

Preserving the past for the future: Capturing forest insect and disease gray literature



Elizabeth A. Willhite¹, Carol A. Ayer,² and Sally A. Dunphy²

What is Gray Literature?

Gray literature is information produced on all levels of government, academics, business, and industry, in electronic and print formats not controlled by commercial publishing,¹ and is typically unavailable through the usual bibliographic databases or indexes.

¹Derived from The Grey Literature Network Service's official definition, courtesy of Wikipedia

The Problem

Valuable: Historical gray literature on forest insects and diseases contains valuable information on past insect and disease occurrences, distributions, and severities.

Restricted Access: These historical documents are frequently very difficult to access. Much of this literature is in hardcopy format and a limited number of copies remain in existence. Most historical FHP gray literature documents reside in individual desk drawers and small, unmanaged office libraries.

Risk of Loss: The risk of loss of these valuable documents and their associated information is increasing due to age-related deterioration and an accelerating rate of forest entomologist and pathologist retirements (i.e., retirement = office cleanout = trash disposal of gray literature).

2010 Pilot Project Effort

Objective: Our objective was to develop a prototype web-accessible electronic gray literature repository and retrieval system that was capable of wide application by other FHP units and, for the current project, would serve as a primary vehicle to capture the historical insect and disease data present in the gray literature residing at a single field office location.

Location: FHP Westside I&D Service Center at the Mt. Hood NF HQ in Sandy, Oregon.

Duration: Three months of part-time work.

Emphasis Areas:

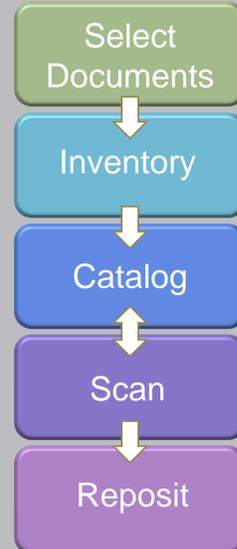
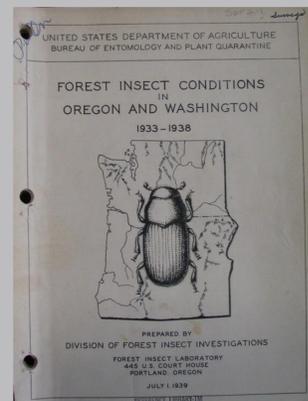
- Step 1. Develop process and standards
- Step 2. Develop infrastructure
- Step 3. Monitor time and costs

Summary of 2010 Pilot Project Results

Documents Inventoried	281
Documents Cataloged	113
R6 FHP Publications	175
Other Publications	106
Historical Date Range	5/24/1905 – 4/10/2008
Hours (Inventory and Catalog)	293
Ave. scanning cost/doc ³ (n=233)	\$5.71

³Cost includes OCR translation, pdf and .tif file creation, file numbering, oversize document attachments such as hand colored maps, and CD creation

Process Overview



What is the FHP Special Collection?

In library science, a special collection... is the name applied to a specific repository or department, usually within a library, which stores materials of a "special" nature, including rare books, archives, and collected manuscripts.¹

The **FHP Special Collection** consists of the FSLibrary cataloged repository of unpublished documents and government publications, including reports, letters, memos, and maps, that contain relevant or historical information regarding forest insects and diseases.

¹http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_collections

Summary

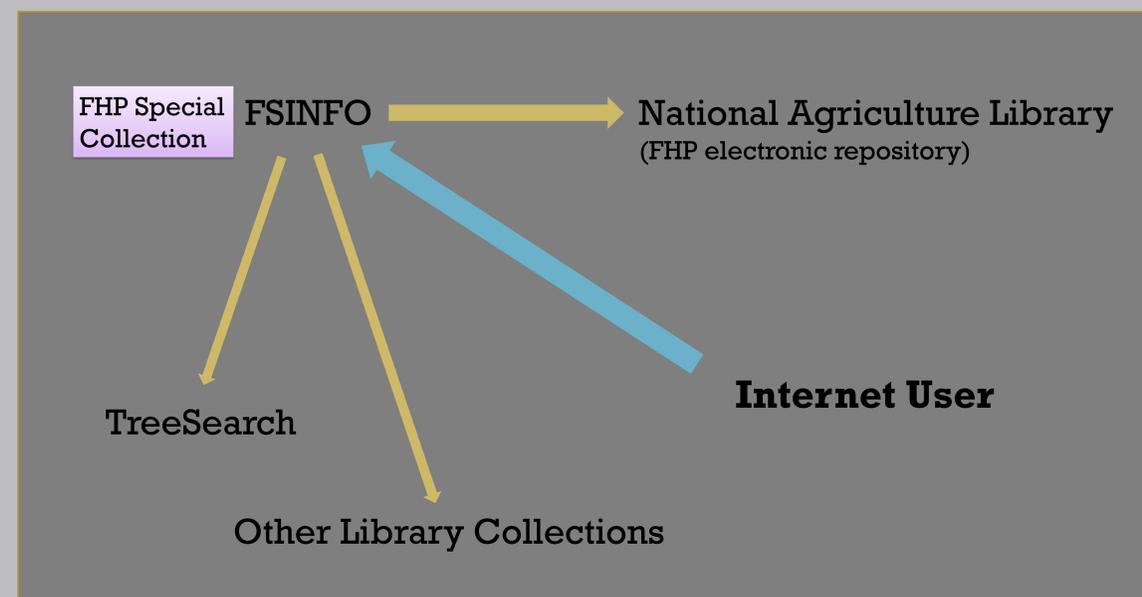
The Forest Health Protection (FHP) gray literature database repository and retrieval structure operates in partnership with two existing federal library systems, the National Forest Service Library and the National Agricultural Library.

Processed documents are web-accessible through FSINFO, the electronic card catalog of the National Forest Service Library, and available for keyword and text searches, full-text download, and linkage to insect and disease geodatabases.

Procedures, standards, and protocols for capturing and cataloging FHP gray literature have been developed and documented to provide a foundation for standardized capture of FHP gray literature on a broader scale.

This system provides for cost-effective long-term maintenance of electronic documents and universal access, and facilitates historical analyses of associated forest insect and disease information.

Infrastructure Overview



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¹USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region, Forest Health Protection, Sandy, Oregon ²USDA Forest Service, National Forest Service Library, Fort Collins, Colorado

Further information, please contact:
Elizabeth Willhite, bwilhite@fs.fed.us
Carol Ayer, cayer@fs.fed.us
Sally Dunphy, sdunphy@fs.fed.us