avenue in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. The Center's library is located on the fourth floor of Steenbock Library in an area set off from the rest of the agriculture library. The Center and the Library were created in 1962 as part of President Kennedy's Alliance for Progress

The university divisions that place their collections at the Steenbock location are Engineering, Agriculture, Home Economics, Education, Pharmacy, Summer Session, University Extension Division, ROTC, Arboretum, Limnology, University Extension, Center System, and University YMCA. State geology papers are kept at Memorial Library. The Archives have no set hours. If you want to use the Archives, you should make arrangements through the Archives office at Memorial Library. (262-5629)

IV. Research Topic or Some Rich Research Collections:

1. Using the collection in the University Archives from the Arboretum to analyze conceptions about natural landscapes, particularly prairies.
2. History of disputes around animal rights including research issues and standing to sue in court. Animal welfare is one of the topics that Steenbock librarians collect materials on, however, the priority for the topic is relatively low.
3. Relationship between agricultural organization and land use. Steenbock Library has a lot of materials in its stacks on agricultural industrial organization particularly farmer cooperatives, and there is a collection on the history of agricultural cooperatives in Special Collections.
4. At the Land Tenure Library, there seems to be great potential for researchers interested in land use issues in Africa, Asia, or Latin America.
5. Children, 4H, gender, agriculture, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts: Why is home economics stuff in the agriculture library?
6. "Under Civilization's Foot" -- analysis of weeds and insects (pests) as a trope in Western civilization (ala Harrison)

Wisconsin State Historical Society Archives and Iconography Collection

Archives

Overall, the archival collection at the Wisconsin State Historical Society (WSHS) is a tremendous resource for state-wide environmental issues, particularly legislative activity, conservation records, maps, legal papers, and personal papers. The archives are less comprehensive in proportion to a topic's relevance to the state.

In addition, the hierarchy of knowledge at the WSHS is pronounced and often intrusive. Strict guidelines dictate the researcher's actions at every turn: check-in and -out procedures, paper and pencil only at the desks, constant monitoring by staff members, gloves with delicate materials and restricted access to certain files. Small tables facing forward isolate each researcher. Moreover, due to an overabundance of materials, organization is haphazard at best; computer databases contain only a fraction of the collection, card catalog entries are vague and often poorly classified and files are often missing. Even so, with a little extra effort and patience, a researcher can unearth rich treasures at the WSHS.

Advice

Ignore the computers and use the card catalog, as only a quarter of the archives' holdings are currently online. Be polite to the staff and dress nicely to receive good treatment.

Sample Keywords

Land Utilization

Economics—Land

Ecology

Nothing on Livestock, Husbandry, Deer, Sheep. These must be in the Agricultural Library instead.

Archive Highlights

Maps - The WSHS has a fantastic collection of maps, primarily emphasizing Wisconsin. Plat maps of Dane County date back to 1832 and proceed every five years to the present. The rest of America is covered in atlases, which are especially strong for the 1850-1920 time period. The collection of U.S Geological Survey topographical maps on Wisconsin begins in the 1880s and extends to the present. Also, a variety of geographic maps detailing various aspects of land use and change over time are on file for Wisconsin, the United States generally, and even the world. An interesting topic for a research paper would be to look at the evolution of various kinds of maps. Looking at maps over time, the biases of the medium and their creators become apparent. What type of information is being represented? What is being left out? How? and Why? What does this tell us about the uses of the land and human's relationship to these places?

John Muir - The archives contain a variety of artifacts on John Muir and his life, including but not limited to, drawings of the famed naturalist, letters written between 1913 and 1954, autobiographical writings, poems, and numerous recollections of Muir by neighbors, friends, family and colleagues.

Aldo Leopold - Again, this Wisconsin native son has a secure place in the WSHS. The holdings include an original manuscript of an essay entitled "Organizing Conservation in Wisconsin," letters and writings by and about Leopold.

Environmental Law - A vast and detailed collection of legislative records and legal documents record the evolution of Wisconsin state environmental law from World War II through the present. Numerous prominent legislators through the years have contributed personal papers to this collection, highlighting the legislative process and legal issues.

