

Agriculture

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I. Scope

Agriculture is classed in S in the Library of Congress Classification System. The major subclasses are S (General Agriculture); SB (Plant Culture); SD (Forestry); SF (Animal Culture); SH (Aquaculture, Fisheries, Angling), and SK (Hunting Sports).

The agricultural collection includes works on the history of United States and world agriculture, biography, farming, sustainable agriculture, agricultural chemicals, soils and soil science, erosion, soil remediation, land reclamation, organic farming, agricultural tools and machinery, genetically modified crops, plant propagation and seed conservation, economic botany, fruits and berries, vegetables, nuts and herbs, viticulture, cut flowers, gardening and garden history, landscape design and history, parks, plant pests and diseases, weeds, poisonous plants, economic entomology, forestry and silviculture, forest management, forest fires, economic zoology, dairy science, animal nutrition, avian health, veterinary science, pet care, hunting and angling.

II. Research strengths

General research strengths

The Library of Congress acquires materials in all formats and on all aspects of agriculture, mostly at the research level (Level 4). The collections are especially strong in materials—including early U.S. Government publications and bulletins—that support research on the agricultural history of the United States. European agricultural publications are also well represented: the series of French agricultural bulletins, for example, spans approximately 100 years. Other European countries are similarly represented.

The agricultural collections at the Library of Congress are also especially strong in the area of soil science. Long runs of U. S. Government soil surveys and maps, along with foreign soil surveys and current works on erosion, reclamation, water flow, and other areas of soil science contribute to coverage of the subject. General gardening and horticulture are also well represented, and all types of specialized gardening and landscape design are covered.

The agricultural collections are distinguished by long runs of serials. These range from *American Field*, *Country Life*, and the *Daily Racing Form*, to very long runs of florists' magazines, such as *Florists' Review*. The SB subclass, Plant Culture, contains approximately 7,000 serial titles.

The needs of Congressional and other researchers require an increased focus on materials in all areas of agriculture related to climate change and to food supply and food safety, including avian and bovine health, as well as soil erosion and remediation, nitrate fertilizers, genetically modified crops, sustainable horticulture and agriculture, organic gardening and farming, seed banks, relevant aspects of landscape architecture and design such as rain gardens and green roofs, works on invasive species, agro-ecology, and works on crops used for biofuels. Agricultural topics as they relate to most aspects of conventional and alternative food systems (production, distribution, consumption) are also collected, as are works on food policy and food waste.

Abstracting and indexing services have historically provided a means to identify and locate writing, research and other scholarly material in fields of science and technology, and the Library has extensive collections of these publications in print and in electronic formats. Particularly useful electronic databases for agricultural research include the subscription databases: *American Business: Agricultural Newspapers*; *Agriculture Collection*; *Applied Science and Technology Full Text*; *Biofuels Abstracts*; *Biological & Agricultural Index Plus*; *Data-Planet Statistical Ready Reference*; *Food Science and Technology Abstracts*; *Food Science Source*; *Food Studies Online*; *Garden, Landscape & Horticulture Index*; *Gardening, Landscape and Horticulture Collection*; *Horticultural Science Abstracts*; *Web of Science*.

Freely available electronic resources that often have materials of interest in the area of agriculture include *Academic Journals*; *AgEcon*; *AGRICOLA*; *Biodiversity Heritage Library*; *Botanicus*; *Core Historical Literature of Agriculture (Journals)*; *FAOSTAT*; *Farm Subsidy Database*; *PLOS*; *PubAg*.

Agriculture-related materials of all types, including electronic resources, can also be identified through Library of Congress finding aids and bibliographic guides on the Science Reference Section web pages.

Areas of distinction

Library of Congress collections in agriculture are especially strong in the history of agriculture, with many U.S. Government publications, bulletins and surveys representing the better part of the twentieth century. A small but useful collection of material on state fairs is mostly unique to the Library.

