

Bryn Atkins

Over the course of the spring semester I have enjoyed the experience working in Special Collections, the enjoyment of getting to look through a good deal of rare and old works was immense. What I wanted to focus on in relation to my project was the importance of knowing how to find certain types of information and the importance of a wide scope search. Working on finding works that cover information relevant to forest/environment composition in the Pacific Northwest as close to the start or just before colonization was difficult, especially when looking into forestry and western sources concerned most with the environment. However the real information stream was opened when I was pushed by a couple people to widen my search and look at ethnographers, anthropologists, and indigenous accounts. Intersectionality is important and I do feel that a wide variety of perspectives help make the research guide more robust, however it is important to acknowledge that it is not anywhere near exhaustive. I feel immensely satisfied with the way the project has turned out in light of how many books I had to scan through in order to find relevant portions and information. Many of the maps and works cover wide swaths of the Pacific Northwest and have supplementary information from a variety of sources that cover smaller scale site descriptions. I feel that I have done a good job starting a project that can help researchers widen the list of accessible information, effectively making the ability to draw from a variety of different source types more feasible. What I think makes this project important is the making more obscure information that isn't super accessible to many working within the environmental restoration/management sphere more accessible which can help promote deeper site knowledge and depth of appreciation for differing types of environmental management methods.