Conservation - Boxes and boxes of documents, letters and correspondences capture the ideology and strategy of many Wisconsin conservation groups, including the Fond Du Lac Conservation Alliance, the WI Ecological Society and Wetlands for Wildlife, Inc.

Natural Resources - Under the broad area of natural resources, a researcher can find heaps of papers and artifacts from state government officials and agencies, the Wisconsin Natural History Society, the Natural Resources Association of Wisconsin, Inc., as well as the papers of the Great Lakes Commission and the Great Lakes Harbors Association. Of particular interest, the Huffman Environmental Oral History Project dating from 1986 documents environmentalism in Wisconsin from World War II through the present.

Interesting Finds

John Hammond business papers, 1864-1893, found under Land & River Improvement Company. Contains information on land speculating, real estate, and commercial development.

Connor Land & Lumber Company, 1872-1982, found under Land O' Lakes Association. Contains 50 archive boxes, 3 cartons, 10 flat boxes, 133 oversize volumes of materials on the timber and lumber products business and the use of the Forest Crop Act of 1927.

Miriam Runde Papers--one woman's involvement (1983-1985) in the Land Tomorrow Project.

Elizabeth Palmer Holman papers, found under Women-history and condition of women. Covers farm chores, housework, family health.

Iconography Collection

The iconographic collection again primarily emphasizes topics relevant to the state with a smattering of regional and national icons. It has three general areas in which to search: the card catalog, the albums lining the file cabinets, and the file cabinets themselves. Most file cabinets contain images that you can access without a librarian's help. They are divided into three categories. Red files are names, like John Muir. The yellow files are places, generally Wisconsin. Blue are Indians, even down to Aztecs. (don't get excited. there are only three pictures.) All three have finding aids somewhere on top of the files. The information in these files is entirely separate from the card catalog. The two don't cross-index at all.

One problem is that photos seem to be randomly, if ever, identified in time—no dates.

These collections date from the late nineteenth century to the present and would compliment a research paper tremendously. In addition, research could be done on the representation of humans and nature in these icons: loggers at the turn-of-the-century are heroicized, American Indians are romanticized, and nature is portrayed as both a commodity and as an ideal. To a researcher trained in reading images, this collection offers a unique way to get at the history of human/environmental relations in Wisconsin over the past 150 years.

Advice

Explore freely. Many images can be seen without a librarian's assistance, allowing browsing. However, you need to wear the little white gloves and only carry pencils or people will get excited. On the whole, information in this room is more accessible than in the main archive, and therefore the atmosphere is less intimidating.

Sample Keywords

Environmental Decay
Land
Land Clearing
Land Use

There's a general classification scheme for each set of files, the highlights of one such are "Land--The Background of Civilization," "Homes and Living Conditions," "Transportation," "Work--The Economic Basis of Survival," "Processing and Manufacturing," "Selling and Distribution," "Services." Each heading has tons of subheadings. I think serendipitous wandering is the only way to handle this collection. When I looked up sheep, I found local examples of farming practices, but also pictures from Egypt, Paris, Belgium. They'd be wonderful illustrations for a comparative study, but I'd never have found them looking under Egypt. "Indian Agricultural Methods" shows mining, planting, plowing, harvest, deer skinning, making tools, and hunting in both drawings and photographs.

Iconographic Highlights

Card Catalog- Topics include: land, mountains, rock formations, caves, historic sites and monuments, farms, farm buildings, fences, fields, land treatment, stump land, forests, trees, deforestation, forest fires, forest conservation, parks, plants, flowers, wildlife, rivers, floods, bridges, dams, roads, cities and towns as background, people without emphasis on their activities, homes and living conditions, transportation, Native Americans, work - "the economic basis of survival," processing and manufacturing, selling and distribution, services, medicine, recreation, social activity, crime and portraits.

Albums - Relevant topics include: Agriculture and farming in Wisconsin, Wisconsin towns and cities - early views (to 1900), Racine - views and landmarks, Madison, Wisconsin capitol building (1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th), University of Wisconsin-Madison, early American frontier forts, Civil War, lumbering, river steamboats and railroads.

