

**Western Waters Digital Library  
Collection Development Policy  
Adopted August 2005**

Complex challenges arising from increasing pollution and growing demand on finite water resources create an urgent need for effective water policy planning and management in the western states, as well as in other regions. At present no federal agency, no state agency, no single organization or collaborative group provides such a comprehensive information resource to researchers, policy makers, scholars, educators, students, and citizens. The Western Waters Digital Library (WWDL) was created to answer this need, for if Westerners are to meet the challenge of managing their water resources wisely in the 21st century, they will need access to well-organized, comprehensive information sources and analysis based on research and accurate historical records. Achieving this vision will take years of incremental growth and expanded collaboration among GWLA and other institutions across the west. Identifying, procuring, and organizing the content is an iterative process. The WWDL will therefore continue its efforts to expand its current collaborative network of scholars and professionals in the field who are helping to guide the long-term development of the collection.

In the IMLS pilot project, launched in 2003, twelve academic research libraries across eight western states created digital collections focused on four principal river basins: the Platte, Rio Grande, Colorado, and Columbia. The collections include: historical photo collections, maps, personal papers, Congressional documents, legal transcripts, and state and federal water data and reports. These materials are representative of the scope, magnitude, and interrelatedness of pertinent materials. To increase WWDL content in a systematic and organized manner, four categories of information from four primary sources have been identified:

**CONTENT:**

- History
- Law
- Philosophy
- Science
- Current Events/Issues

**SOURCES :**

- Library holdings
- Government Documents
- Privately held materials
- On-line resources

The WWDL will seek funding to increase content from various funding sources as appropriate (i.e. NSF for scientific content; NEH for the humanities; private foundations and donors; and other local sources, especially ditch companies, local utilities, engineers, retired workers, etc.) Faculty, researchers, librarians, and professionals who participate in WWDL projects or serve as advisors will provide expertise and guidance in selecting, prioritizing, and providing context for materials. To date, representatives from these groups have expressed a need for the following types of information:

## **CONTENT:**

### **A) History**

- i) Exploration
- ii) Migration, Settlement
- iii) Native American Lands
- iv) Development
- v) Reclamation
- vi) Use and distribution of water resources by different communities, especially Native Americans and Hispanics
- vii) Agricultural practices
- viii) Water resources management

### **B) Water Law and Policy**

- i) Constitutions
- ii) Treaties and compacts
- iii) State statutes
- iv) Local codes and institutions
- v) Ratifications
- vi) Project Acts
- vii) Legal Cases
  - (1) briefs
  - (2) transcripts
  - (3) exhibits
  - (4) findings and conclusions
  - (5) special reports
- viii) Enforcement

### **C) Philosophy**

- i) Environmental philosophy
  - (1) conservation, preservation, depletion
  - (2) resource management
  - (3) pollution
  - (4) Leopold's land ethic
  - (5) deep ecology
- ii) Natural resource ethics
  - (1) extraction
  - (2) use
  - (3) conservation
  - (4) preservation
  - (5) distribution/allocation
- iii) Environmental justice
  - (1) private property
  - (2) sustainability
  - (3) moral standing of future generations
- iv) Natural resources and community values

D.) Current Events and Issues and their Resulting Economic and Social Impact

- i) Economic development/community planning
- ii) Endangered aquatic and riparian species
- iii) Environmental issues
- iv) Conservation
- v) Drought
- vi) Ownership
- vii) Pollution
- viii) Population growth
- ix) Preservation of river bodies
- x) Political influence
- xi) River restoration and dam removal
- xii) Societal Issues
  - (1) Class
  - (2) Community
  - (3) Culture
  - (4) Ethnicity
  - (5) Gender
  - (6) Race
  - (7) Spirituality
- xiii) Storm water
- xiv) Water use
- xv) Watershed management
- xvi) Wastewater

E) Scientific and water management information: Much of the information listed below has been produced elsewhere and much of it is available digitally, on numerous websites scattered across the World Wide Web. One component of the WWDL will be to collect and organize this information and to facilitate the transformation of research into learning. As a beginning step, an application has been submitted to the National Science Foundation to create a portal to water related resources available in the National Science Digital Library (NSDL) and elsewhere.

- i) Physical and chemical properties of water
- ii) Elements and compounds, natural and man-made
- iii) Climatic records (precipitation, temperature)
- iv) Water hazards (natural disasters: floods, droughts, avalanches, landslides)
- v) Geology, biology of watersheds, aquifers, wetlands, lakes, hot springs, special environments, geomorphic characteristics
- vi) Photo records of water bodies, landscape changes (erosion, land slides, glacial retreats)
- vii) Water supply, use, and quality records
- viii) computer codes for
  - (1) groundwater modeling (chemical, thermal, movement)
  - (2) surface water modeling
  - (3) climate models
- ix) Access to scientific journals, newspaper, special reports on all types of water issues, GPS, GIS, and satellite data/images for monitoring water distribution systems/advances) x)

Existing and emerging technologies for water conservation, recycling, treatment, etc xi)  
Virtual lab capabilities (i.e. modeling, neural networks, text to speech synthesis [TTS],  
Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition [SCADA], and decision support systems). xii)  
Real time access to water gauging stations on all rivers xiii) Infrastructure information on  
dams and reservoirs, pipelines, etc. xiv) Water treatment plants and water pollution control  
xv) Industrial and agricultural impacts on water

## 2) SOURCES:

A) Library holdings (i.e., special collections)

B) External Holdings (i.e., records of private water companies and NGOs, as well as  
personal papers and ephemera of professionals in the field and individual researchers.)

C) Government Documents

i) Executive Branch publications from:

- (1) U.S. Geological Survey
- (2) U.S. Soil Conservation Service
- (3) Bureau of Reclamation
- (4) Bureau of Land Management
- (5) Consultant reports commissioned by federal agencies
- (6) U. S. Forest Service
- (7) Census Bureau publications dealing with water
- (8) Environmental impact statements (Drafts and Final Reports)
- (9) Locally published agency (state and local) documents
- (10) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

ii) Legislative Branch

- (1) Relevant United States Serial Set materials
- (2) Federal hearings, reports, and committee prints

iii) Judicial Branch

- (1) Case materials
- (2) Advisory Commission Reports (i.e. Colorado River Interstate Government  
Commission [it existed for one year, 1929], Columbia Basin Interagency  
Committee, which existed from 1946-1965)

iv) Born-Digital Documents and Records

3) COPYRIGHT: The WWDL will maintain a database record of copyright permissions to  
include materials that are not in the public domain.

4) STANDARDS: Contributed materials must meet the digitization and metadata standards in  
effect for the WWDL.