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Institute of Historical Research Library

- Over 200,000 primary sources, guides, reference works and periodicals.
- From early medieval to contemporary.
- Print, electronic, microform collections
- Collections strengths: Britain, Western Europe, Colonial history, the Americas, local and regional history
- We work collaboratively with other libraries around Bloomsbury, especially Senate House Library, the other libraries within the School of Advanced Study, and the School of Slavonic and East European Studies (SSEES) and the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)

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Environmental History Guide (I)

Environmental History Collections

Find out more about the environmental history collections in the IHR Wohl Library. We collect historical sources and guides to finding and using sources. This page shows examples from the collections.

Search Catalogue



Introduction

Environmental history is a fascinating and relatively new area of historical study. This guide lists some of the works explicitly on the subject which you can find in our collections. These include works on historiography and methodology, small collections of secondary monographs and reference works as well as a growing number of published primary sources.

"For environmental historians, these sources will include not only all the relevant books and articles, but, as the case dictates, business records, scientific reports, newspaper records, and literature revealing the attitudes of the people of the times."

J. Donald Hughes. *What is environmental history?*

As the quote above shows, relevant source material for researchers in environmental history can also be found within a wide range of works. Listed below are a few examples showing how some of the diaries and published correspondence, government records, chronicles, oral history and maps found in the library can be used.

history.ac.uk/library/collections/environmental-history



Environmental History Guide: Case Studies

Case Studies

- Late Medieval and Early Modern Weather Events +
- Disappearing Lochs +
- Theodore Roosevelt and the 'Midnight Forests'** x
- Environmental Movements in Britain from the 1970s +

One of the achievements of Theodore Roosevelt's presidency was the establishment of dozens of forest reserves covering thousands of square kilometres of land. The process had already got underway in the 1890s with the passing of the Forest Reserve Act of March 1891 and Roosevelt had commented on its importance at the time; in a [letter](#) dated August 24th 1897, he argues,

" It was a serious matter taking this great mass of forest reservations away from the settlers. That it needed to be done admits of no question, but the great bulk of the people themselves strongly objected to its being done; and a great deal of nerve and a good deal of tact were needed in accomplishing it. I am exceedingly glad that President Cleveland issued the order; but none of the trouble came on him at all. He issued the order at the very end of his administration..."

Although William McKinley succeeded Cleveland his presidency was cut short with his assassination in 1901; the execution of this 'serious matter' would fall upon Roosevelt himself and the head of the United States Forest Service, Gifford Pinchot.

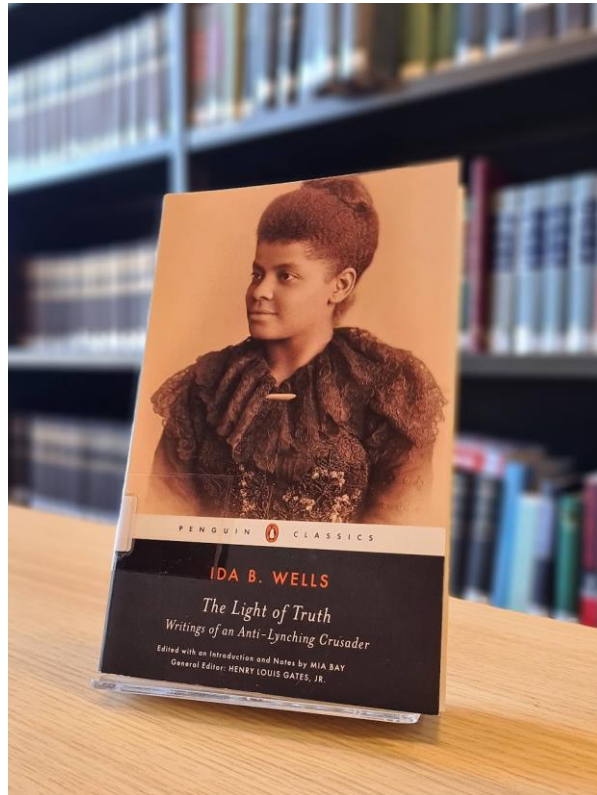
Debates about the Forest Reserve Act and the establishment of the United States Forest service can be found in the library's holdings of the [Congressional Record](#) and journals of the [House of Representatives](#) and the [Senate](#). These sources show that this process of reserve creation was in effect brought to an end in early 1907. It had angered some members of the timber industry and industrial farming community as well as some members of Congress, who sought to end what they dubbed 'Pinchotism'. In an amendment attached by Senator Charles W. Fulton of Oregon to the Agricultural Appropriation Bill of the 25th of February 1907 forbade,

" That hereafter no forest reserve shall be created, nor shall any additions be made to one heretofore created, within the limits of the States of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Colorado, or Wyoming, except by act of Congress."