I found this part of the collection to be the most interesting. Albums contain a broad survey of photos on a given topic over time. As a result, continuities and changes as well as a sense of historical movement bring these collections to life.

File Cabinets

Portraits - This collection is basic, but interesting. Arranged alphabetically by last name, a researcher can find photos and clippings of many citizens from around the state.

Aldo Leopold - newspaper clippings, a PBS ad, 1938 photos of the Leopold family and the shack, a 1947 portrait and an interesting shot of Leopold as a child, holding a fish and fishing pole.

John Muir - 1945 photo of J. Muir's wife, photos of Muir Lake and Muir Cabin, a post card, news clippings, portraits from 1863, 1909 and 1938, the first Wisconsin home of J. Muir and a photo of Muir giving a speech in 1918.

Place Photos - Mostly main street shots for anywhere in Wisconsin you can think of. Arranged alphabetically, most photos seem to date from 1900 to 1965. This collection interested me as much for what was not presented (people) as for what was (buildings and streets).

Portage - This file contains numerous shots of the canal, Zona Gale's house, the Indian Agency house, downtown, the rivers and Fort Winnebago

Madison - This file details nearly every campus structure, the capitol and downtown generally.

Native Americans - This collection is organized by area first, then by tribe. Photos include portraits, dwellings, and various activities.

Area - Woodland, Wisconsin and Minnesota, North and East, Southeast, Plains, Southwest, Inter-mountain/plateau, Northwest U.S. and Canada/Alaska, Aztec and Indians general.

Tribe (Tribal photos are subdivided by time, place and activity) - Chippewa, Menomonee, Potawatomi, Fox and Sauk, Winnebago, Stockbridge, Oneida, Brotherton, Eastern Sioux, Modocs, Iroquois, Algonquian, Delaware, Cherokee, Choctaw, Creek, Seminole, Plains, Sioux, Mandan, Blackfoot and Blood, Cheyenne, Flathead, Comanche, Crow, Kiowa, Osage, Plains, Shawnee, Utes, Navajo, Apache (w/ portraits), Pueblo, Acoma, La Guna, Taos, Tesuque, Zuni, Hopi, Papago, Pimas and Aztec.

Interesting Finds

Under Environmental Decay:

3508: 23 photos--depressing scenes of 1924 Menominee River bridge

3586: 40 photos--Lake Winnebago refuse dump, 1963, migratory birds, shoreline, dump.

4567: 50 photos. NY photo exhibit "Open Space in the Inner City." They couldn't find this one when I asked for it, so if anyone can track it down, I'd love to see it.

4649: Pollution sites in Wisconsin.

Joanne Passet
Dave Straddling
Andy Rieser
Environmental History 901
Semester I, 1994-95
October 10, 1994

State Historical Society Main Stacks

For those of us who conduct research in the State Historical Society of Wisconsin (SHSW) regularly, the phrase *architecture of knowledge* doesn't feel quite right. After all, *architecture* suggests some type of imposed order and rationality. The labyrinthal appearance of the stacks give the opposite impression. Windows that reveal interior rooms, low ceilings, menacing pipes, narrow staircases, suspiciously unmarked doors, self-guided elevators -- no sane architect, even the one that designed the Humanities Building, could have created a riddle like this one.

The explanation, of course, is that the physical layout is the end result of a century-old process of organic growth and adaptation. Constructed around 1900, the building was initially shaped like a "U" pointed towards Bascom Hill and only half as deep as it is right now. Those windows you see on the South wall of the upper book stacks used to open up onto an interior courtyard. The glass floors over in government docs were supposed to funnel light from the courtyard into the lower levels. Eventually, the courtyard was filled in and the entire building extended towards Park Street, adding floor space now occupied by microforms, archives, and pamphlets. At one point, one whole wing of the building housed university holdings while the other side housed state archives. One accessed those wings using the outside doors only. This is why the two ends of the library seem so radically disjointed. We can now transverse from one wing to other without going outside, but to do it, one has to walk outside of the original turn-of-the-century building and enter a relatively new hallway (the one directly behind Circulation). Not only the shape of the building, but the uses of the interior space have changed dramatically as well. When the university holdings departed for Memorial library, the SHSW was free to pursue its role as historical depository and archives for the State of Wisconsin. Just thirty years ago, all visitors to the library signed a guest book and were waited on for every request. Not so anymore. NLS has done much to transform the Society from a research-oriented depository into a regular circulating library. Its holdings, once the guarded secret of those who could find the card catalog, are now public knowledge. Still, only 30% of the Society's materials are located in open stacks.

