

Range Management in the Libraries of North America¹

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Highlight

A search for Range Management History led the ASRM Historian into a compilation of the libraries and repositories of published and unpublished Range Management literature, mostly in the USA. This interim report calls for further work to locate and describe historical and documentary material on range management and a solid plea for preservation and protection of such material.

We cannot laugh at our lack of care of the written records of any profession. No doubt Sir Isaac Newton was perturbed when his dog Diamond upset a candlestick and in a minute a year's work was ash. C. Hart Merriam, first and later retired Chief of the old U.S. Biological Survey, must have been aghast on returning to Washington after a five year assignment with the Harriman Foundation. He went to the safe in the Smithsonian Institution, and found it had been opened and his manuscript on the Mammals of North America (which he considered the summation of his life's work) had been mercilessly clipped by someone who had selected the important parts for his card file. ASRM past-president M. W. Talbot, on leaving the Bureau of Plant Industry many years ago, selected 1300 of his best photos from a collection of 20,000 on range forage, types, and landscapes. He mounted, labeled, and placed them in the proper file. Years later he felt the need of duplicates of some of the pic-

tures, but with moves and reorganization of the Bureau, the collection could not be found.

Therefore we conclude that good libraries and repositories are needed not only to accumulate and disseminate information of value, but also to protect and preserve it.

A start was made to locate repositories of Range Management History, but I found so little tangible information that I switched to the idea of Range Management Literature. First it was necessary to set some geographic boundaries so this effort is limited mostly to the United States and Canada. In addition, Range Management literature extends from Agrostology to Zoology as these subjects affect rangeland and its use. The survey was kept within the range management field.

Correspondence with about 50 individuals helped to locate working libraries, then the few libraries with facilities, personnel, financial means, and a substantial amount of material in Range Management. Along with this I tried to locate unpublished notes, manuscripts, photograph collections, etc., of noted workers who had retired or who had passed on. Finally, some private libraries were located.

This must be considered a preliminary report. The subject is not static—like a bibliography it can never be complete. If someone has the ambition to pursue the idea around the world or in parts or pieces, he will have an interesting, worthwhile experience and have the thanks of a multitude of workers.

Better Repositories of Range Management Material

1) The designated publication file of the A.S.R.M. and other material at Utah State University.

2) The designated manuscript file and archives of the A.S.R.M. at the University of Wyoming.

The Cole Library at the University also has the notes, photos and unpublished material of F. E. Clements, Vernon Bailey, and Arthur Powell Davies.

3) The Conservation Library Center of the Denver Public Library is the repository for some 550,000 U.S. Documents. The Center also has the 5,000,000 card file of the Bibliographical Center for Research, Rocky Mountain Region, Inc., composed of 385 member libraries.

4) The Bancroft Library at the University of California.

5) The National Agricultural Library of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington.

Libraries in Washington, D.C. with Range Management Material

The National Agricultural Library. A very large library with books, bulletins, reprints, and also with complete files of foreign and domestic journals and magazines on agricultural subjects. There are large manuscript and clipping files and many photograph collections.

The Library of Congress. One of the larger libraries of the world. It contains two copies of all of the material for which a copyright is applied for in the United States. In addition, it receives many other domestic publications, gifts, and purchases collections. It contains about 5,000,000 volumes and bulletins, and nearly as many manuscripts, charts, maps, etc. Lending service is available to agencies (with some limitations). Study rooms and needed library service are available.

The National Archives. Filing is mostly by agency and subject matter rather than by any cataloguing system. The Archives are replete with manuscripts and pertinent historical material. Range management records of the U.S. Forest Service occupy 200 ft of shelf space, I am told. Capable assistance is available. No material may be removed

¹ Condensed from a report by F. P. Cronemiller, *Historian of ASRM until 1966. A copy of the complete report and pertinent files are on deposit in the ASRM Archives at the University of Wyoming in Laramie. A copy of the report is also on file at the ASRM Depository Library at Utah State University at Logan.*

from the Archives, but adequate study space is available.

