History

The Library of FAO was officially opened on 10 June 1952 and named the David Lubin Memorial Library:

“In recognition of the foresight, leadership, and outstanding contribution of David Lubin to international co-operation in the field of agriculture”

FAO Conference 1950

Today

The David Lubin Memorial Library preserves one and a half million FAO and non-FAO publications, among which a collection of rare books and incunabula and valuable historic collections. The entire collection is constantly being updated with the newest literature on all fields of action of the Organization.

Today the FAO Library is fully immersed in the digital age - digital resources and search interfaces - and is considered one of the largest agricultural libraries in the world.

Our services

For FAO staff and the agricultural community

1. Provide access to scientific literature.
2. Provide access to FAO’s institutional memory.
3. In-depth and comprehensive research support.
4. Knowledge sharing among UN networks and member countries.
5. Produce high-quality metadata world-wide for agricultural information management systems.
**DIGITAL RESOURCES**

**e-books and e-journals**

The FAO Library contains more than 46,000 e-books and 80,000 e-journals, through various agreements with publishers as well as Open Access portals. Some highlights:

- **14,388** e-books from CABI
- **30,000** e-books from Springer Nature
- **900** e-books from Elsevier
- **21** Springer e-journals from 1995 until present
- **25,000** FAO e-books and journals

All e-books/journals are searchable through the **FAO Library Full-text finder**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New search</th>
<th>Web of Science</th>
<th>CAB Abstracts</th>
<th>Econlit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Libraries and Collections**

- **International Institute of Agriculture collection**: Predecessor of FAO containing half a million volumes inherited by the Organisation in 1946.
- **Centre International de Sylviculture collection**: 11,000 volumes from the 18th to the start of the 20th century showing the beginnings of forestry as a science.
- **FAO historic monographs and serials collection**: 400,000 FAO publications from 1945 until present which together form the institutional memory of FAO.
- **Non-FAO monographs and serials collection**: 600,000 titles of which 200,000 have already been made accessible through KOHA (the public online catalog), others are added on a daily basis.

**Databases**

The FAO Library subscribes to four major databases for bibliographic research.

- **Web of Science**: peer-reviewed, scientific journals with a high impact factor.
- **CAB Abstracts**: specialized agricultural database, containing journals and books.
- **Economist Intelligence Unit**: country, risk and industry analysis across 200 countries worldwide.
- **EconLit**: database for economic literature.

Library resources are accessible through the FAO Library homepage: [www.fao.org/library](http://www.fao.org/library)
PRINT COLLECTIONS

1.5 million volumes

Today the FAO Library preserves one of the most important historic collections in the world on agriculture and all its related subjects. FAO staff and external researchers have access to the following collections:

- **International Institute of Agriculture collection**
  Predecessor of FAO containing half a million volumes inherited by the Organisation in 1946.

- **Centre International de Sylviculture collection**
  11,000 volumes from the 18th to the start of the 20th century showing the beginnings of forestry as a science.

- **FAO historic monographs and serials collection**
  400,000 FAO publications from 1945 until present which together form the institutional memory of FAO.

- **Non-FAO monographs and serials collection**
  600,000 titles of which 200,000 have already been made accessible through KOHA (the public online catalog), others are added on a daily basis.

Explore the [FAO library Catalogue](#) to find FAO documents since 1945, non-FAO monographs since 1976 and an extensive FAO and non-FAO serials collection.

Incunabula & rare books

Some of the most remarkable treasures of the Library are 400 volumes of rare books and 32 incunabula - books printed during the earliest period of typography (1454-1501).

The collection includes rare editions by Virgil, Columella and Aristotle.
History

The Library of FAO was officially opened on 10 June 1952 and named the David Lubin Memorial Library: “In recognition of the foresight, leadership, and outstanding contribution of David Lubin to international co-operation in the field of agriculture”.

Today

The David Lubin Memorial Library preserves one and a half million FAO and non-FAO publications, among which a collection of rare books and incunabula and valuable historic collections. The entire collection is constantly being updated with the newest literature on all fields of action of the Organization.

Today the FAO Library is fully immersed in the digital age - digital resources and search interfaces - and is considered one of the largest agricultural libraries in the world.

Our services

For FAO staff and the agricultural community
- Provide access to scientific literature.
- Provide access to FAO’s institutional memory.
- In-depth and comprehensive research support.
- Knowledge sharing among UN networks and member countries.
- Produce high-quality metadata worldwide for agricultural information management systems.

FAO Library

External users

To visit the FAO Library, send a letter of introduction with your research queries to: fao-library-reference@fao.org

FAO staff

- To request full-text journal articles and to borrow books, write to: fao-library-loans@fao.org
- For research support and general information, write to: fao-library-reference@fao.org

The story of the FAO Library

Do you want to know more about the history of the FAO Library?

FAO. 2017. The story of the FAO Library. Rome, Italy, FAO.

This open access publication is available in English and Italian and can be purchased at publications-sales@fao.org and the FAO Shop.