

PRESERVATION OF THE LITERATURE OF AGRICULTURE: WASHINGTON STATE

Final Report: June 2005 University of Washington Libraries

This report summarizes the University of Washington Libraries' work compiling bibliographies of Washington State agriculture, forestry, and fisheries literature published between 1820 and 1945 as well as the scholarly evaluation process.

STAFFING

Gary Menges, Preservation Administrator, managed the project until Stephanie Lamson, Assistant Preservation Librarian, returned from maternity leave in September 2004. Three students were initially hired to work on the project in July 2004 but two resigned in early fall. To replace them, one student and a part-time staff member, Katie Dodsley, Library Materials Conservation Technician, were hired. We were happy that Katie joined the project and helped end our difficulties with student staff turnover. Katie and the two students worked on the project through March 31, 2005. Another student already on staff for other projects compiled and entered rankings in April 2005 as needed.

COMPILATION OF THE BIBLIOGRAPHY

Stephanie Lamson developed a manual covering the scope of the grant, searching, and downloading/managing OCLC WorldCat records in EndNote prior to maternity leave. Cornell shared this manual with other participating libraries at the ALA meeting in Orlando.

Searching OCLC WorldCat

Students searched OCLC WorldCat and imported relevant records into an EndNote database according to the procedures manual. Searching was primarily by keywords, usually a subject such as "fruit*" and a geographic location such as "Washington State." Searching by geographic location was a little more difficult for us since searching "Washington" would bring up Washington, D.C. publications and federal documents in addition to Washington State titles. We also searched by Library of Congress Subject Heading and corporate author, especially when we found a number of titles under a particular entry.

Initial Clean-up of EndNote Databases

Clean-up of the databases began at the end of September and continued through the end of December when we had 3,966 records. We found that getting rid of reprints and duplicates in the database went relatively quickly. Investigating records with 1900? dates was more time consuming. We discovered that many were post-1945 publications and deleted them.

We attempted to enter all relevant titles under one entry, the earliest title (or the microfilm record, if available). For example, we entered books under the title of the first edition and mentioned later editions when possible. We also attempted to enter all related serial titles under one entry. For example, the serial *Washington Farmer* (1914-1971) is listed under its earliest title *Ranch* (1895-1914). Entering all related serial entries under the earliest title proved to be quite challenging due to the number of title changes, succeeding titles, and conflicting cataloging information.

Although imported records from OCLC were fairly clean, we still spent considerable time deleting extraneous information or moving information from one field to another. With the altered “WorldCat (OCLC)” import filter we used, parenthetical information in OCLC WorldCat records was generally downloaded into the Notes field. Although this information was often repetitive and deleted (e.g., parenthetical author info such as the author’s full middle name), it was sometimes very important. For example, Washington State corporate authors are usually listed as Washington (State). Dept. of Agriculture so the (State) always imported into the notes field instead of the corporate author field requiring considerable manual clean up.

SUPPLEMENTING THE BIBLIOGRAPHY

Once the initial clean-up was completed, we began to supplement the databases with further OCLC WorldCat searching mostly to fill gaps and to recover from some mishaps.

Mishaps and Additional Searching of OCLC WorldCat

Although we had warned against it, one person used the EndNote “find duplicates” function to eliminate some titles and in the process, probably deleting some relevant titles, particularly earlier and later editions and microforms. While EndNote’s “find duplicates” function can be useful, the results should always be reviewed before deleting any “duplicates.” EndNote’s default only compares a few fields and can easily delete different variations of the same title.

Another mishap was caused by a misunderstanding of OCLC WorldCat’s document type coding of theses as “Book; Archival Material.” This led one student to delete theses thinking they were excluded as manuscript or archival material. This was easily fixed by searching OCLC WorldCat while limiting to theses but still caused us to repeat some work.

Lastly, we discovered that the place of publication is not included in OCLC WorldCat’s keyword searching. Fortunately we had not done much searching by place of publication at that point. Once we discovered this, we repeated searches using place of publication = “Wash.” We also discovered that it was useful to search place of publication = “Seattle” and other major cities since many times “Wash.” was not included in the cataloging record. This method of searching was particularly useful for finding serial titles that had

general subject headings and lacked any other geographical information other than place of publication.

