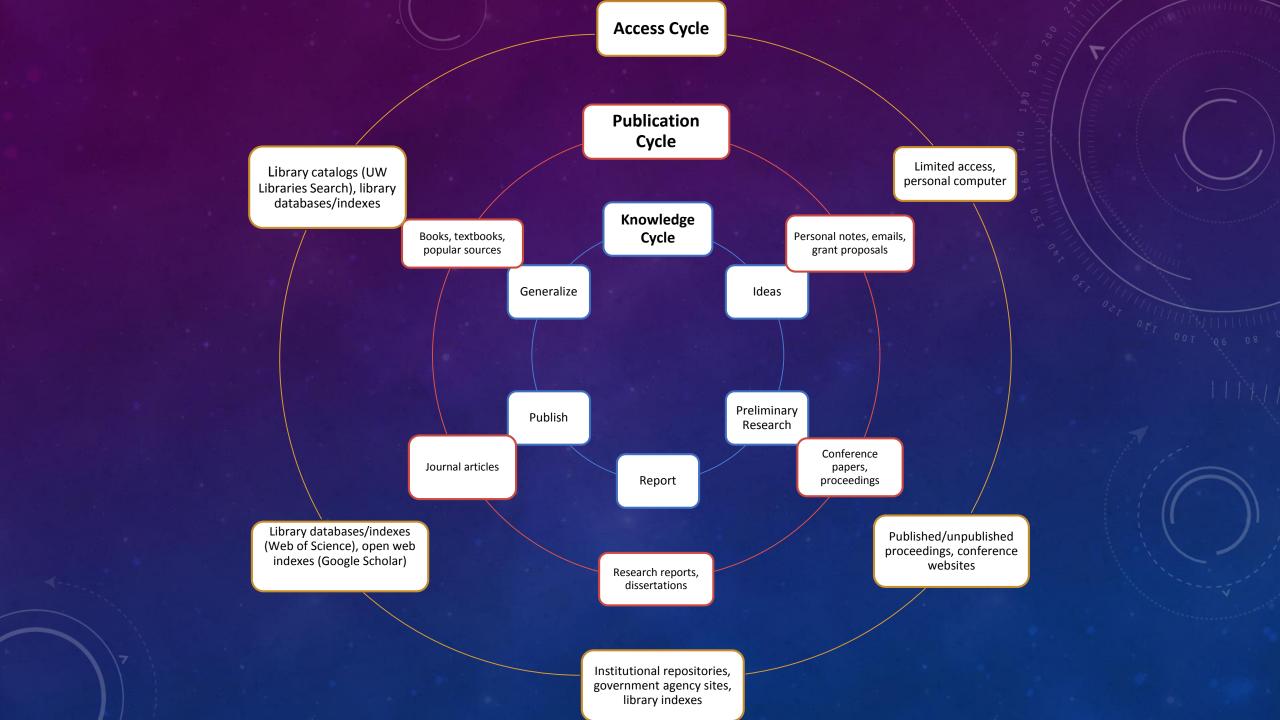


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SCIENCE:

A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS.

NEW YORK, JULY 3, 1880,

THE UNITED STATES NAVAL OBSERVATORY, WASHINGTON.

BY PROFESSOR EDWARD S. HOLDEN.

This institution has been long and favorably known to the scientific public, not only of the United States, but of the whole world. It was founded in 1844, and commenced its operations in 1845, and as it is now about to enter a new epoch of its existence by a removal to a new and better site in the District of Columbia, a brief account of its progress will not be without interest.

Astronomy did not flourish in America during the eighteenth century. A few observations were made by Professors at Harvard and Yale Colleges, and in Pennsylvania by RITTENHOUSE and others (in 1769). A telescope was mounted in 1830 at Yale College for regular astronomical observations, and the first observatory was built at Williams College in 1836, by Prof. HOPKINS. Mr. WILLIAM C. BOND, of Dorchester, a maker of chronometers, had erected a small observatory at his residence, and this was afterwards removed and formed the nucleus of the observatory of Harvard College. The observatories of Hudson, Ohio, (founded 1837), of the Philadelphia High School (1840), of West Point Military Academy (1841), of Cincinnatti (1843), of Georgetown, D. C., (1844), and the Naval Observatory (1842), were the first established, and these observatories all erected within the decade, 1835-1845, were the signs of a growing sense of the importance of astronomical research among the

