

# Quick User's Guide to the eHRAF Databases

eHRAF World Cultures: <http://ehrafworldcultures.yale.edu>

eHRAF Archaeology: <http://ehrafarchaeology.yale.edu>

Produced by Human Relations Area Files (HRAF), 4/29/08: <http://www.yale.edu/hraf>

The power of the eHRAF World Cultures/Archaeology databases is that the information is organized into cultures or traditions, ethnic and indigenous groups, and the full-text documents (books, articles, and dissertations) are **subject-indexed** at the paragraph-level. Figure 1 is an excerpt of a page as you would find it in eHRAF. On the left-hand side (#1) is the document's table of contents (in this case a monograph), in the middle the paragraphs of the page, and to the far right are the subjects for each paragraph. A list of all the subjects, based on the *Outline of Cultural Materials* (OCM for short), can be found in the back of the User's Guide. In Figure 1 the paragraph (#2) contains various topics, which are subject-indexed to the right of the text (#3). Clicking on a subject (e.g. "Dwellings") will open up a box (#4) with a description of the subject. When you perform a search (see Lookup Search, see Figure 2, #3 on the next page) we recommend that you use the subjects (OCMs) instead of keyword(s) as this will enable you to retrieve information buried in out-of-the-way places or described by uncommon words.

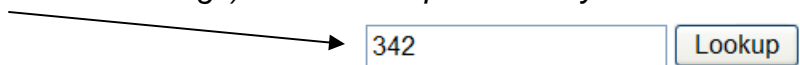
**Figure 1. View of a Page in eHRAF... each paragraph is subject indexed**

The screenshot displays the eHRAF database interface. On the left, a table of contents (#1) lists sections like 'Hungry Wolf, Beverly The ways of my grandmothers' and 'THE OLDEST GRANDMOTHER AMONG MY PEOPLE'. The main text area shows a paragraph (#2) starting with 'I got my education from my culture...'. To the right of this paragraph, several OCM subjects (#3) are listed, including 'Transmission of cultural norms', 'Dwellings', and 'Normal garb'. A search window (#4) titled 'eHRAF Thesaurus Concept Description - Window...' is open, showing the 'Dwellings (342)' entry with a detailed description of residential buildings. Navigation buttons like 'Print Selected Records' and 'email Selected Records' are visible at the top.

Figure 2 shows the **Lookup Search** in eHRAF. Although it is not the default search, we recommend this search because it is the “middle way” between the Basic and Advanced Search and shows the actual search process. In the Lookup box (#1) type in the term(s), e.g., “Blackfeet dwellings” and click on the gray Lookup button (#2). This will search HRAF’s unique OWC (Outline of World Cultures) and OCM (Outline of Cultural Materials) culture/subject thesaurus and suggest which cultures and subjects to use (see Figure 2, #3). Deselect unwanted culture names or subjects by clicking on the “x” boxes (#4). If culture names/subjects don’t appear you can use the “Add/Remove” tabs (#5) to bring up the subject/culture picklists. Use “+” to open up culture/subject picklists and “-“ to close it (#6) and then click in the circle to add cultures/subjects to your search. To narrow your search you can add word(s) in the text search box (#7), but make sure to correctly set the Boolean operator (use “or” (#8) for alternative terms like “tent\*” or “tipi\*”). Clicking on the gray “Submit eHRAF Search” button (#9) will execute the search and produce a list of cultures and subject results in the paragraph-level of ethnographic texts (see Figure 3).

