eHRAF World Cultures 2021
A QUICK START GUIDE

FIRST LOOK &
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
LET'S GET STARTED

Our award-winning, membership-based eHRAF World Cultures database contains information on present and past aspects of cultural and social life for a worldwide sample of societies.

Designed with cultural researchers in mind, eHRAF differs from other academic online databases that you may be used to.

It provides, at your fingertips, the ability to browse and search across our ethnographic collections comprising hundreds of societies, with documents meticulously subject-indexed at the paragraph level by HRAF anthropologists.

The release of our latest iteration of the eHRAF application in Fall 2021 offers many enhancements that we are excited to share with you. This guide will walk you through the basics.
WHAT'S INSIDE?

eHRAF is comprised of culture collections. But unlike databases that simply host static files to read or print, eHRAF is more dynamic. Each and every document in our database has been carefully indexed by experts to get to the crux of the subject(s) you’re interested in.

By using HRAF’s Outline of Cultural Materials subject-classification system to tag the thematic contents of every paragraph, we take you straight to your topics, across any number of world cultures and continents, in a few easy clicks. Then we’ll help you drill down the data, and point you straight to the relevant paragraphs of the ethnographic sources we have on file.
Let’s begin with the interface and navigation.

This is the landing page that you'll see when you log on.

Things might look a little different on a mobile device.
GETTING STARTED

To get an overview of what’s inside eHRAF and how the OCM is structured, you can Browse by Cultures, Documents, and/or Subjects.

Use the filters to narrow your results.

Click on "Full Profile" to jump to the Culture or Subject profile for a description of the subject or culture collection.

Culture and Subject Profiles contain a description of the culture or subject, related terms, and a list of relevant documents contained in eHRAF.
HOW DO I START SEARCHING?

Start typing in the search box. After your initial search, you can modify your terms using the bar at the top of the page.

Need some inspiration? On the landing page, there are Featured Searches that we’ve prepared for you. Simply click to conduct the search and view the results.

INPUT KEYWORDS

Enter your keywords into the search box. Auto-complete will try to help.
Use the down arrow to access the Advance Search option.

SWITCH TO ADVANCED SEARCH

Toggle to Advanced Search from the search bar when entering your keywords by clicking on "Advanced Search". Additional search fields will appear.
WHY USE ADVANCED SEARCH?

For exploratory searches or single-subject queries, we think you’ll find our “smart” home search bar to be more than adequate.

For our eHRAF search pros: if you’re interested in more control over your search or have more complicated queries, don’t worry. You can tweak all the important fields with Advanced Search.

This quick guide only covers the basics. A full guide to advanced search will be available soon, but feel free to take it for a spin; we think the filters are pretty self-explanatory.
From the main page or from anywhere in your search results, you can click on the down arrow at the right hand side of the search box to access the Advanced Search menu.

Here, you can enter specific cultures, subjects and keywords, and specify how you would like them to be included or excluded from your search.

Enter your terms or pick from a list. Use the dropdown menus above each box to set your search conditions and boolean operators.

Click on the AND between subjects and keywords to change it to OR.

You may leave cultures or subjects blank to search all.

Use the + button to add additional search clauses.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Subsistence Types</th>
<th>Published Date</th>
<th>Samples</th>
<th>Document Types</th>
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<td>Korea</td>
<td>Intensive Agriculturalists</td>
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<td>Asia, Horticultralists</td>
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HOW DO I VIEW MY SEARCH RESULTS?
Click on the paragraph snippet that interests you. Note that the keywords from your search will be highlighted.

CAN I FILTER OR SORT MY RESULTS FOR SPECIFIC PEOPLES OR PLACES?
Of course. Use the Refine Search menu on the left to filter your search results by subsistence type, region, date, sample or other parameters. Use the sort button at the top right to sort by title, culture names.

TOGGLE RESULTS LAYOUT
Click on View As in the top right to change the appearance of the results view. Alternative views to the List View include Hierarchy View and Card View.
eHRAF Search Insights break down your search results and help to visualize patterns in the data that are meaningful to you.

**Results Table**: View paragraph and page result counts by region and sub-region. Click on a region link to drill down to sub-regions.

**Cloud Overview**: View a keyword "cloud" to see which subjects, cultures, subsistence types, or regions within your results have the most hits.

**Map**: Explore your culture results on the world map.
Pre-formatted citations are offered in the following styles: Chicago, APA, MLA, or Harvard. Simply copy and paste the citation as needed.

Citations can be exported for the following software: RefMan, EndNote, or BibTeX. Metadata and permalinks to search results can also be exported to a CSV file. Note that paragraph text is not exported. To save paragraphs, see Notebooks, below.
To see a selected paragraph from your search results in its original page context, click on "full context" located below the paragraph.

From the full context view, you can navigate the document using the page numbers and arrows on right side of the page. You can also find metadata, permalinks, and citations for the document there.
TIPS AND TRICKS

Too many search results? Use filters to drill down your findings, or set your search parameters to fewer cultures or subjects of interest.

Not enough results? Remember that eHRAF contains thousands of pages of expertly coded cultural information. This data has been indexed at the paragraph level, meaning that your search terms need to appear together within a single paragraph in order to count as a hit. If your searching is bringing up too few results, you may be entering too many terms and subjects at once. If you’re in Advanced Search, make sure you’re setting your search operators (AND vs. OR) correctly.

Need more info? Click on a culture or subject identifier to read the culture or subject profile.
WHAT IS THE NOTEBOOK?

**eHRAF Notebook** allows you to save paragraph results from your search to custom folders for future reference. You can organize your clippings as well as move them between folders and share notebooks to collaborate with other users.

Because this feature is in beta testing, data integrity cannot be assured long-term. We recommend keeping a separate record of important selections and exporting citations where relevant until eHRAF Notebook is out of beta.
Click on the Notebooks button beneath any search result to add the results to create a new notebook or to add results to an existing notebook. (Remember, you must be registered and logged in to see this option.)

Access your saved notebook(s) from the sidebar menu.
ORGANIZE YOUR NOTEBOOK

LABELS & ANNOTATIONS

You can filter, sort, add, or remove your saved paragraph results in your notebook. You may also annotate or add labels within notebooks to customize how you organize your eHRAF data.

- Check the box(es) to the left to choose the paragraphs you would like to label or annotate.
- Use the "label", "annotate" or "delete" icons at the top to modify your selections.
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FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HRAF, INCLUDING MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION AND TRIALS, VISIT OUR HOMEPAGE AT HTTP://HRAF.YALE.EDU