Forty-Six Important Federal Publications About Oklahoma—the 46th State—
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About Oklahoma—the 46th State

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On the cover—

The first state flag of Oklahoma was adopted by the State Legislature in 1911. It shows a red field centered by a five-pointed white star bordered with blue. The flag has the blue figure “46” in its center celebrating Oklahoma’s admission to the union as the 46th state.

This bibliography was inspired by the flag.
On November 16, 1907, the U.S. Congress approved the proposed constitution of the soon-to-be 46th state in our nation, Oklahoma. This process created the State of Oklahoma from the union of Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory.

This bibliography lists the 46 federal government publications that we believe are the most important in our state’s history. It excludes the legislation that made Oklahoma a state. It also excludes documents about the Indian wars. All items are listed chronologically.

(1) 1891 through 1907

Report of the Governor of Oklahoma

U.S. Department of the Interior. Report of the Governor of Oklahoma various years, various pagings
Sudocs classification numbers: I 1.26:(year); also in I 1.1:(year)

The importance of the reports of the Territorial Governor can not be overemphasized. Written in Guthrie, the capitol of Oklahoma Territory, they portray our state before statehood. Initially they only reported on the western half of the state, “Oklahoma Territory”; but soon began to report on the entire state, including the eastern half, “Indian Territory.”

In the 1892 report, Territorial Governor Abraham J. Seay, reviewing the lands owned by the Indians in eastern Oklahoma, noted, “It is a matter of great interest to our people, as well as the whole people of the United States, to know when and how these lands shall be opened.” (p. 476). The largest land run in history opened the Cherokee Outlet in 1893.

(2) 1906–Present

The Weather of Our State

U.S. Weather Bureau (now, National Climatic Data Center). Climatological Data, Oklahoma Monthly. (Note: title and name of agency varies)
Sudocs classification numbers: C 30.18/32:, C 55.214/33:, other numbers for early years.

The Weather Bureau has published basic monthly and annual climatic data for Oklahoma since 1896. In addition to temperature and rainfall statistics, the Bureau eventually added additional types of weather data, such as daily soil temperature and snow on the ground.
(3) 1906–1920

The “Five Civilized Tribes”

U.S. Commissioner to the Five Civilized Tribes
Report of the Commissioner to the Five Civilized Tribes
various pagings.
Sudocs classification numbers: I 1.11/1:894-920

After the Cherokees, Chickasaws, Choctaws, Creeks, and Seminoles were forcibly moved to Oklahoma, Congress created the Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes. In 1906 the Commission began making annual reports about social and economic aspects of the tribes, including land allotments, coal and asphalt tribal leases, schools, and finally, the health of the Indian peoples.

“No official attention was given the Five Civilized Tribes, from a medical standpoint, until the establishment of local offices in the field, July 1, 1908.”
(1913 report)

(4–5) 1900, 1914

Indian Territory’s Cadastral Land Surveys

Sudocs classification number: I 19.3:175

In 1895 Congress approved the first survey of the Indian Territory. Three hundred men surveyed standard, township, and subdivision lines. This report includes a topographic map prepared from their work which shows towns that are long gone, such as Whaleback.

Sudocs classification number: I 19.3:564

(6) 1901–1903

Geographic Atlases of the Atoka, Coalgate, Muskogee, Tahlequah, Tishomingo, and Winslow, Arkansas–Indian Territory Areas

Geologic Atlas of the United States. Atoka Folio; Indian Territory. 1902. 8p. 4 maps.
Sudocs classification number: I 19.5:79

Geologic Atlas of the United States. Coalgate Folio; Indian Territory. 1901. 6p. 4 maps.
Sudocs classification number: I 19.5:74

Geologic Atlas of the United States. Muskogee Folio, Indian Territory. 1906. 8p. 3 maps.
Sudocs classification number: I 19.5:132

In addition to the atlases, we also have these separate Indian Territory maps: Atoka, Muscogee, Nowata, Nuyaka, Tahlequah, Tuskaehoma, Vinita, and Wewoka. They were published in 1900 or 1901.