**Tip!** *Truncate your search terms whether it’s the culture names (e.g., Mongol\* for Mongolians, Mongolian), subjects (e.g., dwelling\*), or words (e.g., tent\*) to get better search results. Use quotation marks to search for exact terms (e.g., “evil eye”).*

**Tip!** *Use the OCM number (e.g., “342” for dwellings) in the Lookup search if you want to retrieve that specific subject.*



**Figure 2. Lookup Search using the OWC culture and OCM subject thesaurus**

The screenshot shows the eHRAF World Cultures website interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with 'Home', 'Search', 'Browse', and 'Help'. Under 'Search', 'Lookup' is selected. Below the navigation, the page title is 'Lookup or Select Search Criteria'. The main search area includes an input field with 'blackfeet dwellings' (annotated #1) and a 'Lookup' button (annotated #2). Below the input field, there are sections for 'Cultures' and 'Subjects'. The 'Cultures' section shows '1 Culture Selected' with a checked box for 'Blackfoot (NF06)' (annotated #3). The 'Subjects' section shows '2 Subjects Selected' with checked boxes for 'Dwellings (342)' and 'Social readjustments to death (768)' (annotated #4). To the right, there are options for 'Boolean between subjects and text' with 'OR' selected (annotated #8) and a 'Text' search box containing 'tent\* tipi\*' (annotated #7). At the bottom, there is a 'Submit eHRAF Search' button (annotated #9) and a 'Reset Form' button. On the left side, there is a 'PickLists' window showing a tree view of 'Cultures' with 'All Cultures (ALLOWC)' selected (annotated #6).

**Figure 3. Subject and Word Search Results at the Paragraph-level in a Document**

Figure 3 shows the revised search results at the **paragraph-level** for a document. The searched words (tent\*, tipi\*) are highlighted in red as well as the subject (e.g. dwellings, see #1).

The left-hand side shows the table of contents and the number of results for the document searched (#2).

To view the text as a full paragraph click on the blue link "Show full paragraph," or click on the gray "Go to Paragraph in Page" (#3) to view the paragraph in the page (see Figure 4).

**Figure 4. Subject and Word Search Results at the Page-level in a Document**

Hungry Wolf, Beverly The ways of my grandmothers

Publication Information

Front Matter

Acknowledgments  
Contents  
Introduction

Body

Who My Grandmothers Are

THE OLDEST GRANDMOTHER AMONG MY PEOPLE

A TRADITIONAL BLOOD MARRIAGE: A Grandmother Who Married at Seven

BROWN WOMAN'S STORY

THE HOLY WOMEN AMONG MY GRANDMOTHERS

SOME THOUGHTS FROM THE HOLY WOMAN MRS. RIDES-AT-THE-DOOR

THE STORY OF CATCHES-TWO-HORSES

LEGENDS OF THE SUN DANCE

HOW THE HOLY WOMAN'S HEADRESS CAME TO BE

HOW THE MORNING STAR CONTRIBUTED TO THE NATOAS

A GRANDMOTHER WHO HAD THE POWER TO CALL GHOSTS

STORIES BY MY AUNT, MARY ONE SPOT, OF THE SARCEE TRIBE

HOW MY GRANDMOTHER AND I LIVED TOGETHER

#4

< Previous Hit (Page 39) 55 \*Hit Next Hit (Page 77) >

Region: North America Culture: Blackfoot  
Field Date: none Date Coverage: not specified Place Coverage: Blood Reserve in southern Alberta, Canada

Print Selected Records email Selected Records

Select All

The young people who are lost—I hope some day they wake up and realize the evil in their ways. All this alcohol, drugs, and different relationships doesn't lead to happy life. I worry a lot about my grandchildren. What will they do with their life when I am no longer around?

Ethnoscology  
Acculturation and culture contact

HOW MY GRANDMOTHER AND I LIVED TOGETHER

by Mary One Spot

#1  I got my education from my culture. My teachers were my grandmothers, and I am really thankful for that. The one that I lived with was Mrs. Old-Man-Spotted. I was just a little girl when she came and got me, because her husband died. We lived all the time in tents and tipis made out of canvas—even in the wintertime. I was always warm and I sure enjoyed that kind of life. All I wore was traditional Indian clothing—long dresses, moccasins, and shawls. That is how I was raised. I didn't even own a coat then.