Probably due credit has not been generally given to the efforts of General O. M. MITCHEL the astronomer of the Cincinnati Observatory, who, by lectures, treatises and personal influence, kept the subject before the reading public. In Congress a few intelligent men, like Mr. John Quincy Adams, had always advocated the establishment of an observatory which should be truly national, but great opposition to such an institution was constantly displayed, and so late as 1832 a bill

appropriating money for the survey of the coast, contained the clause "provided that nothing in this act should be construed to authorize the construction or maintainance of a permanent astronomical observatory."

The final establishment of the Naval observatory came about in this wise, and it was due largely to the admirable abilities of Lieutenant Gillis, of the Navy.

The exploring expedition of Admiral WILKES (1838-1842), proposed making astronomical observations in all parts of the world, and to utilize these, corresponding observations were required at home. These were made by GILLISS in a small observatory on Capitol Hill for the four years and they were of high excellence. The present observatory building was erected as a "depôt of charts and instruments" for the Navy from designs by GILLISS. The regulations of the Service required that GILLISS should be sent to sea, and the direction of the observatory was confided to Lieutenant Maury, who retained it till 1861. A corps of astronomers was formed and a detail made of the officers from the line of the Navy to care for the chronometers, charts and instruments, and to collect hydrographical information, and this plan of organization continued till 1866, when the Hydrographic office was separated from the Observatory. Suitable instruments were provided and the observations were published in quarto volumes, twenty-two of which have appeared up to 1880. The main instruments

- 1. A Transit Instrument (by ERTEL, of Munich).
- 2. A Mural Circle (by SIMMS, of England).
- 3. A Meridian Circle (by ERTEL).
- 4. A Prime Vertical Transit (by PISTOR & MAR-TIUS, of Berlin).
- An Equatorial (by MERZ, of Munich), with an Object Glass of 9.62 inches.

These instruments were kept steadily at work and thousands of observations were made and have been reduced and published. The mere index to these ob-



Holden, Edward S.

"The United States Naval Observatory, Washington."

Science

vol. 1, no. 1

1880

pp. 1–3.

AUTHOR: Holden, Edward S.

ARTICLE TITLE: "The United States Naval Observatory, Washington."

JOURNAL TITLE: Science

JOURNAL VOLUME: vol. 1

ISSUE NUMBER: no. 1

DATE: 1880

PAGE NUMBERS: pp. 1–3.

