Overview of the Collection

**Creator**  
Robbins, William G., 1935-

**Title**  
William G. Robbins Papers

**Dates**  
1886-2004 (inclusive)
1886 2004
1966-1999 (bulk)
1966 1999

**Quantity**  
14 cubic feet, (14 archives boxes)

**Collection Number**  
MSS Robbins

**Summary**  
The William G. Robbins Papers document his teaching, research and publishing activities and include correspondence, course syllabi and lecture notes, articles and book reviews, and extensive research and reference materials created and assembled by Robbins. A scholar of the environmental history of North America and a noted author, Robbins was a faculty member in the Oregon State University History Department from 1971 until his retirement in 1999.

**Repository**  
Oregon State University Libraries, Special Collections and Archives Research Center  
Special Collections and Archives Research Center  
121 The Valley Library  
Oregon State University  
Corvallis OR  
97331-4501  
Telephone: 541-737-2075  
Fax: 541-737-8674  
scarc@oregonstate.edu

**Access Restrictions**  
Collection is open for research.

**Additional Reference Guides**  
Preliminary container list available online.

**Languages**  
English

**Sponsor**  
Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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**Biographical Note**

William Robbins served as a faculty member in the Oregon State University History Department from 1971 until his retirement in 1999 as Emeritus Distinguished Professor of History. Robbins earned his B.S. from Western Connecticut State College and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Oregon. Robbins was named a Distinguished Professor at OSU in 1997.

Colony and Empire: The Capitalist Transformation of the American West (1994); and The Great Northwest: The Search for Regional Identity (2001). His 2005 book, Oregon: This Storied Land was a finalist for the 2006 Oregon Book Award in general non-fiction.

Content Description

The William G. Robbins Papers consist of materials generated and assembled by Robbins for teaching, research, and writing. The papers consist of correspondence (arranged chronologically), annual activity summary files, article and book reviews written by Robbins, conference papers and speeches, teaching materials, class notes and papers from his graduate education, and extensive research and reference materials. The papers also include newspaper clippings; publications and reports; and a few photographs.

The correspondence pertains to the publication of his research, search for employment as a university instructor, and Robbins' teaching post in the Oregon State University History Department and document Robbins' interaction with colleagues, journal editors, and university administrators. The teaching materials includes course syllabi, lecture and research notes, graduate student files, and reference materials assembled for a series of courses on Native American historical topics. The graduate student files reflect Robbins' role as an advisor and contain correspondence, meeting notices, essays, and thesis proposals.

The research and reference materials were assembled by Robbins in the course of his research and writing and include photocopies from a variety of archives and primary source repositories.

Use of the Collection

Preferred Citation

William G. Robbins Papers, Oregon State University Archives, Corvallis, Oregon.

Administrative Information

Processing Note

This collection is not fully processed; this guide is preliminary.

Related Materials

The Oregon Multicultural Archives includes other collections pertaining to Native Americans. The Archives' collections include many collections documenting the history of forestry and the forest products in the Northwest including the College of Forestry Records (RG 139); the Spotted Owl Management, Research, and Policy Collection; and the Mater Engineering Tribal Consultation Files.

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms:
Forest policy--United States--History.