



## Research Library

# RESOURCE BRIEF

### Importance

The mission of the Yellowstone Research Library is to collect published and unpublished materials related to Yellowstone and to make these materials available to park staff, researchers, and the general public. The library collection encompasses over 20,000 books, periodicals, theses and dissertations, unpublished manuscripts, microforms of historical newspapers and scrapbooks, brochures, technical reports, and audio visual material. The Map Room collection includes a large number of published maps from 1865 to the present. In the Rare Book Room are the personal papers and books of notable figures from Yellowstone history, including Major Hiram Chittenden and several early superintendents. Donations from the Yellowstone Association, the Yellowstone Park Foundation, and private donors, as well funding provided by the National Park Service, have made possible an impressive, possibly unsurpassed, example of Yellowstone National Park resources.



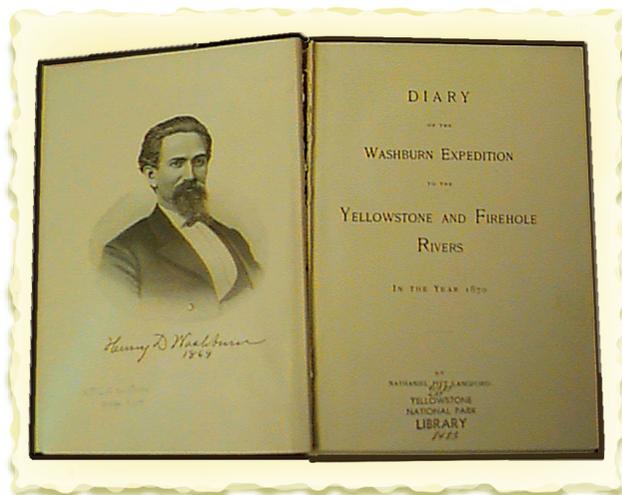
The Haynes guide to Yellowstone was published with various titles almost every year from 1890 to 1966, first by photographer and park concessioner F. Jay Haynes, then by his son Jack with his wife Isabel Haynes. The Research Library has every edition as well as every variant of the Haynes guides.

### Status

The library resources are accessible to the public at the Yellowstone Heritage and Research Center in Gardiner, Montana. National Park Service employees who work at Yellowstone and members of the Yellowstone Association can obtain library cards that can be used to borrow most of the library's books; non-circulating items must be used in the library. The library catalog is available online through

the Wyoming Libraries Database Network of the Wyoming Library Consortium. The librarians have been working to insure that all of the books and papers available online have links in the library's catalog. The Research Library also participates in an international inter-library loan program that enables researchers around the world to work with its materials.

The library's role in the greater community has been to host teacher training seminars focusing on primary documents as well as teacher-led high school writing groups. In 2006, the library staff began a bookmobile service that travels around the park interior once a month during the summer. Participation in the program has grown by at least 30% every year since it began.



An account of the 1870 Washburn expedition to the park as told in 1905 by Nathaniel Langford, the first superintendent.

### Discussion

The Yellowstone Library and Museum Association, forerunner of today's Yellowstone Association, was organized in 1933 in part "to assist in the establishment and development of a Yellowstone Park Library for the use of rangers, ranger naturalists and others dealing with park visitors and the public." While the library collection is now the property of the National Park Service, the Yellowstone Association continues to support the library by employing librarians and providing most of the funding for purchases and subscriptions as well as for specific library projects.