Printed Bibliographies, Searching Other Catalogs, and Uncataloged Materials

Subject librarians from the University of Washington and Washington State University reviewed the draft bibliography to help identify omissions. We also began checking our database of records against printed bibliographies and other catalogs in late November. Michigan State University's list of "Sources Used to Compile a Bibliography of Michigan's Agricultural and Rural Economy, 1820-1945" was very useful as were their project reports. In retrospect, it might have been better if we had consulted some basic sources like Bailey's *Cyclopedia of American Agriculture* earlier in the project to help us generate search terms.

We found checking our databases against the printed bibliographies very worthwhile, especially for identifying serial titles cataloged with minimal subject headings. We also found many titles, particularly newspapers, in the printed bibliographies for which there are no holdings in OCLC WorldCat. The fact that some titles have already disappeared emphasizes the importance of this project and preserving the literature that we still have.

We contacted public libraries, historical societies, and museums that we thought might have uncataloged collections within the scope of this project. The Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture provided us with a list of uncataloged titles they felt were in scope that included several pamphlets we did not have listed. We also searched the NOAA Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Science Center Library catalog but found that we already had identified any relevant titles. We also asked colleagues on our regional preservation listserv to help us identify any relevant uncataloged collections.

We traveled to the Washington State Library since it is the principal depository for Washington state documents and has not finished converting to an online catalog. We searched their card catalog as well as an online catalog on CD-ROM called LaserPac that contained Washington State publications. We found some relevant titles, particularly pamphlets.

We also discovered in the course of the project that some early Washington State University masters theses are not in their online catalog. Since theses will not be ranked, we have decided to add them at a later date when WSU can provide a complete list. For the lists of theses, we included theses produced from the UW and WSU in the fields of agriculture, home economics, fisheries, and forestry regardless of the subject scope of the thesis. Theses from other institutions or in other fields (zoology, chemical engineering, MBA, etc.) are included only if they are within the subject scope.

Some Pacific Northwest and Pacific Coast titles were included. Our primary goal was to identify and preserve relevant Washington State titles but fish, forests, and agricultural regions often ignore state boundaries and so do their publications. For example, the Oregon Hop Growers Association's *Oregon Hop Grower*, "A magazine devoted to the interests of the hop industry of the Pacific Coast," later becomes the *Pacific Hop Grower*,

published in part by the Yakima Valley Hop Growers Association. We are also the first library in the Pacific Northwest to participate in this project so preserving titles relevant to both Washington State and the region should not duplicate any other effort.

Final Clean-up and Distribution for Review

As we prepared the bibliographies for review, we felt it would help reviewers if we improved how titles were grouped by author. If two or more authors were listed and one was for an organization (e.g., Washington State Dept. of Agriculture) and one was a personal name (e.g., John Smith), we attempted to list the title under the organization or corporate author.

We also warned reviewers that entries for an institution may be under more than one name if that institution's name changed over time. For example, entries for agricultural experiment station publications appear under Agricultural College, Experiment Station and School of Science of the State of Washington as well as State College of Washington, Agricultural Experiment Station, and Washington Agricultural Experiment Station depending upon the catalog record and the name of the institution when the title was published.

The completed bibliographies contain 2,317 titles distributed among the three subject areas as follows: 231 titles for Fisheries; 604 titles for Forestry; and 1,482 titles for Agriculture. If a title covered more than one subject area, it is included on the agriculture bibliography. Of the 2,317 total titles, about half (1,142 book and serial titles) will be eligible for microfilming in the next phase of this grant since 482 (21%) were pamphlets, 641 (28%) were theses and 52 (2%) were preservation microfilmed. We hope to obtain funding from another source to microfilm pamphlets and theses in the future. As one reviewer argued, pamphlets are as important as books and often more informative.

The bibliographies were distributed to reviewers in February. Rankings were due March 31st. While the reviewers were ranking the bibliographies, we continued to check our work against printed bibliographies. A short addendum of about 45 titles was sent to reviewers for ranking in early March. We also continued to clean up the database and gather holdings information.