The way that knowledge is structured in the open stacks is a function of both the illogic of the Library of Congress (LOC) call number system and choices made by librarians over the years. Neither the LOC system nor the librarians have seen fit to designate a special section for environmental history, so searching for materials is in mainly ways a hit or miss affair. On floor number twelve (where the "A" call numbers begin) is a wealth of information

for anyone interested in telling the story of an individual community. In the BX section to the far end of the floor is a collection of membership registers for the Wisconsin districts of the Lutheran, Methodist, Baptist and Catholic churches; guides to parish archives; and programs and minutes of church conventions and synods conducted in the midwest going back to the mid-nineteenth century. The north side of this floor is dedicated to genealogy. If you know the last name of a Wisconsin personality (maybe a town leader) and want more biographical detail, one could do worse than start here. The south side is taken up mostly with parish records, although there is a whole section devoted to frontier religion. The jewel of the eleventh floor is an entire stack (starting at E 165A) of travel accounts going back to the early nineteenth century. This is followed by a whole section of place name dictionaries, travel guides, compendia of American historical sites, and the like. Continuing forward in the call number sequence, one finds a cache of Indian history and North American archeology, anthropology and ethnohistory, although some of the material looks a bit dated. One yellowed volume was titled "My life and Experiences Among Our Hostile Indians."

The ninth and tenth floors of the main stacks primarily contain works of state and provincial (Canadian) history. These works include the publications of state historical societies, county histories, and local histories. The LOC cataloging system organizes these works geographically rather than alphabetically, and thus browsers can wander from Maine, with the lowest call numbers, through New England, to the Mid-Atlantic, the Deep South, the Midwest, and eventually out to California and Alaska. Canadian histories follow the Alaskan histories and proceed in the same east to west fashion. Beyond Canada the ninth floor contains works concerning exploration and leisure, including sports. Ostensibly any of these topics might interest an environmental historian, although those pursuing local, regional, or frontier topics would find them most valuable. The SHSW appears to have an abundance of travel and exploration accounts and guides as well as a vast collection of detailed local studies, most of them quite old. With an obvious genealogical bent, works concerning cemeteries are also abundant. Found tucked between the histories of British Columbia and exploration are the Journal of Historical Geography and the Journal of the American Geographical Society, both of obvious value. All told, anyone interested in studying a particular place or in finding a place to study might productively roam through these floors.

The eighth floor houses books classified from H to R300, and includes a number of works relevant to environmental history. Browsing in selected call number ranges will yield materials on environmental politics (HC110), land-use policy (HD205-HD1311), agriculture, the grange, and farm labor (HD1459-HD1527), water resources (HD1694-HD1736), railroad workers (HD6350), annual reports of railroads (HE2715-HE2791), urban America (HT123), arbitration on fur and fishing (JX238), architecture (NA735), climate (QC792-QC995), and natural science (QL). The area of the stacks labeled 8A houses materials classified from R300-Z. Areas of interest include agriculture (S), horticulture (SB1-SB21), the national parks

(SB482), hunting (SK), railroads (TF), the military (U), and bibliography (Z). 8A also contains two special sections of note: oversized LOC materials (including county histories and atlases), and an extensive collection of city directories.

The seventh floor houses the SHSW Library's Cutter collection, which consists of approximately 20,000 books. The University of Wisconsin was one of the few libraries outside of Boston to adopt Charles A. Cutter's system of classification, which bears some resemblance to the LOC Classification system. It is possible to browse for county histories (F900s), geography and travel (G), archaeology (PWA), and agriculture (RG-). The library now uses the LOC system, but inadequate funding limits the number of items that librarians can reclassify each year. Only 15-20% of this collection is included in the online catalog, making it a rich historical resource that can be easily overlooked. Materials in the Cutter collection overlap with other sections of the SHSW Library; therefore, it is important to check it for a thorough search of such publications as county histories, travel accounts, the labor press, biographies, and church records. The collection appears to be especially strong in county histories and atlases, travel accounts and travel magazines, labor periodicals, proceedings of professional associations (for example, bankers, teachers), and religion.