The atlases were written by Joseph A. Taff, except for the Arkansas–Indian Territory volume. These atlases are truly monumental. Not only do they examine the geology of the areas and their mining potential, but they also include early detailed topographic and geologic maps.

(7) 1904

*Gold and Silver Fever in the Arbuckle and Wichita Mountains*


Sudocs classification number: 19.16:31

This is a geological survey of the Arbuckle and Wichita Mountains. The appendix addresses the rumors that the mountains contain gold and silver. The author assayed ore samples from a number of mines in each mountain range, but found no deposits of either substance.

(8) 1905

*Oklahoma’s First Statewide Geological Survey*


Sudocs classification number: I 19.13:148

Written by Dr. Charles Gould, Professor of Geology at the University of Oklahoma, this is the first comprehensive survey of Oklahoma’s geology and water supplies. It contains many maps, charts, and photographs. According to Dr. Gould, the greatly varied topography of our state is due to the fact that it “is part of a region which was formerly a plain which was worn down nearly to sea level, then elevated, and again eroded.” (page 12).
(9) 1905

Towns in Indian Territory

Sudocs classification number: I 19.3:248

This gazetteer identifies towns, rivers and creeks, railroad stations, mountains and hills, prairies, and post offices in early Oklahoma, and at least one slough—Waterfall Slough in eastern Oklahoma.

(10) 1907

Oklahoma’s First State Census

Sudocs classification number: C 3.3:89

Every Census report is important and belongs in this list, but none is as important as Oklahoma’s first Census. Technically it is a census of Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory taken on July 1, 1907.

It states that, from 1890 to 1900, Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory had the largest percentage of population increase of any state or territory in the nation—Oklahoma Territory increased by 407.6%, and Indian Territory by 117.6%.

(11) 1907

Members of the Five Civilized Tribes

Sudocs classification number: I 1.11/2:R65 and /Index

These are the final tribal rolls of the Cherokees, Chickasaws, Choctaws, Creeks, and Seminoles. It lists actual names, ages, sex, degree of Indian blood, and “Census card” roll number. The main volume is organized by roll number; the index volume is organized by tribe. These inventories are popularly known as the Dawes Rolls or Indian Rolls.

(12) 1913

First Full Statistical Portrait of Oklahoma

Sudocs classification number: C 3.15:Ok 4

As important as the 1907 Oklahoma Census was, it doesn’t provide the depth and detail of Oklahoma statistics that this report contains. It includes such detailed data as “Illiterate Per-
sons 10 Years of Age and Over,” “Selected Farm Expenses and Receipts, By Counties,” and “Foreign White Stock, by Nationality.”

(13) 1911, 1915, 1917, 1922, 1936, 1939

Oil, Gas, and Coal in Oklahoma

Sudocs classification number: I 19.3:531.

Sudocs classification number: I 19.3:621


Sudocs classification number: I 19.3:541-B

Sudocs classification number: I 19.3:641

Sudocs classification number: I 19.3:629

Sudocs classification number: I 19.3:658

Sudocs classification number: 686.

Sudocs classification number: I 19.3:726

Reeves, Frank. “Geology of the Cement Oil Field, Oklahoma,” pp. 41-85.
Although we tend to forget about the importance of coal in the early years of our state, coal, oil, and gas are all minerals that helped make Oklahoma what it is. These reports are profiles of our state’s major mineral production areas, with included maps.

**1915**

**Child Labor in Early Oklahoma**


In the early days of the state, neither girls nor women of any age were allowed to work in mines. No girl under the age of 16 could sell newspapers on the street. No boy under the age of 14 could work in a factory. This is a compilation of child labor laws in early Oklahoma.
(15) 1917

Black Education in Early Oklahoma

Sudocs classification number: I 16.3:916/39

This report begins by noting that the increase in African-American population in Oklahoma between 1900 and 1910 increased 147%, the largest percentage of increase for any state in the nation. It notes that Oklahoma spent $14.21 per white child, but only $9.96 per black child. It then focuses on schools and colleges for African-Americans, singling out Guthrie’s Faver High School and Langston University as the best in our state.