SCHOLARLY EVALUATION AND RANKING

Review Panel

We reallocated money with the approval of the project leaders to hire additional reviewers so that there were reviewers with expertise in each of the three subject areas of fisheries, forestry and agriculture. Our final panel included:

- David Coon, Associate Professor of History at Washington State University for his knowledge of Washington State agriculture. He teaches agricultural and early American history at WSU and is the author of *The Development of Market Agriculture in South Carolina, 1670-1785* (1989). He is currently working on a

- book-length study of George Washington's Mount Vernon slave community and a general survey of American agricultural history.
- Robert Ficken, independent scholar, for his knowledge of the history of Washington State and especially the lumber industry. He is the author of *The Forested Land : A History of Lumbering in Western Washington* and *Rufus Woods, the Columbia River, & the Building of Modern Washington*.
 - Richard Kirkendall, Professor Emeritus of History at University of Washington, for his expertise in agricultural history and the history of agriculture in Washington State. He is the author of several books, including *Social Scientists and Farm Politics in the Age of Roosevelt* and *Uncle Henry: A Documentary Profile of the First Henry Wallace*.
 - William Lang, Professor of History at Portland State University, for his expertise in the environmental history of the Pacific Northwest. Mr. Lang is the director of the Center for Columbia River History and the author of several books, including *Confederacy of Ambition: William Winlock Miller and the Making of Washington Territory* as well as two edited volumes on the Columbia River: *A Columbia River Reader* and *Great River of the West*.
 - Jack Rogers, Professor of Plant Pathology of Washington State University, whose research interests include the biology of fungi, especially Ascomycetes; the taxonomy of Ascomycetes; and the pathology of forest trees. He has published extensively and teaches Forest Pathology and the Ascomycetes and Fungi Imperfecti and is the recipient of several teaching awards. He also holds a partial appointment in the Department of Natural Resources Sciences.
 - Joseph Taylor, Associate Professor in History and Geography at Simon Fraser University, for his research on fisheries in the Pacific Northwest and his knowledge of environmental history and history of the American West. He is the author of *Making Salmon : An Environmental History of the Northwest Fisheries Crisis*.
 - Donald Theoe, active member of the Society of American Foresters and its historian since 1989. He is an Affiliate Associate Professor in the College of Forest Resources, University of Washington and the Chief Forester and President of Woodland Forestry Consultants in Lakewood, Washington. Prior to forming Woodland Forestry Consultants, Mr. Theoe was the Forest Stewardship Coordinator for the Washington Department of Natural Resources in Enumclaw, Washington since 1990.

Carol Green, Forest Resources Librarian, University of Washington Libraries, Cindy Kaag, Head of Science Libraries, Washington State University and Louise Richards, Head, Fisheries-Oceanography Library, University of Washington also reviewed the bibliographies in their subject areas.

Review Process and Final Results

We set up two meetings with some of the local reviewers to explain the ranking process and answer any questions. Most of the reviewers, however, were not local so we

supplied as much information as possible in their packets and followed-up with them via e-mail. All of the reviewers had at least five weeks to complete their rankings.

We compiled the rankings in April 2005 and were pleased to find that the reviewers ranked highly many titles that our subject librarians also felt were important for preservation. A sample of some of these titles is appended at the end of this report. We also noted that reviewers seemed to appreciate it when we listed additional information about the contents of some serials, either a selection of articles or the Library of Congress Subject Headings, particularly when those titles did not provide a clear indication of their contents. As a group, these serial titles seemed to be ranked more positively than similar titles without the annotations. We also found that historians and scientists/practitioners ranked the lists quite differently although there was consensus on many of the most important titles.

We merged our three EndNote databases and successfully migrated the information into Microsoft Access 2002. We used the Microsoft Access database to analyze the rankings and holdings data as we prepared our budget proposal for the microfilming phase of the project.

PUBLICITY

UW News in coordination with the Washington State University News Service distributed a news release regarding the grant project on August 9, 2004. The grant was also briefly mentioned in *Library Directions: a newsletter of the University of Washington Libraries* (Autumn-Winter, 2004) and on the UW Libraries' Preservation website.

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