Information about hydrology in the West can be elusive and difficult to find, but the Water Resources Center Archives (WRCA) at the University of California, Berkeley, is dedicated to collecting, preserving, and providing access to information about the past, present, and future of western water.

WRCA was founded in 1957, when the State Water Project was under construction, to preserve engineering documents that would otherwise be lost. In addition to published books, journals, and maps, the collection includes a great deal of gray literature, such as reports by government agencies and consultants.

Manuscript collections and out-of-print books provide unique documentation of the history of water supply in the West. The topics covered in WRCA’s collection include water supply, dams, drinking water, wastewater, water pollution, and emerging issues such as water utility privatization and global warming. WRCA also catalogs many documents published only online, and preserves these ephemeral resources using a new web harvesting tool that allows WRCA to assign a persistent URL to each item.

New collections of interest include Dividing the Waters, the Milton N. Nathanson Papers, and the Dennis Underwood Colorado River collection.

Dividing the Waters contains legal and other materials related to western water adjudications and complex water litigation. The project focused on case management, alternative dispute resolution, and the sharing of practical experience by a diverse group of judges, masters, and referees who participated in Dividing the Waters activities.

The Milton Nathanson Papers contains files Nathanson compiled during his work as an attorney specializing in Colorado River water issues, including his employment at the Department of Interior as assistant regional solicitor and field solicitor and as special consultant to the Department of Interior and to the Coachella Valley Water District. The collection also contains Nathanson’s notes while he was authoring the book,  *Updating the Hoover Dam Documents*, and materials related to his involvement in the Colorado River Board of California.

The Dennis Underwood Colorado River Collection was established by WRCA, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California in 2006 to honor Dennis Underwood’s work on Colorado River issues throughout his career, which included the position of commissioner of Reclamation. The materials largely pertain to drought in the Colorado basin and the Quantification Settlement Agreement.

Reference librarians are available by phone, email, or in person, or you can search holdings online at melvyl.cdlib.org. WRCA’s website also provides pages of links to key resources.

WRCA extends the educational boundaries of a traditional library by hosting an interdisciplinary lecture series on the Berkeley campus. The lectures are open to the public and also available as streaming video online about two weeks after each lecture.

You can help WRCA grow, too. Please consider donating archival material or print or electronic documents that your firm or agency produces for inclusion in WRCA’s collection.

Contact waterarc@library.berkeley.edu or visit www.lib.berkeley.edu/WRCA.