(16) 1922

Education in Early Oklahoma

Sudocs classification number: I 16.2:Ok 4

In 1921 the Oklahoma Legislature requested that the U.S. Commissioner of Education conduct a survey of our state’s public education system. This comprehensive report presents an account of the early history of education in Oklahoma, and examines rural schools, “village and city schools,” higher education, and the separate educational systems for Indians and African Americans.

(17) 1924

Remembering Sequoyah

Sudocs classification number: Y 7.2:S 4

Sequoyah, a great Indian educator, was Cherokee. This document lauds his accomplishments on the occasion of the unveiling of his statue in “Statuary Hall” in the U.S. Capitol on June 6, 1917. “...his genius invented one of the greatest alphabets that the world has ever known.” Representative Charles D. Carter, 3rd district, Oklahoma, p. 6.
Oklahoma’s Cattle Ranches

Sudocs classification number: SI 4.1:920

*Cattle ranching* in our state began as cattle grazing upon Indian reservation lands in exchange for either money or cattle. Cattle were driven into our state primarily from Texas, beginning in 1866. In the eighteen years following the Civil War, Texas ranchers drove 5 to 6 million head of cattle into Oklahoma. This article examines the early years of the cattle industry in our state from that time through 1907.

The Wichita National Forest and Game Preserve

Sudocs classification number: A 1.5/2:36

What we now know as the Wichita National Wildlife Refuge was created by Congress as a forest reserve in 1901. President Theodore Roosevelt proclaimed it as a national game preserve on June 2, 1905.

This document is an early *review of the species that were introduced into the park*, none of them native—buffalo, donated by the New York Zoological Park; elk, transferred from a herd in Jackson Hole, Wyoming; antelope, introduced three different times from three different locations (none of the antelope survived); and wild turkeys, transferred from Atoka, Oklahoma.

Langston University Nationally Noted

Sudocs classification number: I 16.3:928/7

Among the many colleges and universities this report reviews, Langston University is noted as “...developing rapidly into a high type of Negro land-grant college... . The Institution is being wisely administered... . The steady increase in the enrollment in the college presages greater expansion of the institution in the future.” (p. 470) This is an in-depth *profile of early Langston University*. 
(21) 1937

The Dust Bowl in Oklahoma

Sudocs classification number: Y 3.W 89/2: 13/5-1

This report notes that every county of Oklahoma was officially designated as a drought county in 1937. It examines and includes statistics for the scant rainfall, poor crops, bad pasture conditions, and loss of cattle that afflicted Depression-era Oklahoma. It also notes that drought in these regions of the nation was not an usual occurrence historically: there had been droughts in 1889-1890, 1894, 1901, 1910, 1917, 1930-1931, 1933-1934, and 1936.

(22) 1939

The Rights of Women in Oklahoma

Sudocs classification number: L 13.3:157-35

This is a thorough examination of the legal rights of women in Oklahoma in 1938. It was compiled from our state Constitution, the 1931 Oklahoma Statutes and their 1938 supplement, and case laws as found in the Oklahoma Reports and Pacific Reporter. At that time only men were eligible to become Governor, and only men could be grand jurors and trial jurors.

(23) 1939

Remembering Will Rogers

Sudocs classification number: Y 7.2:R6

These proceedings laud the great Oklahoman, Will Rogers, upon the unveiling of his statue in Statuary Hall of the U.S. Capitol, June 6, 1939.

WILL ROGERS

Saint Peter swung open the Pearly Gates,
And held out his hand with a smile,
Saying “Will, your engagement is over on earth,
You’ll ‘show up’ here for a while....

You have done so well down there on the Earth,
Which was going from bad to worse,
That I want you to make a celestial tour,
And visit the Universe.”