Roosevelt had no choice but to pass this into law by the 4th of March. However, that gave him and Pinchot and his staff at the Forest Service a few days to create new reserves and extend existing ones before the 4th March deadline, Roosevelt calling them the 'midnight forests'. In total twenty-one new forest preserves were created and eleven were enlarged.



Ida B. Wells and the flood of 1927



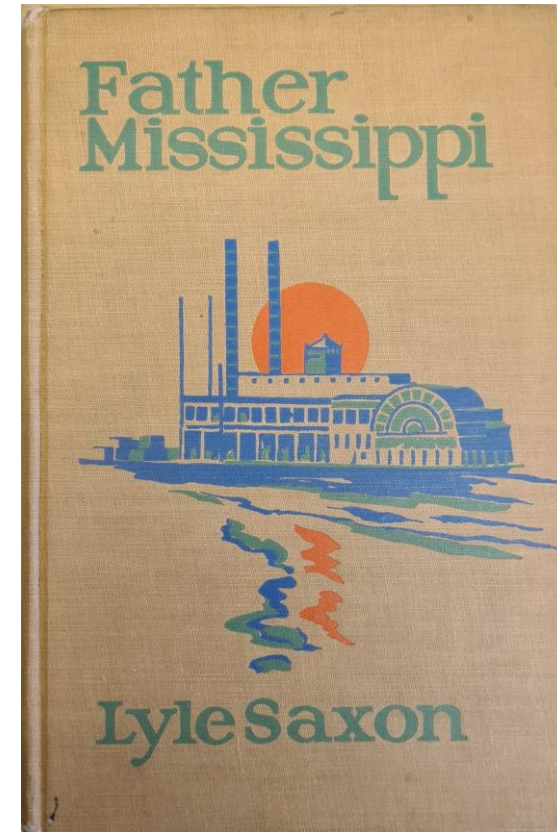
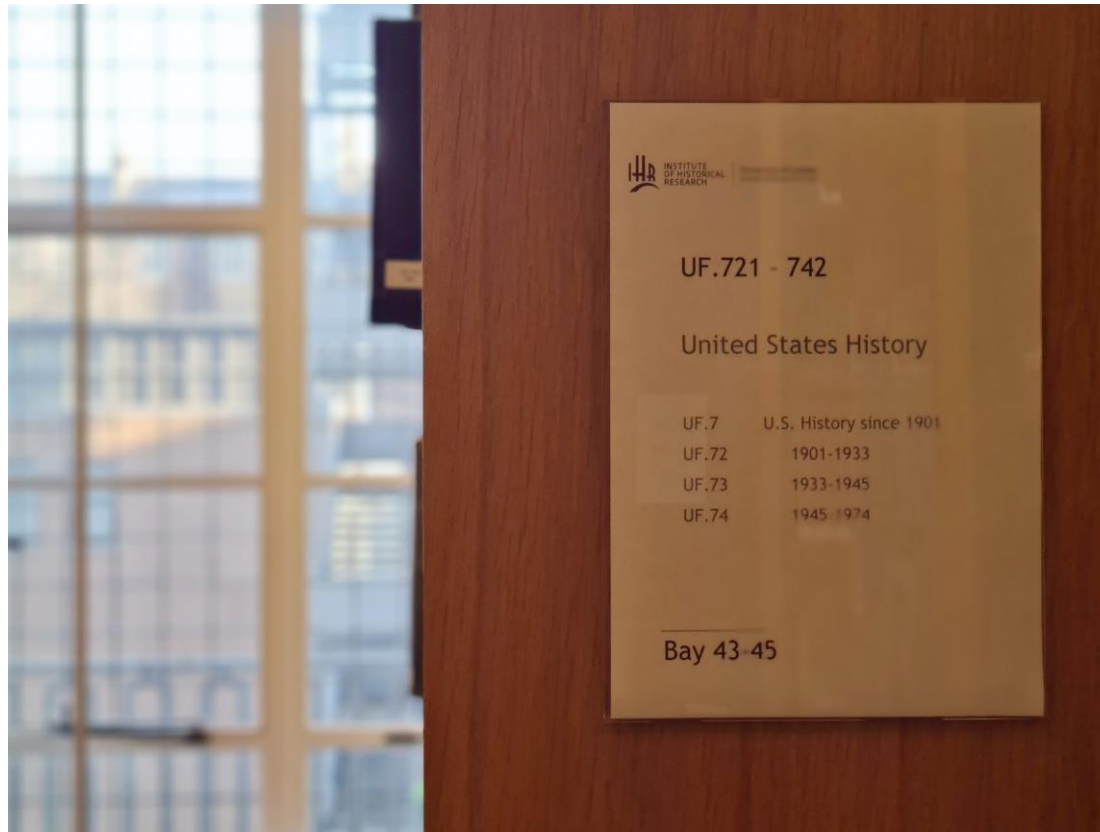
(picture credits: U.S. National Archives, *Flooded farmland* – catalog.archives.gov/id/285952 and *Aerial view of train stranded on flooded tracks* – catalog.archives.gov/id/285957)



