

Digging Up the Soil Surveys:

Improving discoverability and access to historic agricultural information

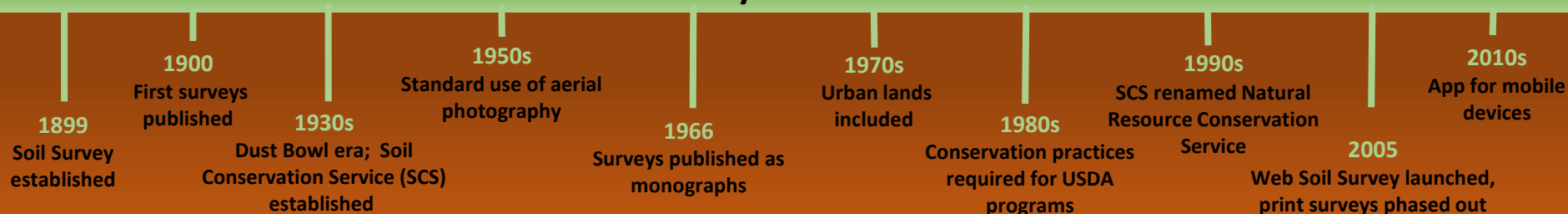
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Printed soil surveys were the main source of soils information in the United States from 1900 to 2005

Soil surveys offer a unique view of local areas, often documenting the same areas over time

A comprehensive inventory of soil surveys will help librarians promote these rich resources to users

Survey Timeline



Uses

- Building site development
- Construction materials
- Engineering properties and classifications
- Recreational development
- Sanitary facilities
- Water management
- Woodland management and productivity
- Yields per acre of crops

Publication Issues

- Published and cataloged as both series and monographs
- State-produced surveys

Soil Survey Inventory

Sample section of the Soil Survey Inventory

State	Location	Year Published	Series information	Additional information	SuDoc
South Dakota	Dawson County	1974		Only issued as Bulletin #421, South Dakota Experiment Station	A 57.38:D 29/2
South Dakota	Day County	1952			A 57.38/41:D 33
South Dakota	Deuel County	1997			A 57.38/41:D 48
South Dakota	Dewey County	1979			A 57.38:D 51/2
South Dakota	Douglas County	1928	1923 #18		A 26.5:1923/18
South Dakota	Douglas County	1981			A 57.38:D 74/6
South Dakota	Edmunds County	1977			A 57.38:ED 5
South Dakota	Fall River County	1982			A 57.38:F 19/3
South Dakota	Faulk County	1984			A 57.38:F 27/2
South Dakota	Grant County	1928	1922 p.1649-1679 : plus map #44		A 26.5:1922
South Dakota	Grant County	1979			A 57.38:G 76/3
South Dakota	Gregory County	1984			A 57.38:G 86/2
South Dakota	Haakon County	1998			A 57.38/41:H 11
South Dakota	Hamlin County	2003			A 57.38/41:H 18
South Dakota	Hand County	1963	1956 #21	Also issued as Bulletin #511, South Dakota Experiment Station	A 57.38:1956/21
South Dakota	Hanson and Hutchinson Counties	1978			A 57.38:H 19/4
South Dakota	Harding County	1988			A 57.38:H 21/6
South Dakota	Hughes County	1975			A 57.38:H 87/2
South Dakota	Hyde County	1930	1925 #18		A 26.5:1925/18
South Dakota	Hyde County	1998			A 57.38/41:H 99
South Dakota	Jackson County, northern part	1987			A 57.38:J 13/9/NORTH
South Dakota	Jerauld County	1951		Only issued as Bulletin #411, South Dakota Experiment Station	
South Dakota	Jerauld County	1994			A 57.38/41:J 47

Access

- Evolving formats (print, CD, online)
- Non-USDA Digitization
- NRCS digitized maps are embedded in PDF bookmarks

Library Management

- Only 11 respondents had a finding aid/list
- Many interested in specific state or region and preserving historic materials

Storage Options	Cataloged	Partially cataloged	Total
Government Documents Collection	20	15	35
LC or Dewey Collection	9	4	13
Off-site or in high-density storage area	9	5	14
Archival copy in Special Collections	3	5	8
Maps Collection	8		8
Agriculture Collection	1		1
Earth Sciences Collection	1		1





Sample map #2

From: Soil Survey of Merrimack County New Hampshire. 1965. Soil Survey Series 1961 #22. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service. Washington, D.C.: G.P.O.
Available online [at the NRCS Soil Surveys by State website](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/water/soils/soil-survey).



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