Transmission of cultural norms  
Dwellings  
Normal garb

I don't recall my grandfather, Old-Man-Spotted. But I know when he died they hacked off my grandma's little fingers and also her hair. Those old people used to really mourn when they lost a loved one. From then on she always wore her hair loose, and she spent the rest of her life just following her traditional ways. That's why I was lucky to live with her.

Mourning

My grandmother was very gentle, and she always spoke kindly to me or anyone else. She was not a mean old lady. Page: 56 When she started teaching me our traditional ways she said: "In the future you won't be sorry

Techniques of socialization  
Transmission of skills

Figure 4 shows the search results within a **page**. The searched paragraph is highlighted with a light yellow background (#1) and the search terms and subject(s) are highlighted in red (#2).

Clicking on "Next Hit" in the upper right-hand corner or using the pull-down list (#3) will move you to the next page with research results.

The left-hand margin shows the chapters and subchapters (#4) in the table of contents of the document.

**Figure 5. Browse Cultures by Country**

Country	Culture
Afghanistan, AF	Baluchi, AT02 <span style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">#2</span> Pashtun, AU04 Hazara, AU05 Ghorbat, AU07 Turkmens, RM02 Uzbeks, RN05 Tajiks, RO02 Kyrgyz, RP02 Turks, MB01
Angola, AO	Ovimbundu, FP13
Argentina, AR	Ona, SH04 Mataco, SI07 Guaraní, SM04 Yahgan, SH06 Inka, SE13
Armenia, AM	Kurds, MA11
Australia, AS	Aranda, OI08
Azerbaijan, AJ	Kurds, MA11 Turks, MB01
Bangladesh, BG	Bengali, AW69
Belize, BH	Garifuna, SA12
Bhutan, BT	Lepcha, AK05

Figure 5 shows a list of **countries** and the **eHRAF Cultures**. If you are interested in cultures, ethnic groups, or indigenous people for a specific area, it's good to use Browse Cultures and click on either Countries, Regions, or A-Z Index (#1) to get an idea of the cultures included in eHRAF.

Clicking on a culture name (#2) will link you to a culture description, culture summary, and to the collection documents (e.g., dissertations, monographs, books, journal articles) for a particular culture.

**Tip!** The cultures can also be found as "culture tree" in the Basic, Lookup (see Fig.2, #5), and Advanced searches.

**Figure 6. Browse Subjects by Major Category**

Major Subjects	Broader Subjects	Narrower Subjects
Arts	Adornment	Beauty specialists Body alterations <span style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">#1</span> Jewelry manufacture Manufacture of personal grooming accessories Ornamant Personal grooming
	Art	Dance Decorative art Drama Literary texts Literature Music Musical instruments Oratory Representative art

Figure 6 is Browse Major Subjects containing a list of all the searchable subjects (#1), which are based on the **Outline of Cultural Materials**, or OCM for short. Clicking on a subject (#1) will link you to a subject description (not shown).

Alternative Browse Subject menus (#2) are the A-Z Index and OCM Code .

The subjects can also be found as "subject tree" in the Basic, Lookup (Fig. 2, #5), and Advanced searches, and also at the end of this User's Guide.

## OCM Numbers & Subjects

The OCM subjects from the *Outline of Cultural Materials* (OCM) are what makes eHRAF so unique and different from other full-text databases. The power of eHRAF is that HRAF analysts assign **every** paragraph in the eHRAF documents with OCM subjects that relate to the subjects/topics discussed. The subjects (OCMs for short) enable you to search the full-text documents more effectively than keyword searches. The subjects can be found in the Search and Browse sections at eHRAF World Cultures <http://ehrafWorldCultures.yale.edu> and eHRAF Archaeology <http://ehrafArchaeology.yale.edu>. Use the OCM number (e.g., "132" for climate) in the Lookup search if you want to retrieve the exact and only subject.

