Investigating New Landscapes

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Discovery

What is geography?

What is historical geography?

Environmental history

How do geographers gather data?

How do geographers analyze data?
Geography

- The Study of Earth
- Spatial Patterns
- Spatial Relationships
- Landscapes of Meaning
Historical Geography

Spatial relationships, regional dynamics and landscapes in specific *historical eras*. Environmental history with aerial work based on hypothesis or research question

Data
Quantitative – “dotable data”
Qualitative – context/accounts/collaborated

Analysis: Data management to find themes

Conclusion: Answer the hypothesis
Gathering Data

- Quantitative Methods
  - Data measured in numerical values
  - Analysis with mathematical logic
  - Linear flow from data to conclusion
  - Confirmed with same procedures
Qualitative Methods
- Data gathered through personal observation
- Data gathered through personal interaction (ethnography)
- Data gathered through informants
- Analysis through organization and classification of gathered data
- Context/Accounts/Collaboration
Pacific Northwest Environmental History (Historical Geography)

- Original Populations – Pre-historic (?)
- Exploration by/of Others
- Establishing Footholds
- Reinforcing Claims
- Significant Eras/Time Frames
Pre-European Eras

- Archeological Data – Post Pleistocene
- Landscape Data
- Oral Histories
- Language Patterns
- Historical (Human Ecology)
Establishing the Euro-American Era 1600-1850

- Push-pull factors
- National identity
- Wealth vs cash
- Relief valve
Establishing National Claims in the Pacific Northwest

- Trading Posts
  Extractive Economy
- Military Routes and Camps
  Cross-Continental
- Missionary Settlements
  Protestant Zeal/Catholic
  Power/Mormon Evacuations
- Territorial Government
Settling
1850-1870

- Wealth of Land/General Land Office PLS
- Pre-Industrial Age
- Agricultural Economy
- Trade Products, Routes and Partners
- Statehoods and Governance
Establishing National Claims

- Land Surveys
  [http://www.blm.gov/or/landrecords/survey/y/Srvy1.php](http://www.blm.gov/or/landrecords/survey/y/Srvy1.php)
- Mapping
- Property Rights
- Taxation
Land Surveys

- U. S. Ordinance Act 1778
- Territorial Ordinance
- Order on the Landscape
- Economic Structures
Tools of the Trade
US Public Land Survey
None US PLSurveys

- English System
- Metes and Bounds
- **French Arpent**
  
  Historically, in North America, 1 (square) arpent = 32,400 French square feet = about 3419 square meters

  Found in Louisiana and unique locations with French first effective settlement associated with French fur traders including the Willamette Valley
Spanish Land Grants

*ranchos*

Measured in square leagues

Found in Texas, New Mexico and California
PL Survey Meridians and Baselines
Survey of PNW

Willamette Meridian Stone Heritage Site
The location of the Willamette Meridian and Willamette Baseline can be identified by various streets that follow their courses, often named to call attention to this fact.

In Thurston County, WA
In Washington County, OR
Public Land Survey System (PLSS)

Section 14 shows both normal division of the section into aliquot parts and the fractional division into government lots.
Oregon Territory Survey
1851-1855

- Quantitative Data
  Ordinance Survey

- Qualitative Data
  Field Notes
Field Notes

Surveyors Notes

Your Notes!
Qualitative Data Gathering

Field Notes
Location
Conditions
Observations
Interpretation
Themes and Organization
Conclusions
Field Notebooks

In the Field:
Daily Observations
Context of Observations
“What do I record?”
Field Notes: Narrative

Each day of observations is completed with a written narrative summary of the day’s works.
Field Notes: Use of Data
Summarize
Quote
Validation
Collaboration
Careful logical statements
Be wary of potential audiences
Environmental Work

Absolute Information and Description

Data Collection
Absolute Locations – GPS

Relative Significance and Values
Relative Location - GIS
Seminar Questions

- Is *Chaining Oregon* the perfect title for this book? What is your response to the title? Did you gain a sense of landscape from the book? Did you ‘read’ or ‘sense’ the landscape?

- In another book about the US Ordinance entitled *Order on the Landscape* lays out the historical and social impacts of the T & R coordinate system. Give an example from Atwood’s book that supports this sense of order impressed in the PNW landscape.

- What leadership qualities do you recognize in administrative team vs the surveyors?