The Federal Records Center. This is a repository at Alexandria, Virginia for closed files of the various Bureaus. There is no public access. Material may be secured through the appropriate Bureau.

The Bureau Libraries are good to excellent in Range Management material. Soil conservation Service Library has the best coverage outside the National Agricultural Library. The U.S. Forest Service has a good but small library for its people. The Bureau of Land Management's library is incorporated with the Library of the Department of the Interior. For the Western Offices, official material is in the Federal Records Center in Denver.

Branch Libraries of the Bureaus. The Bureau of Land Management does not have Regional Offices, but individuals have developed working libraries as needed.

The Forest and Range Experiment Stations of the U.S. Forest Service have very good to excellent libraries on most phases of conservation. Their purpose is of course to serve their own workers. In most of the offices of Range Management in the Regions of the Forest Service, there are good working libraries.

The Soil Conservation Service has but three large Regions in the west. In these, the libraries are little more than minimal, consisting of basic publications and collections of local workers.

University and State Libraries

University of Arizona. Has a good working library for local workers plus the unique library of the Ecology of Arid Lands.

Brigham Young University (Utah). A good working library for students and local researchers.

University of California. In the School of Forestry there are excellent working libraries. These with the Bancroft Library make the stu-

dents and researchers almost independent of any outside facilities.

Colorado State University. Adequate but not separate from other subjects in plant science.

Humboldt State College (California). A good basic library for the courses in range, forestry, and wildlife.

University of Idaho. An adequate library for wildlife and range sciences. Maintains the historic file of the Idaho Section of the A.S.R.M.

Kansas State University. Adequate for local researchers.

University of Montana. Adequate for local researchers.

Montana State University. The University Library plus the Russell Museums have fine historical material on ranch and range use. Also a Federal Depository.

University of Nebraska. Adequate for local researchers.

University of Nevada. Range Management subjects are in the Life Sciences Library.

North Dakota State University. Adequate for local researchers.

University of Oklahoma. Good working library. University of Oklahoma Press publishes the series "The Western Frontier Library".

Oklahoma State University. Adequate for local researchers.

Oregon State University. A good Range Management Library, plus important ms material, including papers and notes of the late Jas. T. Jardine. The State Library at Salem has the file of the Oregon Writers' Project, a WPA program of the 1930's, which covers in detail the history of grazing in the state.

South Dakota State University. Adequate for local researchers.

New Mexico State University. Between the University and the branch stations there are some fine records of the work in this unique area.

Texas A & M. Adequate for local researchers.

Texas Technological College. Good reference library in Range Management. Also a fine museum and collection of historical documents relating to early ranch and range history. Historical material is available in Texas at many schools.

Utah State University. Has a good working library supplemented by

the repository for published material of the A.S.R.M.

Washington State University. A pioneer in the teaching of Range Management dating back to 1920. Has built up a good reference and working library.

My information on state libraries is minimal and indicates it is mostly of historical nature.

University of Saskatchewan. Work in Plant Ecology has been intensive and there is an excellent library well interlarded with Range Management material.

University of Alberta. Here is given a course in Rangeland Vegetation and Range Management. Basic texts and some publications are available.

Canada Department of Agriculture. The Research Branch of the Department has no Range Management Library as such, but does have the basic texts, much published material, particularly that of Canadian origin plus journals and other published works. Deposited there are the notes of the late Dr. S. E. Clarke, mostly in the form of annual reports on his forage experiments.

Private Libraries

Library of Grasses. Dr. Alan A. Beetle, University of Wyoming. This is one of the finest Grass libraries in the west, containing about 10,000 items covering taxonomy, ecology and management, all thoroughly indexed.

A Range Man's Library. J. C. Dykes. See a description of this fine library in JRM 13:118-124, 1960. Dispersal of this fine library of over 3,000 volumes of Western Americana began on Dykes' retirement in 1965.

