

Guide to Information Resources: Geography

Library Catalogs

Use the University of Kansas online catalog to find out if a particular book or journal is owned (or in the case of some electronic journals--licensed) and where it is then located on campus. Once you find an item you wish to view, record the name of the holding library and the item's classification number. Books, atlases and journals are generally shelved according to size (i.e. folio, octavo) and then *Library of Congress classification* or *Dewey decimal classification* number. Maps are organized using the *T. R. Smith classification* scheme. U.S. Government publications (excluding maps) are shelved using *Superintendent of Documents classification* (SuDocs).

[The KU libraries' online catalog](#) -- shows which books and journals are owned and where they are located. Other things you may do through the KU Library online catalog include: recall items, view items checked out, save searches, renew items, and view fines.

Union and Shared Catalogs

[WorldCat](#) -- bibliographic records representing over 88.5 million titles created between BC 1000 and the present cataloged by over 57,000 OCLC member libraries in over 470 languages. It includes books, data files, computer programs, films, journals, manuscripts, maps, newspapers, and sound recordings. It does *not* include individual articles or book chapters unless they were issued and subsequently cataloged as a separate item (such as a reprint).

Article Indexes and Bibliographies

Use article indexes and bibliographies to find scholarly articles on your topic. The University of Kansas Libraries owns, subscribes, or has a license to use many bibliographic databases. Many of these databases include full-text of journals. The first three databases below are, in my estimation, the essential bibliographic databases for geography. However, in a discipline as diverse as geography, a literature review that depends solely of these databases will rarely be comprehensive. Except for *GeoREF*, all six of the databases listed here are very useful for both human and physical geographers. Depending on the topic of your research, additional specialized databases should also be consulted.

Primary databases for bibliographic research in Geography

GEOBASE -- covers worldwide literature on geography, geology, ecology, and related disciplines. Over 2,000 journals are fully covered, and 3,000 are selectively covered from 1980 to present. More than 2,000 books, monographs, conference proceedings, and reports are also covered. It contains over one million records--most with abstracts. It is produced by Elsevier Science and includes: Ecological abstracts, Geographical Abstracts: Human Geography, Geographical Abstracts: Physical Geography, Geological Abstracts, International Development Abstracts, and Oceanographic Literature Review.

- KU Libraries maintains access via *OCLC FirstSearch*
- For literature before 1980--the paper indexes of what preceded *GEOBASE* must be consulted. *Geographical Abstracts: Human Geography* was the result of the merger of the following indexes: *Geographical abstracts. D, Social and historical geography*, and *Geographical abstracts. F, Regional and community planning*. *Geographical Abstracts: Physical Geography* was the result of the merger of: *Geographical abstracts. A, Landforms and the quaternary*; *Geographical abstracts. B, Climatology and hydrology*; and *Geographical abstracts. G, Remote sensing, photogrammetry, and cartography*. All of these paper indexes can be found in Anschutz Library 2nd floor (call numbers in the [G1 .G462X](#) area). These indexes began in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

GeoREF -- is the CD-ROM version of the American Geological Institute's geoscience database containing over 2.2 million records of North America since 1785, and other areas of the world since 1933. The database is the equivalent of four major reference publications: *Bibliography of North American Geology*, *Bibliography and Index of Geology Exclusive of North America*, *Geophysical Abstracts*, and the *Bibliography and Index of Geology*. Additional items come from special bibliographies produced on request for state surveys or societies, and annual subject and author indexes.

- KU Libraries maintains access via WebSPIRS from SilverPlatter Information N.V.

Online Geographical Bibliography -- this database consists of the compilation of entries for *Current Geographical Publications (CGP)* since 1985 and is produced by the American Geographical Society (AGS) Library of University of Wisconsin--Milwaukee. Anschutz Library has *CGP 1938-1996* ([Z6009 .C87](#)).

- This database continues the actual Research Catalogue, designed by J. K. Wright, at the American Geographical Society Library beginning in 1923. The Research Catalogue was published in book form by G.K. Hall in 1962 and is located in the T. R. Smith Map Collection (call number: Reference folio [Z6009 .A48](#)). This work is a compilation of entries for *Current Geographical Publications (CGP)*.

Multi-subject databases of interest to Geographers

[ProQuest Dissertations and Theses](#) -- provides online access to over 2 million dissertations and master's theses, many of which are available in full text for immediate downloading. Citations are available for dissertations dating from 1861 and full text online from 1997 for over 1,000 schools submitting to the ProQuest UMI database. More than 55,000 new citations are added to the database every year.

[Web of Science](#) -- Indexes journals and provides complete bibliographic data, full-length author abstracts, and cited references. Indexes currently available are: *Science Citation Index Expanded*, *Social Sciences Citation Index*, and *Arts & Humanities Citation Index*. KU has 1983 – current. For back files use *Science Citation Index* (1980-82 is available on CD-ROM in Anschutz Library, pre 1980 is in book form in Anschutz Library [Z7401 .S365](#)) or *Social Sciences Citation Index*).

[JSTOR](#) -- an independent not-for-profit organization providing a digital archive of journals. Currently, there are nine important geography titles available.

Other noteworthy databases for Geographers include:

[GeoScienceWorld](#) -- contains full-text of association and society journals in geology and related geosciences beginning with the year 2000. The journals may be searched individually or in sets of particular interest, and the *GeoRef* database may also be included in a search if desired.

[Google Scholar](#) -- enables you to search specifically for scholarly literature, including peer-reviewed papers, theses, books, preprints, abstracts and technical reports from all broad areas of research. Use Google Scholar to find articles from a wide variety of academic publishers, professional societies, preprint repositories and universities, as well as scholarly articles available across the web.

[Meteorological & Geostrophysical Abstracts](#) -- contains records drawn from the World's literature on meteorology, climatology, atmospheric chemistry and physics, astrophysics, hydrology, glaciology, physical oceanography and environmental sciences. Summaries from over 600 journal titles, as well as conference proceedings, books, technical reports and other monographs are included.

Print Guides

Besides those previously mentioned, a fair number of bibliographies or guides have been published that concern geographical literature. A subject-heading search within the KU Libraries online catalog yields many titles ([Geography--Bibliography](#)).

Questions or comments please contact::

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