—Fred B. Woodard, Dewey, Oklahoma
(24)  1941

Wrath of the Dust Bowl

Sudocs classification number: Y 4.In 8/12:M 58/pt. 5

This hearing was held to investigate the condition of the Dust Bowl in the 117 counties of the Great Plains. Leon Phillips, Governor of Oklahoma, reported that our state had lost 74,679 residents and 33,274 farms since the beginning of the Dust Bowl. It contains this statement from Oklahoma City Mayor Robert A. Hefner, “[holding up the novel Grapes of Wrath] that on account of this book that was written, Oklahoma gets the credit for all this floating population; they seem to call them ‘Okies’ all over the country.” (page 1,759)

(25)  1946

Our State’s Honored Soldiers

Sudocs classification number: W 107.13:Ok 4

Organized by county and then by name, this list includes each soldier’s Social Security number, rank, and dead or missing status. It also includes the Air Force, at that time part of the Army.

(26)  1946

Our State’s Honored Sailors

Sudocs classification number: N 1.34/2:2

This list is organized by name for the entire state. It also includes the Marine Corps and Coast Guard. It does not include personal Social Security numbers.

(27)  1950

Historic Tornadoes

Sudocs classification number: C 55.11:78/2

Oklahoma is the tornado center of our nation. This review was written because our state had a record number of 58 tornadoes in 1948. Two tornadoes wreaked such havoc at Tinker Air Force Base in Midwest City that the federal government reacted by beginning modern storm forecasting. From 1920 through 1949, the average yearly number of Oklahomans killed by tornadoes was twenty!
(28) **1952–present**

*The Mineral Industry of Oklahoma*


Sudocs classification numbers: I 28.37: (year)/volume 3

The 1952 edition of this yearbook initially presented detailed information for each state’s mineral industries. It is interesting to note that in 1952 the value of mineral production in Oklahoma was $621,351,000, compared to $613,000,000 generated by agriculture and $583,000,000 generated by manufacturing.

(29) **1957**

*Oklahoma Celebrates 50 Years of Statehood*


Sudocs classification number: LC 1.2:Ok 4

From November 13, 1957 through February 15, 1958, the Library of Congress mounted an exhibition to commemorate the semicentennial of Oklahoma becoming a state. This exhibition catalog contains reproductions of many historic photographs and drawings, as well as an essay about our history titled “Oklahoma: From Spanish Frontier to Sooner State,” and an 1888 photo of “Boomers,” settlers who crossed the borders of Indian lands illegally before they were opened by a land-run.

(30) **1960**

*Oklahoma’s Volatile Climate*


Sudocs classification number: C 30.71/3:34 and 34/2

This is a narrative summary of the decent weather that Oklahoma enjoys most of the time, and the dangerous weather that we occasionally have to endure. One-hundred degree plus temperatures can occur as early as March and as late as October.

(31) **1964–present**

*Business in Oklahoma’s Counties*


Sudocs classification number: C 3.204: (year)-38 ; later, C 3.204/3-38: (year)

In 1964, the Department of Commerce began to publish data about county businesses for each state. These reports include the number and types of businesses for each county, the number of their employees, and their payroll.
(32) 1968

The Paradise of Charons Gardens is Saved from Ruin

Sudocs classification number: I 19.3:1260-I,J

Charon Gardens in the Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge is 5,000 acres of wonder and magic. But in 1968, it barely escaped being ruined. The USGS examined the area for any future mining, but fortunately concluded that its commercial potential was very low. This profiles the geology and mineral resources of this splendid wilderness.

(33) 1970

Concentration Camps in Oklahoma?

Sudocs classification number: Y 4.In 8/i5:Em 3

The Emergency Detention Act of 1950 was written during the Korean War to deal with espionage and sabotage activities within the U.S. by a rumored Communist “fifth column.” Title II of this act authorized the forced relocation of supposed dissidents into six national detention centers during wartime. Critics of the act called these centers “concentration camps.” One of the centers was to be at the El Reno Reformatory. This hearing contains an interview with the reformatory warden and a look at the site.

