

“One of the best dam archives in the world.”

Donald C. Jackson, historian and author of “Building the Ultimate Dam



The WRCA was founded in 1958 when a special act of California Legislature established the [California Water Resources Center](#) to function as a University of California research unit dealing with the state's water resources problems.

The [Water Resources Center Archives](#) became the repository for limited-edition reports generated by engineering firms, local water agencies and attorneys that dealt with the "quantitative" issues such as levees and floods, building of dams, and water withdrawal for irrigation and municipal use.

By the 1970s, with the environmental movement gaining national prominence, "qualitative" water issues had emerged, and the Archives collections grew to include more materials from scientists.



By 2010, the WRCA had grown to:

- More than 200,000 technical reports
- 1,500 specialized newsletters
- Over 5,000 maps and videos
- More than 200 manuscript collections
- 25,000 historical photographs documenting the development of water infrastructure in California and the West
- 45,000 aerial photographs

The University of California's Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources was the guardian of the WRCA, but the collection was located on the University of California-Berkeley campus.

The WRCA served the students, faculty, and staff of the University of California, **but not the California State University system.**

The WRCA has also been widely used by scholars, scientists, hydrologists, engineers, historians, lawyers and the general public.

Water Resources Center Archives
everything but the water...

The WRCA was threatened in 2010...

- Citing “severely constrained funding”, the University of California’s Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources issued an RFP in April seeking a new UC guardian for the WRCA .
- The Water Resources Institute at California State University, San Bernardino, which had the second largest water resources archives in California, partnered with the University of California-Riverside to submit a proposal to jointly manage and house the WRCA.
- Guardianship of the WRCA was awarded to this collaborative partnership between California’s two public universities.
- This new partnership will expand WRCA access to the faculty, students and staff of the 23 CSU campuses
(as well as the 10 UC campuses)

The new WRCA is called the...

Water Resources Collections and Archives

- In January 2011, WRCA was relocated from the UC Berkeley campus... in linear feet, the materials are over 1.5 miles long.
- The University of California-Riverside and California State University, San Bernardino are evaluating the WRCA to determine which materials will be housed at each campus.
- The new statewide network should be up and running sometime this summer.
- The WRPI will notify faculty registered with the WRPI and COAST with directions for accessing the WRCA!