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## **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 or GMOs, plant propagation and seed conservation, economic botany, fruits, 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, pest control, forestry and silviculture, forest management, forest fires, economic zoology, dairy science, animal nutrition, avian health, veterinary science, pet care, hunting and angling. Works in all formats are acquired, including print materials, electronic resources, audio-visual materials, and microform materials.

### **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 that support research in the agricultural history of the United States, with strong collections of early Government publications and bulletins. The Library also has strong collections in early European agricultural publications, many represented by long runs from the late nineteenth century into the 1980s. The series of French agricultural bulletins, for example, covers approximately 100 years, and other European countries are similarly represented.

The agricultural collections at the Library of Congress are also especially strong in the area of soil science, with over 10,000 titles in this area alone. Long runs of U. S. Government soil surveys and maps, along with foreign soil surveys, provide the foundation for current works on erosion, reclamation, water flow, and all areas of soil science.

General gardening and horticulture are also well represented, with broad collections of both older and current works and good depth of content. All types of specialized gardening and landscape design are covered, with noticeable strength in herbs and herb gardening. Many serial titles are represented, including various gardening magazines and bulletins of societies, current as well as historical, along with very long runs of florists' magazines, such as *Florists' Review*. The SB subclass has approximately 7,000 serial titles.

Long runs of serials characterize much of the agriculture collections at the Library of Congress. SK, where hunting sports are classed, holds approximately 1,050 titles, including *American Field*, extending from the 1870s through the mid 1990s, *Country Life*, and the *Daily Racing Form*.

Certain areas of the collections have experienced noted growth since the mid-1990s, with increased interest in these areas leading to enhanced collecting efforts. The needs of Congressional and other researchers are reflected in increased focus on materials in all areas of agriculture related to global warming and to food supply and food safety, including avian and bovine health, as well as soil erosion and drainage, nitrate fertilizers, genetically modified crops, sustainable horticulture and agriculture, organic gardening and farming, seed banks, certain aspects of landscape architecture and design such as rain gardens and green roofs and xeriscaping, works on invasive species, and works on crops used for biofuels.

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 strong collections of these publications in print and in electronic format. Particularly useful electronic databases for agricultural research include the subscription databases: *JSTOR*, *Academic Search Premier*, *Applied Science and Technology Full Text*, *Biological and Agricultural Index Plus*, *General Science Full Text*, *ProQuest Databases*, *Readers' Guide Retrospective*, *Web of Science*, *Biological and Agricultural Index*, *Environment Complete*, *Environmental Sciences and Pollution Management*, *Digital Dissertations* and *General OneFile*. Freely available electronic resources that often have materials of interest in the area of agriculture include *FAOSTAT*, *AGRICOLA*, *AgNIC Agricultural Network Information Center* and *Science.gov*. 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 United States 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 strong holdings in the General Collections, Library of Congress collections in agriculture include materials in special collections. 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, 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. In its online presentation, within American Memory, the Thomas Jefferson Papers comprises 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.

The digitized American Memory collections also include first-hand accounts relating to agriculture in the United States, chiefly in the diaries, notebooks and other accounts contained in the section on American Immigration and Expansion. Also found in American Memory, *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. Also in American Memory, the *Mapping the National Parks* 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. Collecting Policy**

The Library of Congress attempts to acquire for its permanent collections materials in all formats that contribute to knowledge of the economic, political, social, cultural, historical, geographical and legal aspects of agriculture on a world-wide basis. 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, forestry, and food safety as it relates to agriculture. Monographs and serials received by the Library of Congress, but not selected, are offered to the National Agricultural Library (NAL) and the National Library of Medicine (NLM), under a mutual agreement

Since the late 1960's, the Library has made no attempt to collect comprehensively 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. In addition, trade publications in agriculture are not widely acquired by the Library, with the exception of certain

representative titles. 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 agriculture and sustainable entrepreneurship, environmental reclamation, or avian health, 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.

Materials on agriculture in all formats are acquired by the Library: print, audio-visual, electronic journals and other resources, books, journals, and papers, maps, pamphlets and doctoral dissertations. Dissertations are received in microform, and many are also available through subscription databases.

#### **IV. Acquisition Sources: Current and Future**

The Library of Congress collections in agriculture are heavily dependent upon materials received through copyright deposit, according to the Copyright Best Edition Statement. Although they have been a source for collections growth in the past, Cataloging In Publication

(CIP) deposits do not currently contribute to the agricultural collections of the Library. CIP deposits are, for the most part, currently forwarded to NAL, according to a pilot program between the CIP Division and NAL.

The Library's historical collections in agriculture owe much of their strength to the Smithsonian Deposit. In addition, a vigorous exchange program with agricultural societies, organizations and institutions during the first two-thirds of the twentieth century provided a major source for works on agriculture; this program 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 Policy Guidelines*, the *Government Publications - United States Collections Policy Statement*, the *Human Nutrition and Food Joint Policy Statement with NLM and NAL*, the *Science and Technology Collections Policy Statement*, the *Veterinary Science Joint Policy Statement with NAL and NLM*, and the *Web Capture and Archiving Collections Policy Statement*.

