



WHAT IS HRAF?

The Human Relations Area Files, Inc., centered at Yale University, is a nonprofit, international organization whose goal is to contribute to the understanding of human behavior worldwide and to facilitate comparative research.

The Human Relations Area Files (HRAF) is primarily a collection of ethnographic texts that is indexed by subject and culture. HRAF is available, in part, electronically as the **eHRAF Collection of Ethnography** for use by Binghamton University faculty and students via the Internet through the Libraries' homepage. The HRAF back file is available on microfiche and it is located in the reference area of the Bartle Library. With the release of eHRAF began the inclusion of new material as well as conversion of the microfiche to electronic form. Materials added to HRAF after 1991 are only available in eHRAF. To be comprehensive, you will need to use both the electronic and the microfiche formats.

WHO SHOULD USE HRAF?

Students and faculty in anthropology, biology, cultural geography, political science and other social and behavioral sciences; in short, anyone who is interested in identifying or comparing various characteristics of particular cultures may find information of relevance to their research by using HRAF.

KEY TERMS/RESOURCES

Two key terms/resources used in HRAF are OCM and OWC.

The *OCM (Outline of Cultural Materials)* is a subject classification system used by HRAF. Each subject heading in the *OCM* has its own code. The *OCM* is used to identify subject headings and their corresponding codes. These codes are assigned to subjects in the texts and are essential for identifying characteristics of cultures in a systematic way overtime.

The *OWC (Outline of World Cultures)* is the systematic classification of the cultures of the world used by HRAF. Not all of these cultures are in the HRAF files since the *OWC* is a classification scheme. Each culture in the *OWC* has its own code. The *OWC* is used to identify cultures and their corresponding codes.

eHRAF ON the World Wide Web

Start with eHRAF because the current and most updated materials are here. However, since not all of the materials on microfiche have been converted yet, you may also need to check the microfiche files.

eHRAF is accessible from the Libraries' homepage. Click on "Library Databases & Indexes," or "Subject Resources" -- Anthropology." Or go directly to the URL: <http://ehraf.hti.umich.edu/e/ehraf>. Once you have accessed the database note there are information pages on how to search eHRAF. These pages include types of searches available, the OCM subject headings used in *the eHRAF Collection of Ethnography*, and information on the OWC codes for specific cultures. You can also begin by reviewing

some of the print documentation listed at the end of this guide and located in the Bartle Reference

Microform Guide area.

The full-text, keyword search capabilities or eHRAF are a significant improvement over using the microfiche. However, for more precise searching, you will need to consult the *Outline of Cultural Materials* (OCM) especially for looking up topics with non-standard vocabularies. For example, domestic violence or spouse abuse, relatively new terminologies, were not used by ethnographers in the 1800s or even early 1900s to indicate fights and beatings. The OCM will refer you to the proper categories to search for topics like these.

Suggested eHRAF search strategy:

- Use the **Subject Searches** link from the main menu to see what OCM subject code best represents your topic. There are a couple of different ways of finding appropriate subject headings. If a "search" doesn't work scan the **OCM Alphabetic Index** to find an appropriate subject. Be sure to click through to the annotations of the codes to be sure the right aspect of your subject is included.
- If you want to limit your search to particular cultures use the **Cultures Covered (OWC)** link from the main menu to see what collections are covered in eHRAF. You can "search" by region to see what cultures are covered and the extent of online coverage. Regions are Africa, Asia, Eurasia, Europe, Middle America and the Caribbean, Middle East, North America, Oceania, and South America. Note that cultures classified at *Probability Sample Files* have extension full-text materials available online compared to cultures classified as *incidental* which may refer you to other cultures or have minimal materials.
- Use the **Basic Searches** link from the main menu. From here you can try a number of different searches by doing a full -text, keyword search and if you chose combining this with specific OCM subject codes and/or OWC codes for specific cultures. Remember to use the pull down menu for the "Culture Name" if you are using a "OWC Number."

HRAF ON MICROFICHE

A. HOW TO USE THE FILES

1. Consult the OCM (*Outline of Cultural Materials*) - Main Ref GN 345.3 .O8 1982, shelved with the microform guides. This resource lists the subject headings used in HRAF. Use this to determine what categories, and their corresponding codes, are relevant to your study.
2. Consult the OWC (*Outline of World Cultures*) - Main Ref GN 345.3 .M87 1983, shelved with the microform guides. Use this to determine which cultures and societies, and their corresponding codes, are appropriate for your research. Also check the *HRAF Source Bibliography: Cumulative* (Main Ref GN 307.5 .H78), shelved with the microform guides). In the back of this resource there is an "Alphabetical Culture Unit Index."
3. After you have your OCM and OWC codes, go to the microfiche. Use the OCM code to select the subject category. Use the OWC code to identify the appropriate culture.