Fred G. Renner. Range Publications and a Charles Russell collection. Includes everything he could get on Western Americana, along with a notable Charles Russell Collection. On his retirement he left about 2,000 publications with the SCS Plant Science Division, sent a few hundred duplicates to the Society's Repository at Utah State University, and retained a Western Americana Library of about 4,000 items and his Charles Russell collection of articles, clippings, letters, etc., totaling about 2,000 items. His collection of over 100 Charles Russell paintings is the largest in existence.

E. J. Dyksterhuis. A 15-foot shelf of range publications collected over a period of thirty years, in the Department of Range Science at Texas A & M.

The working library assembled by Professor *Harold Heady* of the University of California uses 40 feet of shelf space. Several others can compete on a basis of measurement.

Working libraries are mostly local in nature, and favor the interests of the individual worker. However, these working libraries are, to a large extent, the backbone of Range Research and administration. They should be encouraged, fostered and preserved.

Historical Libraries

Published and unpublished diaries and reports of expeditions and emigration westward often yield pertinent information on the vegetation and its condition. For example, observations by early emigrants on the occurrence of species of *Artemisia* have often been noted and now indicate these have moved westward considerable distances.

Books and articles on western Americana often have a firm historical foundation. The Historical Societies of the various states have fine libraries, often supplemented with museums. Some of these are sponsored privately or by agencies, groups or individuals. It takes a lot of digging in such material, but sometimes the reward is great.

No attempt is made to list them and an annotated description would be of little value.

Deposition of Unpublished Materials of Noted Workers

My record of the disposition of

unpublished records of some noted workers follows.

F. E. Clements, Ecologist. His unpublished manuscripts, notes, sketches and photographs have been deposited at the Cole Library at the University of Wyoming. Includes some material of Edith S. Clements, his wife and co-worker.

Vernon Bailey. Early Chief of the U.S. Bureau of the Biological Survey. His personal papers are also at the Cole Library.

Arthur Powell Davies. An early Deputy Chief of the U.S. Reclamation Service with a fine vision of the development of the West. His papers are a valuable accession to the Cole Library.

A. F. "Bert" Potter. These papers came into my hands from the heirs in 1952. The material covers the development of grazing policies and regulations on the National Forests. Included also are articles written by Potter and correspondence between him and Pinchot. It is unfortunate that the material was divided, that which seemed most important was sent to the National Archives. The remainder is waiting a decision as to its disposition and may finally reside in the Conservation Library Center at Denver.

F. R. Carpenter. Organized and was first Chief of the U.S. Grazing Service, later the Bureau of Land Management. His file of papers and correspondence has been placed in the Conservation Library Center at Denver.

Dr. H. L. Shantz. Ecologist famed for his work in the Great Plains and in Africa. A hundred file cabinets containing his notes, photographs and unpublished material are de-

posited with the University of Arizona.

Dr. Forest Shreve. Director of the Desert Laboratory of the Carnegie Foundation at Tucson, Arizona. His notes and published material are deposited with the University of Arizona.

James T. Jardine. The first to head up "grazing studies" with the U.S. Forest Service and the first to apply the basic principles of Range Management widespread on public ranges. The remnants of his notes and papers are on deposit at Oregon State University.

I would like to find a record of the other unpublished notes of value. Have they gone with the wind like those of P. B. Kennedy, Will C. Barnes and others?

W. G. McGinnies. Project Manager of the Desert Environments Inventory has a unique library in his office of Arid Lands Research at the University of Arizona.

Conclusion

Not having the facilities to pursue this subject further, I have suggested that the work be continued and expanded with a new Historian who has the facilities to carry on. A more careful appraisal of the field, more accurate descriptions of the outstanding libraries should be made, and the annotated descriptions of the libraries of those schools teaching Range Management should be expanded, and improved. The search should be continued for additional private libraries of note and for depositions of unpublished materials.



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