Microforms constitute about one-third of the SHSW's collection and they must not be overlooked by researchers. The Society's holdings include the papers of Teddy Roosevelt, Richard Ballinger, Frederick Olmsted, and John Muir, all on microfilm. Also of interest are documents from the U.S. General Land Office and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. In addition, the microfilm collection contains 617 reels entitled "Western Americana: Frontier History of the Trans-Mississippi West, 1550-1900," which undoubtedly sees some use. Anyone interested in urban environmental history might also find much of value in the microforms collection, perhaps in the "University Settlement Society of New York City Records," or among the numerous sets concerning labor or social reform movements. The Society does print a list of major microform holdings (18 pp), obtainable from the research librarian.

The SHSW Library owns a substantial collection of pamphlets, an invaluable source of primary and secondary printed materials dating from 1820 to the present. Pamphlets included ephemeral materials that could be damaged or lost if shelved in the main stacks. Approximately 70 percent of the 500,000 pamphlets are included in the online catalog. It is not possible to browse in the pamphlets because they are housed in a closed stack area. Each pamphlet is cataloged by an accession number, in which the first two digits represent the year it was added to the collection. Materials in the pamphlet collection include illustrated programs from nineteenth-century historical pageants, short-lived periodicals, and brochures, many of which are irreplaceable. A microfiche source entitled Pamphlets in American History (Microforms Reference Z 1236 M54 1978), based primarily on the SHSW collection, contains entries for 15,000 titles on political and social issues.

Addendum: Volumes of Special Interest:

Agricultural History. (v. 1, 1927-present). S 1 A16

Beard, Mary. America Through Women's Eyes (1933)

Chisholm, G. G. Longmans' Gazetteer of the World. (1895). Presented by Mrs. Reuben G. Thwaites. G6 C54

Conzen, Michael. The Making of the American Landscape (1990). GF 501 M35 1990

Davis, Richard. Encyclopedia of American Forest and Conservation History, 2v. (1983). SD143 E53 1983

Grey Owl. The Men of the last Frontier (1932). F 1060.9 G74

Grinnell, George Bird. Trails of the Pathfinders (1911). F 592 G86

Hulburt, Archer B. Soil: Its Influence on the History of the United States (1930)

Kessinger's Mid-West Review. (v.4, 1925-v.18, 1932). F 896 +7K42 Cutter

Merchant, Carolyn. Ecological Revolutions (1989). GF 504 N45 M47 1989

Missouri Historical Review, 1906-1980. F 461 M59

State Historical Society of Montana, 1876-1940. F 1030 R14

Motor Travel. (v. 12, 1920-v.23, 1931). American Automobile Association Pub. G83 +7M91 Cutter

New England Cities Business Directory. (1867). G 84 2 N5 Cutter

The Passenger Pigeon. (v.1, 1939-v.43, 1981). A newsletter to encourage the study of Wisconsin birds. QL 671 .P3

Pike, Elizabeth. Pioneer History of Camden, New York (1897). F 129 C17 P6

Sierra Club Bulletin, F 868 5555

Stewart, George. Names on the Land: A Historical Account of Place-Naming in the U.S. (1958)

Thompson, G. A. The Geographical and Historical Dictionary of America and the West Indies, 4v. (1814). G80 +6A35 2 Cutter

Vestal, Stanley. King of the Fur Traders (1940). F 1030 R14

Woman's National Farm and Garden Association Bulletin. (v.4, 1918). Pam. 54-434

Wright, Theodore. The Beloit Pageant. (1916). Pam. 56-3731

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

"To tell the truth, I thought of all the damned paperwork this was going to mean in the morning." General Walter Bedell Smith on the signing the armistice to end World War II in Europe.