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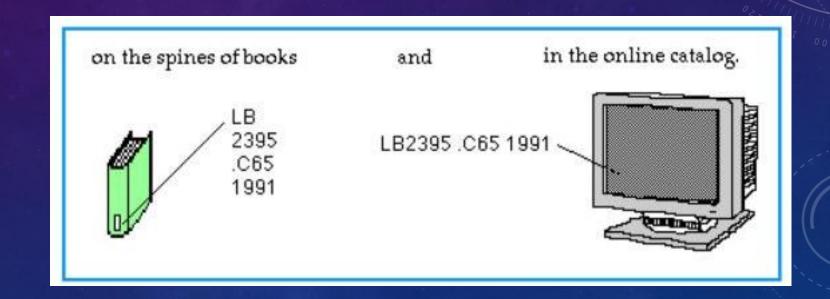
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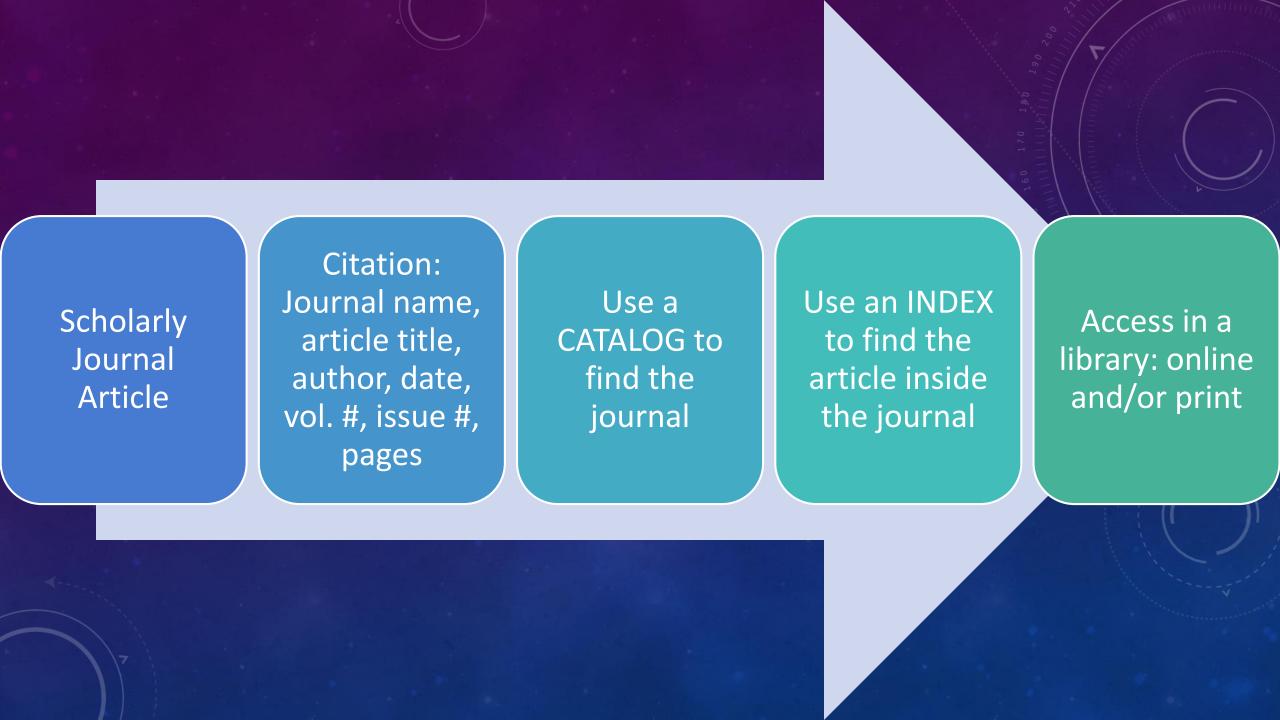
Science.

American Association for the Advancement of Science.; 1979 Washington, D.C., American Association for the Advancement of Science

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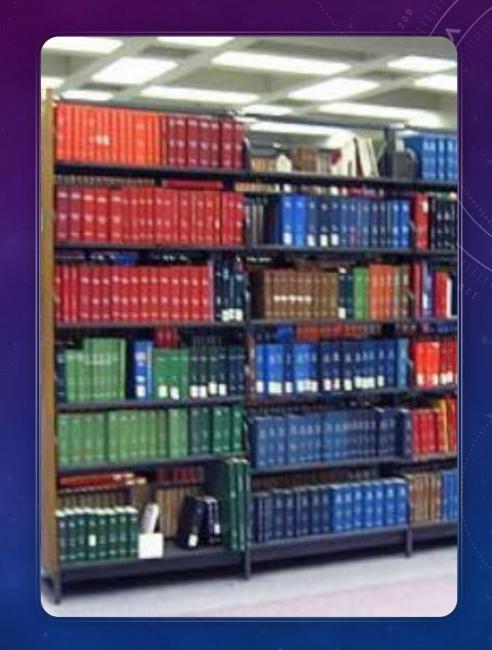
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Shelved by YEAR / QUARTER

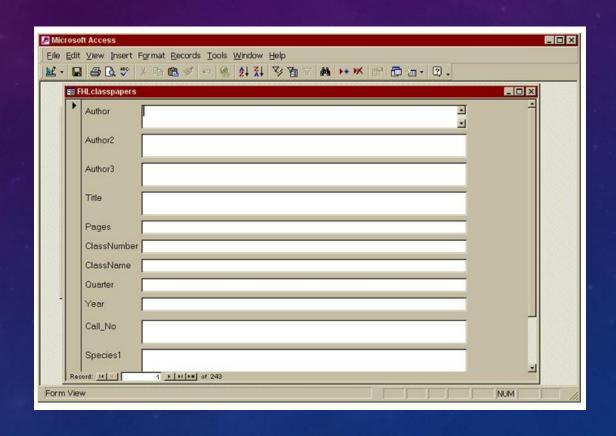
Forty years of papers

No INDEX to find individual papers inside each volume.