## V. Collecting Levels

Class	Subject	Level
<b>S</b>	<b>General Agriculture</b>	
S1-S19	Periodicals	4
S21-S30.5	U.S. Federal, regional publications	4
S31-S401	State, foreign, international documents	2
S411	Encyclopedias, dictionaries	5
S413-S414	Statistics, tables almanacs	3
S415-S417	Biographies	4
S419-481	History of agriculture	5
S494.5	Special aspects: Sustainable agriculture, biotechnology, genetic engineering	4
S544-S545	Agricultural extension publications	1
S548-S559	Historic farms, State fairs & exhibitions	3
S560-S572	Farm economics	4
S583-S587	Agricultural chemistry	4
S589.75	Agriculture and the environment	4
S590-S599.9	Soil science, analysis, chemistry	4
S602.5-S604.4	Methods and systems of agriculture	2
S604.5-S621.5	Agricultural conservation, organic farming, irrigation, reclamation	4
S622-S627	Soil conservation, degradation, erosion	4
S631-S667	Fertilizers and soil improvements	4
S671-S760	Farm machinery and engineering	3
S900-S972	Land conservation, natural resources, seed banks	4
<b>SB</b>	<b>Plant Culture</b>	
SB1-SB29	Periodicals of societies, institutions, organizations	4
SB39	Horticultural voyages, exploration	3
SB55	School gardens and farms	4
SB61-SB105	Biography & history	3
SB107-SB108	Economic botany	4
SB109	Plant introduction	3

SB110-SB112	Dry farming, tropical agriculture, irrigation farming	2
SB119-SB125	Propagation, breeding, trans-genetic plants, genetic diversity	4
SB183-SB307	Field crops, grains	3
SB317.5-SB319.77	General horticulture	4
SB320-SB386	Vegetables, herbs, fruits, berries	4
SB387-SB398.5	Viticulture	3
SB401	Nuts	3
SB403-SB450	Flowers and plant culture	4
SB450.9-SB476	Gardens and gardening, landscape design	4
SB481-SB486	Parks and public reservations	4
SB599-SB608	Pests and diseases	4
SB610-SB615	Weeds, invasive plants	3
SB617-SB618	Poisonous plants	3
SB621-SB795	Plant pathology	3
SB818-SB989	Economic entomology, pest control and treatment of diseases, biological control	3
<b>SD</b>	<b>Forestry</b>	
SD1-SD10	General forestry serials (foreign=3)	4
SD11-SD14	U.S. and Canada documents (states=2)	4
SD15-SD115	Documents (other than U.S. and Canada)	2
SD117-SD129	Yearbooks, congresses, voyages, dictionaries, biographies	3
SD131-SD247	History of forestry and forest conditions	4
SD248.5-SD383	Forestry education, forestry as a profession, remarkable trees	4
SD383.3-SD387	Special topics: fire management, old growth forests, biomass, environmental aspects, sustainable forestry	4
SD388-SD390	Machinery, engineering, tools, roads, forest soils	3
SD391-SD410	Silviculture	4
SD411-SD425	Conservation and protection, forest fires	4
SD426-SD428	Forest reserves	3
SD430-SD557	Forest utilization: logging, technology, timber trees	3
SD561-SD668	Administration, policy	3
<b>SF</b>	<b>Animal Culture</b>	
SF1-SF79	Animal culture, general	3
SF80-SF83	Vocational guidance	2
SF84-SF84.45	Economic zoology	2
SF84.82-SF92	Stock ranges, management, grazing	2
SF94.5-SF99	Feeds and feeding, animal nutrition	2
SF101-SF121	Brands and branding, breeding, exhibitions, stock shows	2
SF140	Special topics: biotechnology, environmental aspects, greenhouse gases, livestock factories,	3
SF170-SF180	Working animals	2
SF191-SF219	Cattle and breeds, beef cattle, dairy cattle	2
SF221-SF275	Dairying, dairy science, dairy products	3
SF277-SF359	Horses: breeds, breeding, racing, training, shows, horsemanship	3
SF360-SF399	Donkeys, mules, sheep, goats, swine	2
SF401-SF405	Big game animals, other domesticated and semi-domesticated animals, fur-bearing animals	2
SF405.5-SF407	Laboratory animals	2
SF408-SF409	Zoo animals, breeding, wild captive animals	2
SF411-SF473	Pets: dogs, cats, aquarium animals, caged birds	4
SF481-SF513	Poultry, eggs; game birds, ornamental birds	2

SF515-SF515.5	Snakes, geckoes, lizards	2
SF521-SF539	Bee culture	3
SF541-SF562	Silk culture, lac insects, other insects and invertebrates beneficial or harmful to man	2
SF600-SF760	Veterinary medicine, general, ethics. (public health - 4)	2
SF761-SF779	Anatomy, pathology, physiology	2
SF780	Veterinary microbiology, epidemiology	2
SF781-SF997	Communicable diseases of animals, (zoonoses, avian diseases, diseases of cattle such as BSE - 4)	2
<b>SH</b>	<b>Aquaculture, Fisheries, Angling</b>	
SH1-SH20	Periodicals, documents, general aquaculture	3
SH21-SH141	Aquaculture history, mariculture	3
SH151-SH179	Fish culture	3
SH201-SH380	Fisheries: resources, conservation, management, methods, shellfish	3
SH381-SH385	Whaling, porpoises, dolphins	3
SH388.7-SH400	Algae, other aquatic cultures, seafood gathering	3
SH401-SH691	Angling	4
<b>SK</b>	<b>Hunting Sports</b>	
SK1-SK36	Serials, encyclopedias, dictionaries	4
SK37-SK273	Shooting	4
SK274-SK275	Hunting guns	4
SK276-SK280	Museums and collections, trophy hunting	4
SK281-SK293	Special types of hunting: bolos, ferreting, game calling, tracking, trapping	4
SK295-SK341	Big game, bird hunting, varmint and other game	4
SK351-SK579.5	Wildlife management	4
SK590-SK593	Wild animal trade	4
SK650-SK664	Wildlife-related recreation	4

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