"Most of the work in the Defense Department is writing reports."
Admiral Hyman Rickover testifying before the Senate on Jan. 28, 1982.

Government is nothing if it is not paperwork. There is buried treasure in this sea of paper. The Government Printing Office is the largest publisher in the world; additionally many agencies and departments publish their own documents.

What's in gov docs

The State Historical Society became a depository for government documents in 1870 and became the nation's first regional depository in 1954. As a depository for federal and Wisconsin documents, the Society receives a steady stream of published material. In addition, it houses documents from other states, Canada, and intergovernmental organizations. These documents are as diverse a set of offerings as you are likely to find: a survey of western water law by the U.S. Department of Agriculture; an evaluation of water quality by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; the censuses of population, agriculture, manufactures, and mineral industries; environmental impact statements for federal and state projects; congressional hearings on nuclear plant fires; reports about issues taken up by special congressional committees; periodicals regularly published by government agencies; records of proceedings before courts and administrative agencies.

Beginning in the 1960s, the Society could no longer house all of these documents, and they began to distribute them throughout the campus library system. For example, many of the post-1962 U.S. Department of Agriculture documents were shipped to Steenbock. Nonetheless, many useful "Miscellaneous Reports" published by USDA are housed at the Society. The documents of the Environmental Protection Agency are scattered between the Steenbock, Wendt, and Law libraries. So you must be prepared to travel. Many documents (particularly those from states and Canada) are stored in boxes. The librarian will hunt them up, but be prepared to wait.

How it's organized

Government documents are organized by the name of the agency and the branch of government. You need to learn which agencies and branches have responsibilities in your field of interest. The Government Manual (see call number below) identifies current federal agencies and their responsibilities. Appendix C of the manual traces the history of agencies that have had their name changed or been dissolved. Before there was the U.S. EPA, other agencies had responsibilities for air and water quality. This book can help you locate these agencies. We learned that the Environmental Quality Council

existed briefly before the creation of the President's Council on Environmental Quality in 1970.

Government documents are housed on several floors behind the government documents alcove. Floor guides are posted on each floor.

How to find documents

Most of the documents are not cataloged in the card catalog, and only those published since 1976 are in the MADCAT system. Thus you must be prepared to use a series of finding aids. The finding aid most efficient for your use depends on the type of material you are looking for and the time period from which you want documents. For example, if you want the records of a congressional hearing you use a different finding aid than you do if you want a study by a federal agency. Documents produced by federal agencies before the late 1800s are not in the Monthly Catalog, and other aids must be used.

It is crucial to record the entire SuDocs number (Superintendent of Documents number). The first letter specifies the government agency, the initial number refers to the subagency, and subsequent numbers specify the publication, series, and the number of the publication in a series.

In the literature easel at the front of the check out desk, the Society provides a broad selection of one-page handouts on government documents. Titles range from "U.S. Federal Government Publications Users' Guide" to "Wisconsin State Government Publications." These will help you get started, but you will inevitably end up speaking with the government documents librarian. However, if you are going to work with government documents a good deal, it pays to learn how to use the finding aids. Otherwise, you are dependent on the skills of the librarian and her or his understanding of all of the possibilities that your topic offers.

Scanning the shelves pertaining to relevant agencies is a worthwhile exercise to find items by serendipity and to generate paper topics. You will learn quickly that government agencies produce paperwork in unexpected areas. The Department of Agriculture, for example, published a field guide for plants in Arizona. Understanding why the agency commissioned this study could shed light on agricultural policy of the time. Presidential commissions have studied urban problems, but few environmental histories have been written in this area. Numerous defense reports have analyzed the destructive capacity of military arsenal; it remains for someone to write an environmental history on the subject.

Finding the documents you need presents special challenges. If you know only the popular name of a report, such as the Warren Commission report, you may not find what you looking for without the formal title of the report. Use the Popular Names of U.S. Government Reports, 1984. If you know the title, use the Cumulative Title Index to United States Public Documents. For congressional hearings, committee reports, and house and senate reports use the CIS indexes to hearings, committee prints, and the serial set. (The Congressional Information Service, or CIS, is a private company that produces the best indexes into certain government documents. They are easy to use.