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US History Collections



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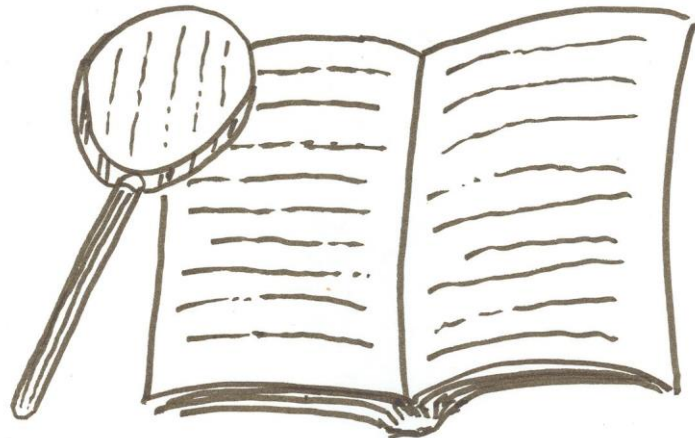
Broad and Narrow Sources

Searching Broad Sources

- Letter Collections
- Newspapers
- Papers of Government and other Organisations

Finding Narrow Sources

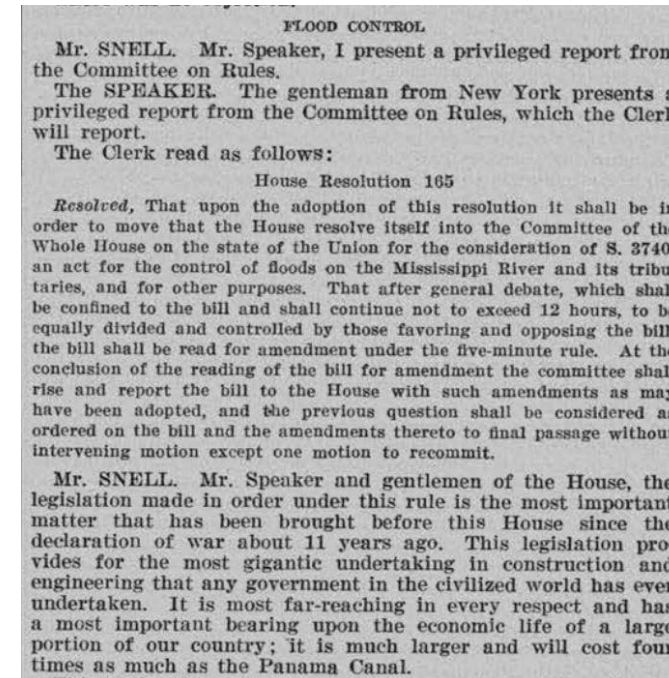
- Specific Eyewitness Accounts
- Oral Histories
- Contemporary Works about a specific event





Government Records

- Congressional Record (via www.congress.gov/congressional-record)
- Library of Congress survey of digitised US State legislature proceedings (<https://guides.loc.gov/state-legislative-journals/by-state>)



