

Outline of Cultural Materials (OCM) Subject Categories

The OCM subject codes from the *Outline of Cultural Materials (OCM)* are what make eHRAF Ethnography/Archaeology so unique and different from other full-text databases. The power of eHRAF is that the HRAF analysts read and index **every** paragraph in the eHRAF documents with OCM subject codes. The OCM subject codes (OCM for short) enable you to search the full-text documents more effectively because you are searching for concepts rather than words.

The **complete** OCM consists of 3 parts: 1) Hierarchical list of the OCM categories, 2) A-Z word index, and 3) OCM descriptions. It can be found in the following locations and formats:

1. **eHRAF Online Databases:** eHRAF Ethnography/Archaeology at <http://ets.umdl.umich.edu/e/ehrafe> or <http://ets.umdl.umich.edu/e/ehrafa> (Login authentication may be required). It is located in BROWSE SUBJECTS.
2. **OCM Paper Manual:** This 200- page manual is recommended for the frequent user of the OCMs. Copies can be ordered from Human Relations Area Files (HRAF); Tel: 203-764-9401, Email: HRAF@yale.edu.

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* indicates that the categories so marked are retired from usage as of May 1997. Note that the eHRAF Collection of Ethnography/ Archaeology (<http://ets.umdl.umich.edu/e/ehrafe> and <http://ets.umdl.umich.edu/e/ehrafa> contain descriptions of the various OCM subject codes.

A hard copy of the Outline of Cultural Materials (OCM) can be ordered from Human Relations Area Files (HRAF). Contact HRAF at hraf@yale.edu, 203-764-9401 or visit www.yale.edu/hraf.

Steps in finding and using an OCM subject code in eHRAF

Browse Subject Categories Help with Browse Subject Categories

Browse Cultures

This page contains links to the full text of the Outline of Cultural Materials (OCM). It is organized by 3-4 digit numeric codes. Every paragraph and text structure (e.g., tables, pictures) is indexed with OCM subject codes from the Outline of Cultural Materials.

B Browse Subjects

Browse Subject Categories

A-Z index

C Jump to main code groupings by clicking on a number range link.

000-199 200-299 300-399 400-499 500-599 600-699 700-799 800-899 900-910

OCM 701 - 798

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701 MILITARY ORGANIZATION
702 RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING
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706 NAVY
707 AIR FORCES
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776 SPIRITS AND GODS
777 LUCK AND CHANCE
778 SACRED OBJECTS AND PLACES
779 THEOLOGICAL SYSTEMS

773. MYTHOLOGY **E**

[eHRAF Ethnography Documents with this OCM]

Cosmogony (e.g., theories and accounts of the creation of the world and of man); mythical epochs (e.g., golden age, age of the gods, age of animals); cataclysms (e.g., mythical floods and conflagrations); culture myths (e.g., accounts of a culture hero, mythical explanations of culture traits); myths about the origin of evil and death; nature myths; totemic myths; theogonic myths; ancestor myths; doomsday; etc.

See Also:

Historical traditions, 173
Text of myths, 900
Text of myths, 539
Mythology as literature, 5310
Mythology as literature, 538

Text Search Help with text search

Search eHRAF in three ways: independently or in combination: by broad OCM Subjects, and/or by exact word/phrase, and/or by Culture/OWC.

F Text Search
eHRAF Source
Bibliography

Search Clear Form

OCM subject codes Help

Searches paragraphs containing 3 or 4 digit numeric OCM subject codes. Enter codes manually or click add to select codes from a list. For further options see Browse Subjects.

G 773 add / remove and add / remove and add / remove

Exact word or phrase Help

Finds an exact word or phrase in paragraphs or in titles of chapters, subchapters, etc. If you are looking for a general subject, use the OCM subject search above. What Word to Choose?

(and) and

(Do not search for the name of a culture or region; choose the culture or cultures from the menu below and click search.)

Match words/phrases within: Paragraphs

Note: Only paragraphs are indexed with OCM codes. If you have already entered one or more OCM codes above, you should not search for title.

Culture / OWC Help

Search for information about one or more cultures. Use Ctrl-click (Windows) or Command-click (Mac) to select more than one culture. Regions and cultures may also be selected when the results are displayed. For further options see Browse Cultures

H All Cultures
Akan FE12
Alorese OF05
Amhara MP05
Search Clear Form

STEP 1

Log on to the eHRAF Ethnography database at <http://ets.umdl.umich.edu/e/ehrafe>. If your institution is not a member you might be prompted for a password. Email HRAF at hraf@yale.edu or call 1-800-520-HRAF for a temporary password.

Click on the horizontal BROWSE tab (see A) then click on BROWSE SUBJECTS (left-hand margin, see B), and then again on BROWSE SUBJECT CATEGORIES (left-hand margin, see C). This opens the Outline of Cultural Materials (OCM) with over 700 categories on all aspects of cultural and social life.