In addition to the General Collections, materials related to agriculture may be found in other collections and research centers across the Library:

The Rare Book and Special Collections Division houses early works of importance, including Pietro de' Crescenzi's *Ruralia Commoda*, printed in 1471 and *Traité des Arbres Fruitiers*, by Duhamel du Monceau, printed in 1833. Also found in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division, the Theodore Roosevelt Hunting Library, a gift of the President's grandson Kermit Roosevelt, is composed primarily of late nineteenth and early twentieth century publications on hunting, natural history, exploration, ornithology, and sport. The collection also includes a number of significant early editions such as Jean de Clamorgan's

La Chasse du Loup; Robert de Salnove's *La Venerie Royal*; *L'Histoire Naturelle*, a work by John Ray that was translated into French by François Salerne; and *The Histoire of Fovre-Footed Beastes* and *The Historie of Serpents* by Edward Topsell.

The Manuscript Division contains the records of the U.S. Forest Service, 1902-1953, and the papers of F. Lamson-Scribner, who played a vital role in the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and is noted as the first scientist to study plant diseases for the USDA. Also of interest to the agricultural researcher are the papers of prominent agriculturalists Luther Burbank and Booker T. Washington, and the renowned landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted. The Thomas Jefferson Papers, 1606-1827, with many references to farming and agriculture, are also housed in the Manuscript Division. Consisting of approximately 27,000 documents, this is the largest collection of original Jefferson documents in the world. Its online presentation of the Thomas Jefferson Papers is comprised of approximately 83,000 images.

The Prints and Photographs Division's collection of Farm Security Administration color transparencies, along with other photographic materials in the collection, document aspects of agriculture in the twentieth century.

Tending the Commons: Folklife and Landscape in Southern West Virginia incorporates original sound recordings, photographs, and manuscripts from the American Folklife Center's Coal River Folklife Project that document traditional ways of life, including hunting, gathering, and subsistence gardening, and timbering. The online collection includes extensive interviews on native forest species and the seasonal round of traditional harvesting.

Mapping the National Parks, a digital collection, documents the history, cultural aspects and geological formations of areas that eventually became National Parks. The collection consists of approximately 200 maps dating from the seventeenth century to the present, reflecting early mapping of the areas that would become four National Parks, as well as the parks themselves.

III. General collecting policy

The Library of Congress acquires for its permanent collections materials in all formats (including books, journals, maps, pamphlets, manuscripts, doctoral dissertations, archived websites, and electronic databases) that contribute to knowledge of the economic, political, social, cultural, historical, geographical and legal aspects of agriculture on a world-wide basis. Dissertations are received in microform, and many are also available through subscription databases.

The Library acquires popular, professional, and scientific works in most areas of agriculture, including a broad selection of works relating to economic botany, organic agriculture and gardening, general horticulture and gardening, agricultural history, conservation of natural resources, soil sciences, viticulture, forestry, and farming as well as food systems and food safety as they relate to agriculture. Monographs and serials received by the Library of Congress, but not selected, are offered as surplus materials to the National Agricultural Library (NAL) and the National Library of Medicine (NLM), under a mutual government transfer agreement.

Since the late 1960's, the Library has not attempted to comprehensively collect the official organs of agricultural organizations at the regional, national or international level, but has deferred to the National Agricultural Library (NAL) in this area. The Library of Congress does not actively acquire seed catalogs. These are collected by the NAL, which has a collection of antique seed catalogs.

The Library of Congress also, as a general policy, defers to the NAL in matters of technical agriculture, since the NAL is by mutual agreement considered the national library for the field of agriculture. The term "technical agriculture" has traditionally been used to indicate subject areas in which soil and plant science theory are applied to land management and crop production, providing a counterpart to theoretical science as well as to the examination of the social and cultural aspects of agriculture. Examples of technical agriculture, as it is interpreted at the Library of Congress today, might include instructional works on the application of pesticides or detailed studies in the technical aspects of animal breeding, and could also indicate works relating to technical aspects of agribusiness such as the operation of grain elevators. The increasing complexity and interdisciplinary nature of scientific subjects within the field of agriculture often make it difficult, however, to draw strict boundaries. As with any subject area, the Library's collecting activities in agriculture are driven primarily by the research needs of its clientele, and will reflect current legislative concerns and areas of general research interest. The growth in interest in certain areas within agriculture, such as biotechnology, food supply and safety, organic and sustainable agriculture, environmental reclamation, and avian health and zoonoses, has resulted in increased collecting activity in these areas in recent years, and some representation of the more technical aspects of these subjects is appropriate to maintaining the integrity of the Library's research collections.