House Journal, April 17th 1928



Newspaper Sources

- **Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers –**
www.chroniclingamerica.loc.gov
- **Times Digital Archive –** between 1st Jan. 1927 and 1st Jan. 1928 86 articles were published about the Mississippi floods.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE Humanities | CHRONICLING AMERICA Historic American Newspapers

Search America's historic newspaper pages from 1777-1963 or use the U.S. Newspaper Directory to find information about American newspapers published between 1690-present. Chronicling America is sponsored jointly by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress. [Learn more >](#)

Search Pages | Advanced Search | All Digitized Newspapers 1777-1963 | **US Newspaper Directory, 1690-Present**


All states + from 1927 to 1928 + mississippi flood GO

Pages Available: 20,262,913 | Print | Subscribe | Share/Save | Give Feedback


Results 1 - 20 of 2870 | 1 | 2 | 3 | ... | 142 | 143 | 144 | Jump to page: | GO | View: Gallery | List

2870 results containing "mississippi flood"


Show only front pages | Sort by: Relevance | Results per page: 20




Evening star. [volume]
(Washington, D.C.), May 08, 1927, Image 105



Brownsville herald. [volume]
(Brownsville, Tex.), November 06, 1927, Image 22



Evening star. [volume]
(Washington, D.C.), December 05, 1927, Page 11, Image 11



New Britain herald. [microfilm reel]
(New Britain, Conn.), May 21, 1927, FINAL EDITION, Image 14



Finding Resources: the catalogue



Quick Search

Keyword Institute of Historical Research Library

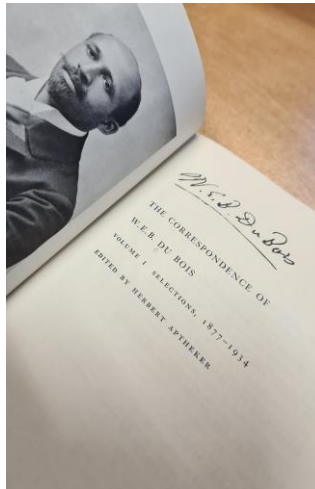
Search	IHR Resources	Other Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Author Title Author/Title Keyword: Simple Advanced Subject Headings Classmark 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Library Online Resources IHR website British History Online Layers of London 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Library Hub Discover (formerly COPAC and SUNCAT) National Archives British Library catalogue



<https://catalogue.libraries.london.ac.uk/search~S10/>

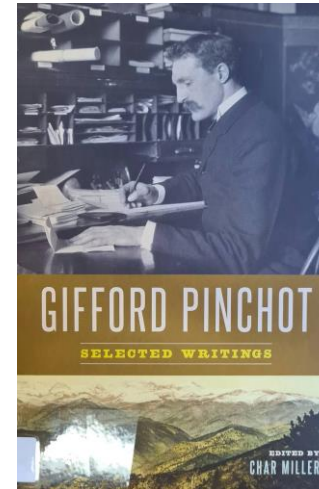
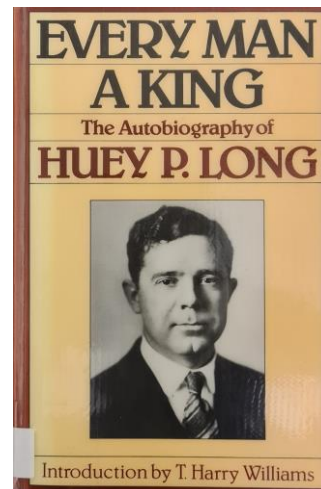


Biographical Sources, letters and Essays



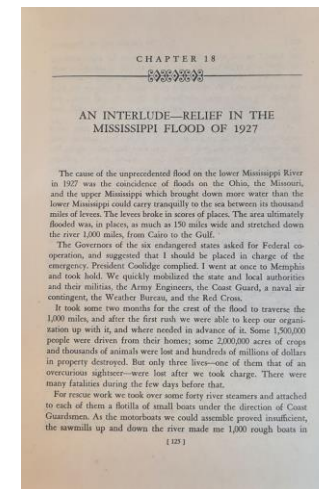
W.E.B. du Bois.
Correspondence, vol. 1
1877-1934
Location: IHR, North
American Reading
Room, UF.716/Boi

Huey Long. *Every man a king*
Location: IHR, North
American Reading Room,
UF.718/Lon