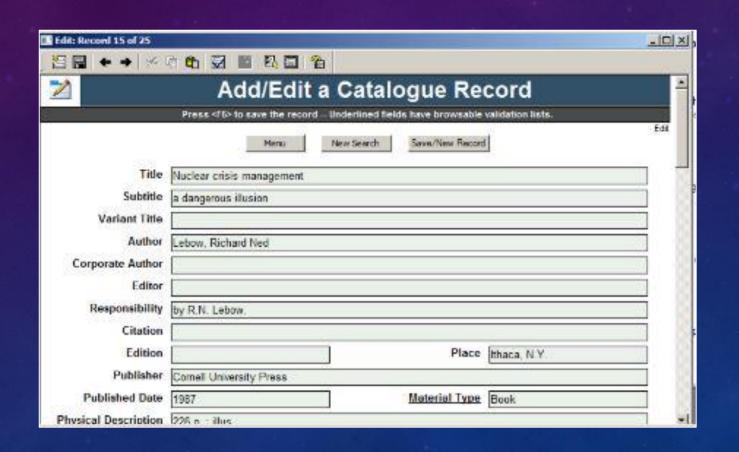
Needed a relatively easy and inexpensive solution



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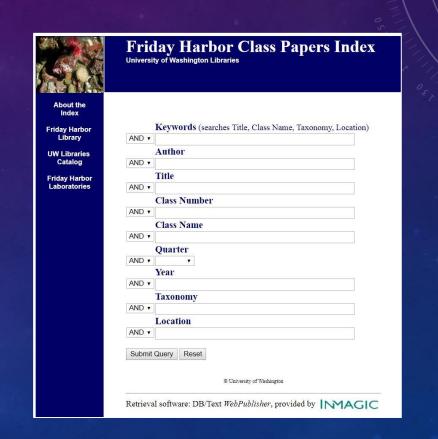


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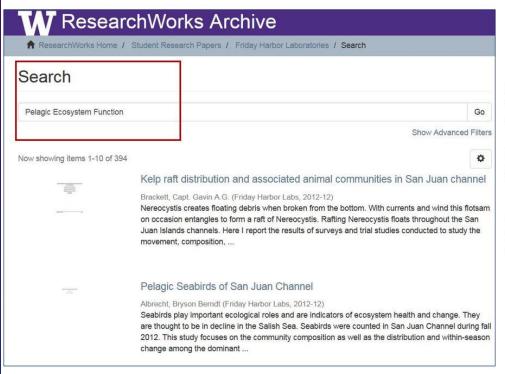


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Author	Title	Class Number	Class Name	Quarter	Year	Descriptors	Location
Bee, James William	A preliminary report of the ecology of False Bay	Zoology 533	Advanced Invertebrate Zoology	Summer	1949	Macoma; Transennella tantilla; Rochefortia tumida	False Bay, San Juan Island
Comita, Gabriel W.	Copepod commensals of pelecypods	Zoology 533	Advanced Invertebrate Zoology	Summer	1949	Paranthessius; Schizothaerus; Herrmannella	
Comita, Gabriel W.	A list of the common molluscs collected during the Summer session of 1949	Zoology 533	Advanced Invertebrate Zoology	Summer	1949		
Dunn, Margaret E.	Parasitic Cirripedia and Isopoda infesting shrimp collected in the vicinity of San Juan Island	Zoology 225	Advanced Invertebrate Zoology	Summer	1949	Mycetomorpha; Sylon; Spirontocaris moseri	San Juan Island
Oldenborg, Elizabeth A	Some errant polychaetes of Friday Harbor area	Zoology 225	Advanced Invertebrate Zoology	Summer	1949		Friday Harbor
Oldenborg, Elizabeth	Studies in regeneration in polychaete worms	Zoology 225	Advanced Invertebrate Zoology	Summer	1949	Eudistylia polymorpha; Serpula vermicularis	
Annan, Murvel E.	A study of the fauna of Jones' Beach	Zoology 533	Advanced Invertebrate Zoology	Summer	1950	Macoma; Protothaca staminea	Jones' Beach, San Juan Island
	Some notes on the movements of two					Littorina sitkana;	



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