Although agricultural equipment has not traditionally been a focus of Library of Congress collecting activity, the continuing growth of interest in the history of technology, including historical agricultural equipment and patterns of agricultural development, has influenced collecting activity in these areas. In order to meet the needs of researchers, the Library now actively collects works on the history of United States farm equipment, including tractors, ploughs, early harvesting equipment, dryers, hand tools and related items. Modern and historic works on agricultural uses of alternative energies are also actively acquired.

Within the field of agriculture, the Library of Congress maintains a joint collection policy in the area of veterinary science, along with the National Agricultural Library (NAL) and the National Library of Medicine (NLM). Together, these three libraries attempt to collect, retain and preserve all significant material and information on veterinary science, with each library striving to assemble a collection that supports its unique mission. The Library of Congress generally defers to the NAL in matters of clinical veterinary science. The Library's collections in veterinary science are strongest in the areas that relate to human health and well-being or to the global environment, with particular attention to areas of developing legislative and public policy interest.

IV. Best editions and preferred formats

In general, foreign government publications are not subject to the U.S. Copyright Law and deposit requirements. However, in so far as possible, the Library acquires materials conforming to the Copyright

Office Best Edition statement for selected formats as published. For guidance regarding best editions for material acquired via the Copyright Office, please see: <http://copyright.gov/circs/circ07b.pdf>. For guidance regarding recommended formats for material acquired via all other means, e.g., purchase, exchange, gift and transfer, please see: <http://www.loc.gov/preservation/resources/rfs>.

For information regarding electronic resources and web archiving, see the following supplementary guidelines: <http://www.loc.gov/acq/devpol/electronicresources.pdf> and <http://www.loc.gov/acq/devpol/webarchive.pdf>.

V. Acquisition sources: current and future

The Library of Congress collections in agriculture are heavily dependent upon materials received through copyright deposit. Foreign works are also routinely acquired in accordance with the collecting levels specified in the Collections Policy Statement.

The Library’s historical collections in agriculture owe much of their strength to the Smithsonian Deposit, an agreement initiated in 1866, under which Smithsonian library materials were transferred to the fireproof rooms at the Library of Congress. By 1897, when the Jefferson Building opened, the Deposit held nearly half a million volumes, and the scientific portion of the Deposit continued to grow as a result of a vigorous exchange program with agricultural societies, organizations and institutions during the first two-thirds of the twentieth century. This program, which provided a major source for works on agriculture, is, for the most part, no longer active.

Other relevant Collections Policy Statements at the Library of Congress include the *Cookery, Nutrition and Food Technology Collections Policy Statement*, the *Dissertations and Theses Collections Policy Statement*, the *Electronic Resources Supplementary Guidelines*, the *Government Publications - United States Collections Policy Statement*, the *Human Nutrition and Food Joint Policy Statement with NLM and NAL*, the *Science--General and Technology Collections Policy Statements*, and the *Web Archiving Supplementary Guidelines*.

VI. Collecting levels

LC Classification	Subject	Collecting Level Domestic	Collecting Level Foreign
S1-972	Agriculture (general)		
S1-20	Periodicals	4	3
S21-30.5	U.S. Federal, regional publications, documents	4	
S31-132	Documents concerning states	2	

S133-400.5	Documents of other countries		2
S401	Agricultural economics	3	2
S408-411	Directories, encyclopedias, dictionaries	5	3
S412-413	Agricultural statistics, tables	3	3
S414	Almanacs, calendars, yearbooks	4	2
S415	Biography	4	3
S417-482	History and conditions	5	3
S484-484.4	Agricultural administration, departments	3	2
S491-493	General works, Classic authors, comprehensive works on theory and science	4	3
S494	Breeding both plants and animals	4	3
S494.5	Special aspects of general agriculture: agrobiodiversity, agroforestry, biotechnology, energy, agricultural systems, sustainable agriculture, genetic engineering, remote sensing	3-5 (varies)	3
S496-518	Handbooks	4	3
S530-548	Agricultural education, agricultural extension work, historic farms, state fairs and exhibitions	3	2
S560-572	Farm economics, farm management	4	2
S583-589	Agricultural chemistry, agricultural physics	4	2
S589.75	Agricultural and the environment	4	3
S590-599.9	Soils, soil science	4	2
S600	Agricultural meteorology, crops and climate	4	2