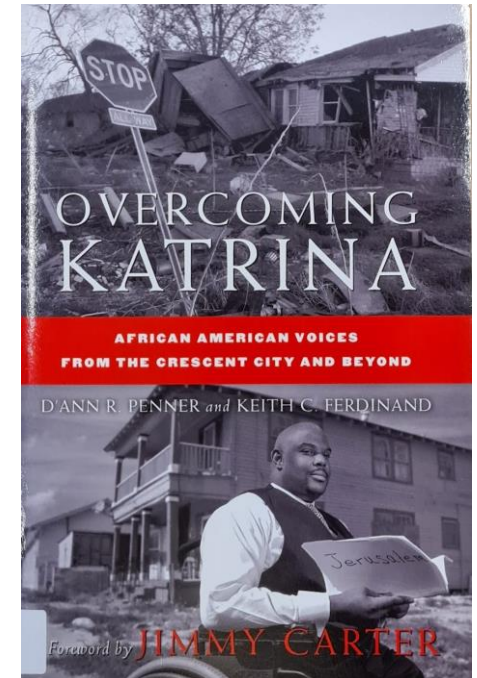
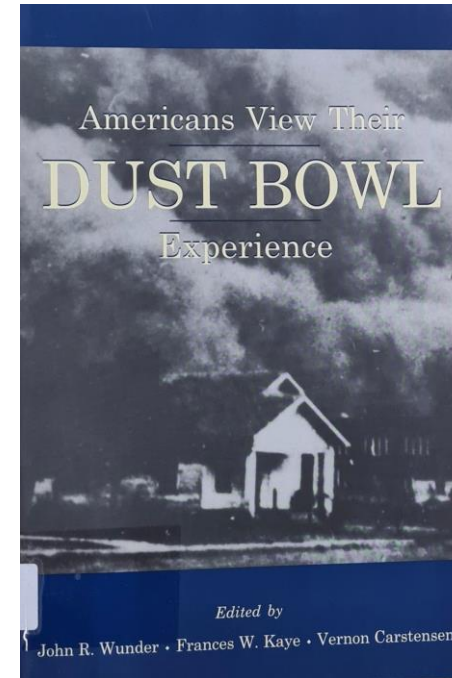
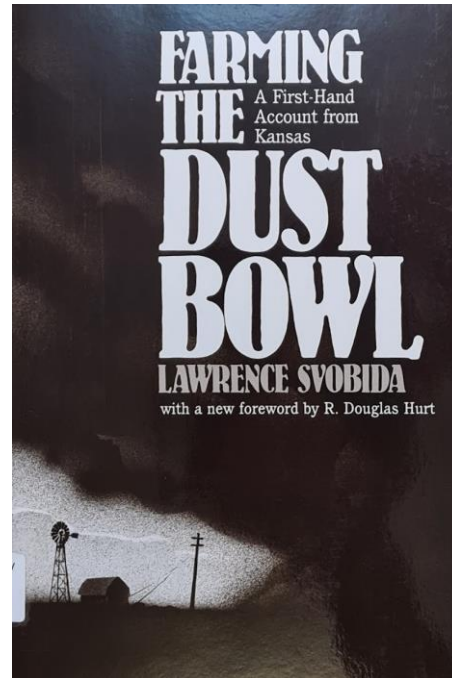
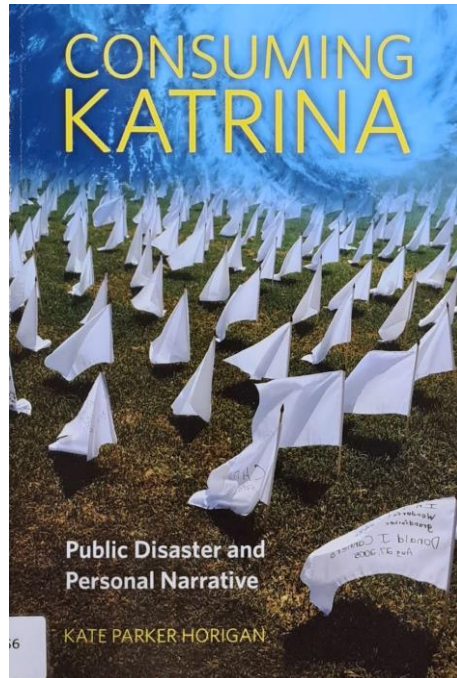
Gifford Pinchot. *Selected Writings*
Location: IHR, North
American Reading Room,
UF.722/Pin

