

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS COLLECTIONS POLICY STATEMENTS

Agriculture (All of Class S)

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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.

Collecting overlap with other U.S. national libraries

The subject area covered by this Collections Policy Statement overlaps with the collecting priorities of the National Agriculture Library (NAL). The Collecting Policy section of this document outlines the subject areas and materials where the Library of Congress defers to the other national library. For more information on NAL's collecting efforts in this area, please see: <https://www.nal.usda.gov/collections>.

Other relevant Collections Policy Statements at the Library of Congress include the [Cooking, Nutrition and Food Technology](#), [Dissertations and Theses](#), [Government Publications - United States](#); [Science--General](#), and [Technology](#). Additionally, the Supplementary Guidelines for [Web Archiving](#), [Electronic Resources Supplementary](#), and [Open Digital Content](#) should be consulted.

II. Diverse and Inclusive Collecting Statement

As the nation's de facto national library, the Library of Congress strives to build an expansive, yet selective, collection that records the creativity of the United States and is reflective of the nation's diversity and complexity. The Library's mandate is to have collections that are inclusive and representative of a diversity of creators and ideas. A priority includes acquiring material of underrepresented perspectives and voices in the Library's collections to ensure diverse authorship, points of view, cultural identities, and other historical or cultural factors. The Library also seeks to build

a research collection that comprises a globally representative sample of international materials that are diverse in voice and perspective, relative to their places of origin, further supporting the Library's mission to sustain and preserve a universal collection of knowledge and creativity for Congress and future generations.

Diverse collecting is mentioned within many of the Library's Collections Policy Statements. In addition, the Library has adopted several specific collection policies in an effort to ensure it is building an inclusive and representative collection. For more information, see the Library's Collections Policy Statements on [Ethnic Materials](#), [LGBTQIA+ Studies](#), [Women's and Gender Studies](#), [Independently Published and Self-Published Textual Materials](#), and [Countries and Regions with Acquisitions Challenges](#).

III. 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 non-U.S. 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.

IV. 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), under a mutual government transfer agreement.

Since the late 1960's, the Library has not attempted to comprehensively collect the official publications 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.

V. Best Editions and Preferred Formats

For guidance regarding best editions for material acquired via the Copyright Office, 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, see: <http://www.loc.gov/preservation/resources/rfs>.

For information regarding electronic resources, open digital content, web archiving, and data sets, see the following Supplementary Guidelines: <http://www.loc.gov/acq/devpol/electronicresources.pdf>, <https://www.loc.gov/acq/devpol/opencontent.pdf>, <http://www.loc.gov/acq/devpol/webarchive.pdf>, and <https://www.loc.gov/acq/devpol/datasets.pdf>.

VI. Acquisition Sources

Whenever possible the Library attempts to acquire materials through non-purchase means, such as copyright, exchange or gift. The Library of Congress collections are heavily dependent upon materials received through the copyright deposit provisions of U.S. copyright law ([17 USC section 407](#) & [17 USC section 408](#)). For copyright demand, the U.S. regulations allow for the Library to receive analog and some digital materials. When items are offered in both formats the Library's default is normally the Best Edition print version, unless the publisher has arranged a special relief agreement with the Copyright Office. For materials not available to the Library through copyright deposit, or other non-purchase means, the Library acquires materials through purchase. Purchase is used predominately for non-U.S. publications that are not widely available within the United States. The Library utilizes an array of traditional methods of library acquisition (firm orders, subscriptions, and approval plans) with vendors located in different areas of the world. In addition, the Library uses its six Overseas Operations Offices to broaden its acquisitions opportunities outside the United States.

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.

VII. Collecting Levels

Meeting the Library's Diverse and Inclusive Collecting Statement (see Section II) and the collecting levels outlined below requires continual evaluation of the publishing landscape, sources of expression, current

events, and socio-cultural trends to thus maintain effective collecting policies and acquisitions methods. Changes in publishing or in the creation of materials covered by this policy statement may necessitate collecting efforts not explicitly referenced here. Such efforts will be handled on a case-by-case basis while the Library evaluates the need for policy statement updates.

For explanation of the Collecting Levels used by the Library, see <https://www.loc.gov/acq/devpol/cpc.html>

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

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
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, seaside gardens, rock gardens	4	3

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
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		

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
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, horsemanship	3	2
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

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
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

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
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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