S600.7	Agricultural meteorology, special topics: drought, climatic changes, greenhouse effect, remote sensing	4	3
S602.5-604.4	Methods and systems of culture	3	2
S604.5-627	Agricultural conservation, organic farming, irrigation, melioration, improvement, reclamation. soil conservation and protection	4	3
S631-667	Fertilizers and improvement of the soil	4	3
S671-760	Farm machinery and engineering, agricultural processing	3	2
S760.5-790.3	Agricultural structures	3	2
S900-972	Conservation of natural resources, protected areas, economic aspects	4	3
SB1-989	Plant Culture		
SB1-29	Periodicals and societies, institutions, organizations, documents	4	3
SB39	Horticultural voyages, exploration	4	3
SB44-46	Directories, encyclopedias, dictionaries, rule books, calendars	4	3
SB51	Study and teaching	4	3
SB55	School gardens and farms	4	3
SB61	Biography	4	3
SB71-87	History and conditions, history of gardens and gardening	4	3
SB106-106	Special aspects of crops and plant culture: biotechnology, pollen biotechnology, genetics	4	3
SB107-109	Economic botany, plant introduction	4	3
SB113-118	Seeds, seed technology	4	3

SB119-124	Propagation, breeding, germplasm, genetic engineering	4	3
SB125-160	Pruning, harvesting	3	2
SB169-317	Tree crops, food crops, field crops, grains, forage crops, sugar plants, textile and fiber plants, energy crops, gum and resin crops, medicinal plants, spice and condiment plants, other economic plants	4	3
SB317.5-319.95	Horticulture and horticultural crops	4	3
SB320-353.5	Vegetables, vegetable culture under glass, mushrooms	4	3
SB354-386	Fruit and fruit culture, berries and small fruits	4	3
SB387-399	Fruits and fruit culture: grapes and grape culture, viticulture, raisins	4	3
SB401	Nuts	4	3
SB403-413	Flowers and flower culture, ornamental plants: roses, other plants	4	3
SB414-419.5	Greenhouses, greenhouse culture, illustrations and descriptions of notable greenhouses, container gardening, houseplants, hydroponics	4	3
SB421-439.8	Flowers and flower culture: classes of plants: alpine, annual, bonsai, carnivorous, evergreen, prairie, winter garden, woodland, xerophytes	4	3
SB441-450.87	Flowers and flower culture: shows, exhibitions, cut flower industry, flower arrangement	3	2
SB450.9-454	Gardens and gardening	4	3
SB454.3	Gardens and gardening, special topics: butterfly gardening, edible forest gardens, fragrant gardens	4	3
SB457-457.4	Gardens for special classes and groups of persons: children's gardens, community gardens	4	3
SB457.5-463.5	Special styles and types of gardens: Japanese gardens, Persian gardens, Victorian gardens,	4	3

	seaside gardens, rock gardens		
SB465-467.8	Illustration, descriptions and history of notable gardens, conservation and restoration of historic gardens	4	3
SB469-476	Landscape gardening, landscape architecture	4	3
SB481-486	Parks and public reservations	4	3
SB599-608	Pests and diseases	4	3
SB610-615	Weeds, parasitic plants, aquatic weeds, invasive plants	4	3
SB617-618	Poisonous plants	4	3
SB621-795	Plant pathology: diseases, pollution effects	4	3
SB818-989	Economic entomology, pest control and treatment of diseases, transmission of diseases by individual insects, biological control, pesticides	4	3
SD1-669.5	Forestry		
SD1-10	Periodicals, societies, serials	4	3
SD11-14	U.S. and Canada documents/states	4	2
SD15-115	Documents (other than U.S. and Canada)	-	2
SD117-129	Yearbooks, congresses, voyages, dictionaries, encyclopedias, biography	3	2
SD131-247	History of forestry and forest conditions	4	3
SD250-383	Forestry education, forestry as a profession,	4	3
SD383.3-387	Special aspects of forestry: fire management, old growth forests, biomass, environmental aspects, sustainable forestry	4	3
SD388-390	Machinery, engineering, tools, roads, forest soils	3	2

