

OUR STORY

In the 1930s, behavioral scientists at Yale's Institute of Human Relations began developing a collection of cultural materials on a sample of cultures around the world. These materials are classified by subject at the paragraph-level enabling quick access to research materials. HRAF grew out of these efforts. Today, HRAF is committed to developing dynamic, fully-indexed electronic collections online that facilitate comparative and cross-cultural research. HRAF's subject and culture thesauri (OWC & OCM) are used by anthropological fieldworkers and cross-cultural researchers, and they provide the framework for eHRAF World Cultures and eHRAF Archaeology, HRAF's flagship full text databases. HRAF also sponsors and edits the peer-reviewed journal, *Cross-Cultural Research*, and provides other scholarly and educational resources.

A DIVERSE MOSAIC OF HUMAN CULTURES

Expanded and updated annually, the entire HRAF Collection covers nearly 400 cultures--past and present--across the world. HRAF collections contain ethnographic and archaeological documents that have been meticulously indexed by cultural subject at the paragraph level. Each document is grouped by region and culture, helping to form the broad cultural mosaic that defines the HRAF project. Although the HRAF collections can be used for many purposes, they were primarily designed to enable researchers to find information quickly across a broad range of cultures so that cultural subjects and societies could be compared on particular dimensions of variation.



HRAF

[AT YALE]

UNDERSTANDING OUR UNIQUE
CULTURAL COLLECTIONS



EXPLORING CULTURAL DIVERSITY WITH HRAF

HRAF MISSION

The Human Relations Area Files' mission is to promote understanding of cultural diversity and commonality in the past and present. To accomplish this mission, the Human Relations Area Files produces scholarly resources for teaching and research and conducts grant-supported research on cross-cultural variation. Our projects include:

- *eHRAF World Cultures Collection***
- *eHRAF Archaeology Collection***
- *Teaching eHRAF* *
- *Introducing Cross-Cultural Research* *
- *Explaining Human Culture Database**
- *Cross-Cultural Research: The Journal of Comparative Social Science (SAGE)*

**Membership subscription

*Open-access projects

CONTACT US

Website: Hraf.yale.edu
Human Relations Area Files
755 Prospect Street
New Haven, CT 01062

Email: Hraf@yale.edu
Facebook: /HumanRelationsAreaFiles
Instagram: [Hraf_at_yale_university](https://www.instagram.com/Hraf_at_yale_university)
Twitter: @HRAF755



Ethnographic and archaeological materials on all aspects of social and cultural life

Our collections contain ethnographic texts that have been evaluated by professional anthropologists for quality, subject content, and breadth of ethnographic coverage. Each document comes rich with metadata on the site where fieldwork was undertaken, as well as the time period discussed by the authors and researchers, and their disciplinary affiliations.

Our anthropological collections provide comprehensive coverage of cultural life across hundreds of non-Western and Western cultures. By searching cultural subjects, such as "political movements" (OCM 668) or "ethnobotany" (OCM 824) within specific societies, students and veteran researchers can discover detailed passages dealing with the specific life-ways of ethnic minorities, migrants, indigenous persons, and other communities across the globe.

You can also limit searches to cultures and societies that practice a selected subsistence system---making it possible to conduct focused investigations of social phenomena in hunter-gatherer, pastoralist, and agricultural communities.

MEMBERSHIP

As a small, nonprofit and financially autonomous membership organization, HRAF is more than a database provider. In addition to providing unlimited on-and-off-campus access to eHRAF for our member institutions, we take pride in giving personalized support (e.g. webinars) to librarians, faculty, researchers, and students.

Consortium and regular associate memberships for our award-winning eHRAF World Cultures and eHRAF Archaeology collections are available for academic institutions. Individual memberships are also available for researchers not affiliated with member institutions. Contact us at hraf@yale.edu for more information.

