

Geology

A Guide to the Resources in the Michigan State University Archives

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This guide was created to aid visitors to the MSU Archives in finding resources related to the Department of Geology and the geological sciences. Note that this guide is not a comprehensive listing of all the available sources, but is intended to be a starting point from which visitors can begin their research according to their specific needs. Online versions of the finding aids for most collections listed can be accessed by clicking on the collection name.

MSU Departmental Records:

1. [Department of Geography Records, 1957-1988](#)

UA 16.52

- 0.5 cubic feet
- The collection consists of annual reports, publications, event brochures, course descriptions, and undergraduate handbooks. Of note are the annual reports and undergraduate handbooks. The reports contain information on departmental activities, curriculum, staff changes, enrollment, research, publications, and faculty activities. The handbooks contain information on geography at MSU, course offerings, specialization policies, facilities, career guidance, faculty lists and faculty vitae.
- On June 17, 1955 the Department of Agriculture approved the separation of the Department of Geology and Geography into two departments. The Department of Geography was assigned to the Division of Social Science and Arts and the Department of Geology to remain in the Division of Mathematics and Physical Sciences.

2. [Department of Geology Records, 1920-1970](#)

UA 16.53

- 8 cubic feet
- The records of the Department of Geology consist of annual reports for 1920-1970, administrative files, correspondence, field trip reports, inventories of the department, experiment station notes, material relating to the Works Progress Administration, military college program, Sigma Xi and Phi Kappa Phi, and financial information. There are also records relating to the Glacial Institute. The department began in 1925 as the Zoology and Geology Department and reorganized in 1928 as the Geology and Geography Department. The Geology Department became a separate unit in 1955.

3. [Department of Zoology Records, 1920-1989](#)

UA 16.121

- 3.25 cubic feet
- The records of the Department of Zoology include Correspondence, 1920-1934, 1941-1946, and 1967-1968; Departmental material; Facilities and Reports; and Miscellaneous Reports.

- The Zoology and Entomology Department was created in 1860. The department was renamed Zoology and Physiology in 1894. In 1922, the department became part of the Applied Sciences Division. The Geology Department broke from Zoology in 1928.

Individual Collections and Papers:

1. [William James Beal Papers, 1859-1940](#)

UA 17.4

- 1 cubic feet
- The William J. Beal Papers consist of correspondence, publications, and materials relating to his work as a student at Harvard University. The material from Beal's years at Harvard includes course notes on anatomy, geology and ornithology as well as a detailed journal which Beal wrote in 1862. This journal includes comments on individuals as well as events of the period.

2. [William A. Kelly Papers](#)

UA 17.174

- 0.1 cubic feet
- This collection contains a “Laboratory Manual for Historical Geology”, written by William Kelly. The manual is made up of nine parts: fossil preservation methods, fossil diagrams, directions for studying unknown specimens, exercise worksheets, fossil collection directions, outline of a Grand Ledge field excursion, a resume of Michigan’s historical geology, and a glossary.
- William Kelly began teaching at Michigan State College (now Michigan State University) in January of 1926 in the field of geology. He was appointed full professor in July of 1944. Before his career at MSU he received his B.A. and M.A. from the University of Alberta and received his Ph.D. from Princeton University, where he taught until 1926. He retired from MSU in July, 1961.

3. [Joseph W. Stack Papers, 1916-1953](#)

UA 17.44

- 3 cubic feet
- Materials found in the collection include maps, bird banding records, student reports and papers, manuscripts, publications, and WKAR radio scripts.
- Joseph W. Stack came to Michigan Agricultural College (now Michigan State University) in 1915 as an instructor in zoology, physiology, and geology. In 1924 he began serving as Curator of the Museum and was appointed its Director in 1941. In 1942 the Department of Zoology promoted him to full professor. With his particular area of interest centering on ornithology and bird banding, Stack continued the bird banding

station started at MAC in 1923. He was also involved in the Works Progress Administration Museum Project and the Committee to Reorganize the Curriculum.

4. [Clarence Suelter Collection, 1876-2006](#)

UA 17.227

- 1 cubic feet
- The collection contains information about different science programs at MSU compiled Clarence Suelter. Some of the materials are photocopies. There is substantial information relating to Robert C. Kedzie, as well as historical overviews of many natural science programs.

Other Resources:

University Publications:

1. Alumni and Faculty Catalogues
2. Course Catalogs
3. Faculty and Student Directories
4. MSU Staff Newsletters
5. MSU Yearbooks
6. Departmental Newsletters
 - Serial 951 Spectrum (1981-2003)
 - Serial 1138 Geological Sciences (1969-2002)
 - Serial 1165 Spartan Geographer (1996-2015)