B. HOW THE MICROFICHE IS ORGANIZED

The HRAF microfiche is located at microfiche 60 in the reference area of the Bartle Library. Use the

OWC code to locate the microfiche for the culture. The OWC divider microfiche appear as follows:

ME1	Lebanon
OWC code	culture/society

After the dividers, the following microfiche are arranged by OCM category (subject) codes. The top portion of the microfiche appear as follows:

Category 668	ME1	Lebanon
OCM category "Political Movements"	OWC code	culture/society

1. For example: ME1 is the OWC code for Lebanon.
2. For example: The OCM category 668 is "Political Movements," and is the same for all cultures.

HRAF CITATIONS IN ELIXIR, AND HOW TO LOCATE THEM

Some searches in ELIXIR, the Binghamton University Libraries' on-line catalog, may result in records that indicate an HRAF citation. The following is an example of this:

Metraux, Alfred, 1902-1963.
The Jivaro. Microform
 Washington, D.C., Government Printing Office, 1948.
 p. 617-627.
 Microfiche. Ann Arbor, Mich., University Microfilms, 19--. 1
 microfiche. 11 x 15 cm. (Human relations area files, HRAF)
 Detached from Julian H. Steward, ed. *Handbook of South
 American Indians*. v. 3.

To locate this microfiche:

1. First check the "Author Index" at the back of the *HRAF Source Bibliography: Cumulative*, Volume 2 (Main Ref GN 307.5 .H78, shelved with the microform guides). If the author has more than one entry after his/her name, check the "Alphabetical Culture Unit Index" which appears before the "Author Index" to determine the code for the culture, e.g., Jivaro is SD9.
2. To verify that you have the right item look up the culture, e.g., SD9, in the *HRAF Source Bibliography: Cumulative*, "Files Bibliographic Section." The Metraux entry is number 19.
3. The entire text of many books and articles contained in HRAF are located at Category 116 within each culture code.
 For example: For Metraux's discussion of the Jivaro, go to the HRAF microfiche at SD9, then look under category 116 for item number 19.

HRAF REFERENCE RESOURCES

A Brief Guide to the Collections on the Web Main Ref GN345.3 H734 1999 (microform guides)
 Includes a brief guide to the subject indexing system, and web search options and examples.

HRAF Collections, Ethnography: User's Guide Main Ref GN345.3 H73 1996 (microform guides)
Overview of organization of materials, research applications, and contents of fiche and web versions.

Outline of Cultural Materials (OCM) Main Ref GN345.3.O8 1982 (microform guides)
The classification system of subject headings used in HRAF.

Outline of World Cultures (OWC) Main Ref GN345.3.M87 1983 (microform guides)
The classification system of cultures and societies used in HRAF.

HRAF Source Bibliography: Cumulative Main Ref GN307.5.H78 (microform guides)
The *HRAF Source Bibliography: Cumulative* has ready-made bibliographies of source materials. This resource is arranged by society and provides a quick bibliography on a specific society or cultural unit. In Volume 2 there is the "Alphabetical Culture Unit Index." This is a list of cultures, with their corresponding codes, covered by HRAF in both microfiche and electronic formats. The back of Volume 2 contains a section, "How to Use the HRAF Files."

Index to the Human Relations Area Files Main Ref Micro-fiche 59.5 (microfiche)
The *Index to the Human Relations Area Files* is arranged by OCM fiche category or subject/cultural trait. This is a relatively quick way to compile a list of HRAF sources (and their page numbers) on a subject.

For example: The OCM category 824 is "ethnobotany." In the Index there is a listing of instances where "ethnobotany" has been mentioned in the HRAF files. For complete bibliographic information on a source refer to the *HRAF Source Bibliography: Cumulative*.

Guide to Cross-Cultural Research Using the HRAF Archive Main Ref GN345.3.E52 1988 (microform guides)
A brief guide on the basic steps of using the HRAF archive for a cross-cultural study.

Instructor's and Librarian's Guide to the HRAF Archive Main Ref GN345.3.L48 1988 (microform guides)
A guide designed to use the archive for educational purposes.

Nature and Use of the HRAF Files, a Research and Teaching Guide Main Ref GN33.L27 (microform guides)
Describes the basic system of the HRAF files. Gives examples to illustrate some of the principle uses.

NEED FURTHER HELP WITH eHRAF OR HRAF?

For assistance with using eHRAF on the web or HRAF on microfiche contact:

Diane Geraci, Anthropology Bibliographer at x2181 or by e-mail at dgeraci@binghamton.edu