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- 768 Social Readjustments to Death
- 769 Cult of the Dead

**770 RELIGIOUS BELIEFS**

- 771 General Character of Religion
- 772 Cosmology
- 773 Mythology
- 774 Animism
- 775 Eschatology
- 776 Spirits and Gods
- 777 Luck and Chance
- 778 Sacred Objects and Places
- 779 Theological Systems

**780 RELIGIOUS PRACTICES**

- 781 Religious Experience
- 782 Prayers and Sacrifices
- 783 Purification and Atonement
- 784 Avoidance and Taboo
- 785 Asceticism
- 786 Ecstatic Religious Practices
- 787 Revelation and Divination
- 788 Ritual
- 789 Magic

**790 ECCLESIASTICAL ORGANIZATION**

- 791 Magicians and Diviners
- 792 Prophets and Ascetics
- 793 Priesthood
- 794 Congregations
- 795 Sects
- 796 Organized Ceremonial
- 797 Missions

- 798 Religious Intolerance

## **800 NUMBERS AND MEASURES**

- 801 Numerology
- 802 Numeration
- 803 Mathematics
- 804 Weights and Measures
- 805 Ordering of Time

## **810 SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES**

- 811 Logic
- 812 Philosophy
- 813 Scientific Method
- 814 Humanistic Studies
- 815 Science
- 816 Applied Science

## **820 IDEAS ABOUT NATURE AND PEOPLE**

- 821 Ethnometeorology
- 822 Ethnophysics
- 823 Ethnogeography
- 824 Ethnobotany
- 825 Ethnozoology
- 826 Ethnoanatomy
- 827 Ethnophysiology
- 828 Ethnopsychology
- 829 Ethnosociology

## **830 SEX**

- 831 Sexuality
- 832 Sexual Stimulation
- 833 Sexual Intercourse
- 834 General Sex Restrictions
- 835 Kinship Regulation of Sex
- 836 Premarital Sex Relations
- 837 Extramarital Sex Relations
- 838 Homosexuality
- 839 Miscellaneous Sex Behavior

## **840 REPRODUCTION**

- 841 Menstruation
- 842 Conception
- 843 Pregnancy
- 844 Childbirth
- 845 Difficult and Unusual births
- 846 Postnatal Care
- 847 Abortion and Infanticide
- 848 Illegitimacy

## **850 INFANCY AND CHILDHOOD**

- 851 Social Placement
- 852 Ceremonial During Infancy and Childhood
- 853 Infant Feeding
- 854 Infant Care
- 855 Child Care
- 856 Development and Maturation
- 857 Childhood activities
- 858 Status of Children

## **860 SOCIALIZATION**

- 861 Techniques of Inculcation
- 862 Weaning and Food Training
- 863 Cleanliness Training
- 864 Sex Training
- 865 Aggression Training
- 866 Independence Training
- 867 Transmission of Cultural Norms
- 868 Transmission of Skills
- 869 Transmission of Beliefs

## **870 EDUCATION**

- 871 Educational System
- 872 Elementary Education
- 873 Liberal Arts Education
- 874 Vocational Education
- 875 Teachers
- 876 Educational Theory and Methods
- 877 Students

## **880 ADOLESCENCE, ADULTHOOD, AND OLD AGE**

- 881 Puberty and Initiation
- 882 Status of Adolescents
- 883 Adolescent Activities
- 884 Majority
- 885 Adulthood
- 886 Senescence
- 887 Activities of the Aged
- 888 Status and Treatment of the Aged

## **890 GENDER ROLES AND ISSUES**

- 890 Gender Roles and Issues

## **900 TEXTS**

- 901 Texts in the Speaker's Language
- 902 Texts translated into English
- 903 Interlinear Translations

## **910 ARCHAEOLOGICAL MEASURES, TECHNIQUES, AND ANALYSES**

- 911 Chronologies and Cultural Sequences
- 912 Cultural Stratigraphy
- 913 Functional Specialization areas
- 914 Typologies and Classifications
- 915 Archaeological Inventories

Note that \* indicates that the categories so marked are retired from usage as of May 1997