(34) 1971

Wiley Post Invents the Pressure Suit

Sudocs classification number: SI 9.9:8

Wiley Post, the great Oklahoma aviator, invented the first pressurized flight suit. This allowed him to climb to an altitude of almost 50,000 feet in 1934. He was the first aviator to “ride the jet stream.” This document describes his pioneering efforts that eventually led to human flight into space, and also includes an account of his fatal crash (with Will Rogers) off Point Barrow, Alaska, on August 15, 1935.
(35) 1974

Indian Civil Rights in Oklahoma


Sudocs classification number: CR 1.2:In 2/2

At the time of this report, Oklahoma had the largest Indian population of any state, a status that has since been relinquished to California. However, not all was well in our state. This report investigates problems with employment, education, law enforcement, and health services.


The Failure of Penn Square Bank


Sudocs classification number: Y 4.B 22/1:97-92


Sudocs classification number: Y 4. G 74/7:P 38


Sudocs classification number: Y 4.B 22/3:97-77

The failure of Penn Square Bank brought Oklahoma’s booming economy to its knees. A small bank in a shopping mall, it became a conduit for large loans from major banks to the oil and gas industry. It was the first of 67 Oklahoma banks that failed in the next five years. The significance of this bank’s failure is manifested in the fact that three different committees of Congress held investigative hearings into the issue.

(40) 1996

The Oklahoma City Bombing


The tragedy of the terrorist bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Building continues to haunt us. This report examines the building’s destruction. According to the testimony of Roger Johnson of the General Services Administration which operated the building, “if there is any bright spot coming out of this situation, it has to do with the response of the people … a man that I visited in the hospital in the intensive care unit who was riddled head to foot with glass and metal, had a crushed leg and a crushed arm, yet he wrote questions, and they were all about how his fellow workers were ....” (page 3).
(41) 1996

Ground Water in Oklahoma

Sudocs classification number: I 19.89:HA-730-E

Ever since the Dust Bowl, Oklahoma's water has been rightly viewed as a precious commodity. In 1985, 42% of the population of the state relied on ground water. This statistic has not declined. This atlas describes and illustrates the eight major aquifers in Oklahoma.

(42) 1997

The Role of Ft. Sill in the Gulf War


The mobilization for the Gulf War made things difficult at Ft. Sill. This report claims that there was too much Pentagon interference at some times and too little guidance at others. Still, Ft. Sill managed to send a total of twenty-two train convoys of personnel and material destined for the Gulf War to ports in Texas. To accomplish this Ft. Sill had to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for many weeks.

(43) 1998

The Oklahoma City National Memorial

Sudocs classification number: Y 4.R 31/3:105-55

Congressional Representative Frank Lucas introduced House Bill H.R. 1849 to establish the Memorial and to establish the Memorial Trust. This is the congressional hearing which includes testimony and statements by Representatives Lucas, Istook, and Watts, with Governor Keating, Mayor Norick, and others. It also includes the text of the bill, and the Memorial mission statement.

(44) 1999

The Killer Tornadoes of May 3, 1999

Available only online—at http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/disaster/ok-ks/report7.pdf

The rare F5-rated tornado that roared through Oklahoma City, Moore, Midwest City, and smaller communities on May 3 killed thirty-eight Oklahomans. Four Oklahomans were also killed by other tornadoes that same day. These killer tornadoes were part of seventy other tornadoes that devastated Oklahoma and southern Kansas that day.
A History of Helping Oklahoma’s Farmers


The FHA has been helping farmers in Oklahoma from the mid-1930’s, when it was called the Resettlement Administration, until its end on October 1, 1995. In the 1930’s, the FHA was the largest lender in the state, with a loan portfolio of over $1,200,000,000 in 25,000 loans to Oklahoma farmers. This history includes a summary record of its grants and loans to grateful Oklahomans.

The Red River Dispute Finally Settled


Oklahoma and Texas have been fighting it out about the boundary between our states since Oklahoma statehood. The conflict wasn’t settled until December 31, 1999, with the enactment of the “Red River Boundary Compact.” This examines the legislation that finally settled the dispute.