From *The memoirs of
Herbert Hoover: the
Cabinet and the
Presidency 1920-1933*
Location: IHR, North
American Reading Room,
UF.728/Hoo



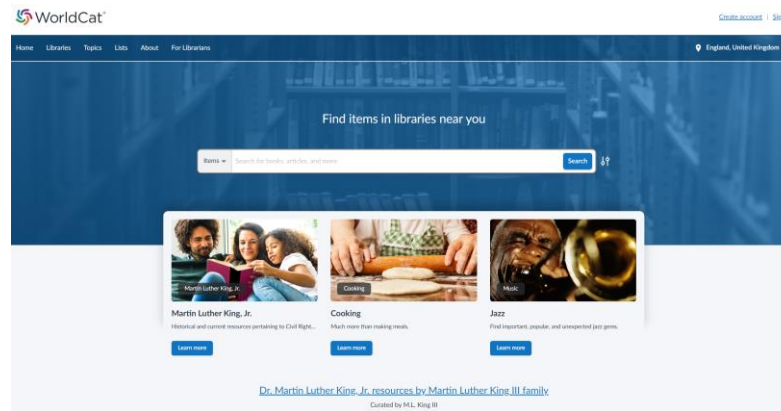


Comparative Sources



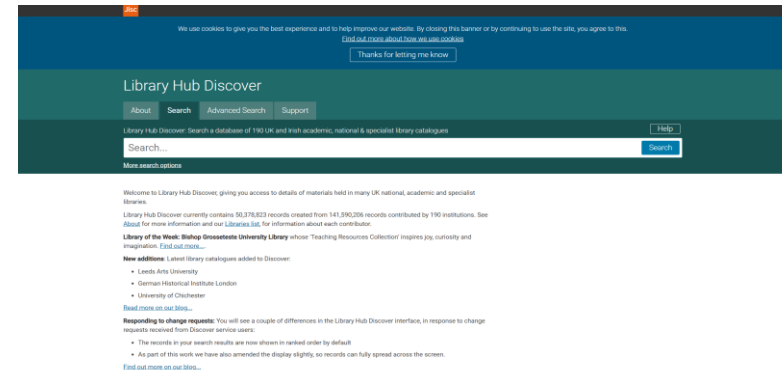


Other Catalogues



WorldCat – worldcat.org

Library Hub Discover –
discover.libraryhub.jisc.ac.uk

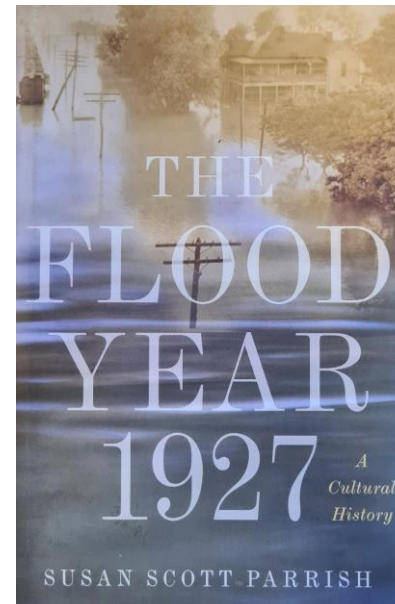


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Finding a Bibliography

- Online bibliographies such as the Environmental History Bibliography Database maintained by the Forest History Society (<https://foresthistor.org/research-explore/archives-library/environmental-history-bibliography-database/>)
- Bibliographies and End/Footnotes in Secondary Monographs





Summary

- Fish for relevant information in broad sources. In this instance these have been newspapers and political papers.
- Hunt for relevant narrow sources specifically about your subject. To do this use:
 - Individual Library/Archive Catalogues
 - Union Catalogues such as WorldCat or JISC Library Hub. UK archive holdings can also be searched from the catalogue of the National Archives.
 - General and Specialist Bibliographies.
 - Bibliographies and notes in secondary monographs.



Membership & Contacts

- Membership is free to everyone – to join to fill out an online form (<https://www.history.ac.uk/library/library-membership/join>) and opt to either collect your card from the IHR reception or have it sent to you in the post.
- You can contact us in person, via email or telephone as well as on social media:
 - ihr.library@sas.ac.uk
 - 020 7862 8760
 - @IHR_Library
- If you would like to arrange a 1-2-1 induction don't hesitate to contact us.