SD390.5	Forest meteorology, forest microclimatology	4	3
SD391-410	Silviculture, natural history of forest trees, forest nurseries, methods	4	3
SD411-425	Conservation and protection, forest fires, forest reserves	4	3
SD430-557	Forest exploitation and utilization: logging, technology, timber trees	4	3
SD561-668	Administration policy	4	3
SF1-1100	Animal Culture		
SF1-17	Periodicals, societies, serials	3	2
SF21-27	Dictionaries, encyclopedias, directories	4	3
SF31-33	Biography, history	3	2
SF63	Handbooks, manuals, practical works	3	2
SF80-83	Vocational guidance	2	2
SF84-84.45	Economic zoology	2	2
SF84.82-92	Rangelands, stock ranges, management, grazing	3	2
SF94.5-99	Feeds and feeding, animal nutrition	3	2
SF101	Brands and branding	1	1
SF105-121	Breeding and breeds	3	2
SF140	Special topics: biotechnology, environmental aspects, greenhouse gases, livestock factories	4	3
SF170-180	Working animals	2	1
SF191-219	Cattle and breeds, beef cattle, dairy cattle	3	2
SF221-275	Dairying, dairy science, dairy products	3	2
SF277-359	Horses: breeds, breeding, racing, training, shows,	3	2

	horsemanship		
SF360-399	Donkeys, mules, sheep, goats, swine	3	2
SF401-405	Big game animals, other domesticated and semi-domesticated animals, fur-bearing animals	2	2
SF405.5-407	Laboratory animals	2	2
SF408-409	Zoo animals, breeding, wild captive animals	2	1
SF411-473	Pets: dogs, cats, aquarium animals, caged birds	4	2
SF481-513	Poultry, eggs; game birds, ornamental birds	4	2
SF515-515.5	Snakes, geckoes, lizards	2	1
SF521-539	Bee culture	4	3
SF541-562	Silk culture, lac insects, other insects and invertebrates beneficial or harmful to man	2	1
SF600-760	Veterinary medicine, general, ethics	2	1
SF761-780.9	Veterinary anatomy, pathology, physiology, epidemiology, microbiology	2	1
SF781-809	Communicable diseases of animals, zoonoses, tick-borne diseases	4	3
SF810.5	Predatory animals and their control	3	2
SF811-997.5	Veterinary surgery, diseases of special classes of animals	2	1
SH1-691	Aquaculture, Fisheries, Angling		
SH1-19	General aquaculture: periodicals	4	3
SH20	Biography	3	2
SH20.3-20.5	Aquaculture dictionaries and encyclopedias, directories	4	3
SH21	Aquaculture history	3	2

SH33-141	Aquaculture, general works	4	3
SH151-191	Fish culture	4	3
SH201-364	Fisheries: resources, regions, processing, management, methods, individual species	4	3
SH365-380.94	Shellfish fisheries	4	3
SH381-385	Whaling, porpoises, dolphins	4	3
SH388.7-396	Algae and algae culture	4	3
SH401-691	Angling: methods, regions, angling for special kinds of fish	4	3
SK1-664	Hunting Sports		
SK1-36	Serials, encyclopedias, dictionaries	4	3
SK37-273	Shooting	4	3
SK274-275	Hunting guns	3	2
SK276-280	Museums and collections, trophy hunting	4	3
SK281-293	Special types of hunting: bolos, ferreting, game calling, tracking, trapping	3	2
SK295-341	Big game, bird hunting, varmint and other game	3	2
SK351-579.5	Wildlife management	4	3
SK590-593	Wild animal trade	4	3
SK650-664	Wildlife-related recreation	4	3

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