Scroll down the list and select the OCM you wish to search for in the eHRAF database. For example, select "773" if you wish to search all aspects of mythology (see D). Click on the OCM name to read the description (see E).

Step 2

Click on the horizontal SEARCH tab (see F) to locate the "OCM subject codes" section. Type the 3- or 4-digit OCM subject code into the first box (see G). In the "Culture/OWC" section leave the default set at "All Cultures" (see H).

Click on the "Search" button to the right (see I) to execute your search. For example, using OCM subject code "773" will search all cultures in eHRAF for any paragraphs with ethnographic information on mythology, legends, folklore, creation stories, and ancestor, good and evil, hero, totemic, or culture myths.

Your search returned 23947 matches within 771 documents in all cultures with ...
OCM subject codes: 773
word/phrase[s]: ""

Click on a culture name to view all results for that culture only.

Region	Culture
Africa	Akan, FE12 110 matches in 12 documents Amhara, MP05 13 matches in 4 documents Azande, FO07 43 matches in 7 documents Banyoro, FK11 69 matches in 3 documents Bemba, FQ05 74 matches in 4 documents Dogon, FA16 3210 matches in 22 documents Ganda, FK07 92 matches in 6 documents Hausa, MS12 20 matches in 5 documents Igbo, FF26 132 matches in 19 documents Kanuri, MS14 1 match in 1 document Libyan Bedouin, MT09 2 matches in 2 documents Lozi, FQ09 16 matches in 4 documents Maasai, FL12 126 matches in 5 documents Mbuti, FO04 8 matches in 5 documents Nuer, FJ22 86 matches in 9 documents Ovimbundu, FP13 4 matches in 3 documents Shiluh, MW11 22 matches in 1 document Somali, MO04 46 matches in 10 documents Tiv, FF57 62 matches in 10 documents Wolof, MS30 29 matches in 7 documents

(J)

Step 3

The database will search over 350,000 pages of indexed ethnographic text for the OCM subject code and retrieve all cultures that contain documents that contain paragraphs with that OCM.

A culture name with a high number of matches (see list to the left) simply means that the documents for that culture contain many paragraphs pertaining to that OCM.

Select the region of your interest (e.g., Africa, Asia, North America, etc.) and click on the culture name (e.g., Bemba) to retrieve the ethnographic documents (see J).

Your search returned 74 matches within 4 documents in Bemba FQ05 with ...
OCM subject codes: 773
word/phrase[s]: ""

Help with results

Region / Culture	Documents
Africa / Bemba FQ05 [More about this culture]	Hinfelaar, Hugo F. / Bemba-speaking women of Zambia in a century of religious change (1892-1992) / Document Number: 12 (File Size: 1306K bytes) CHAPTER ONE WOMEN IN BEMBA RELIGION

(M) The Human Predicament matches: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 (L)
The Expectation of a Healer matches: 1, 2, 3, 4

CHAPTER TWO RELIGIOUS CHANGE IN THE 19TH CENTURY

Textual evidence matches: 1, 2, 3, 4
Change in cosmic vision matches: 1, 2, 3, 4
Change in the position of women matches: 1, 2

CHAPTER FIVE WOMEN'S PROTEST: THE LUMPA CHURCH

4. Ukupelwa imilimo matches: 1

CHAPTER SIX ANOTHER PROTEST: THE CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART

Theological Development matches: 1 (K)

Bemba-speaking women of Zambia in a century of religious change (1892-1992) / Hinfelaar, Hugo F. / Doc. Number: 12

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hide OCM codes

The Human Predicament (N)

(O)

OCM 773 OCM 562

As regards the origin of death, pain and misery in this world, women tend to render creation myths in a different way from those narrated by the men.¹¹

OCM 773 OCM 562 OCM 776

It is said that at the beginning there existed two genderless persons. One of them had been given two parcels, with the order not to open them before the two had reached mutual understanding and friendship. In one were hidden the masculine attributes of the Divine and in the other the feminine.

OCM 773 OCM 562 OCM 776

After some time one of the parcels began to smell badly, so the one who carried it, threw it away and opened the other one. At once he was endowed with divine masculinity and he became a Man. His new masculinity caused him to desire the other person, but the latter could not respond. Realising that it had something to do with the discarded parcel, the second person returned to God, who gave her the gift of female sexuality. With it the Divinity granted her three further presents:

OCM 773 OCM 562 OCM 776

a) the ownership of the Seed (*Mbuto*), b) Trusteeship of the Sacred Hearth (*Ishiko*) and c) The knowledge of the Bored Stone (*Libwe*) as symbols of agriculture, domestic science and productivity. To the man he granted implements to protect his mate, like axe and spear, symbols of his virility.

OCM 733 OCM 562 OCM 776 OCM 831

The first separation from perfect transcendence was therefore due to man's disrespect of feminine sexuality, as he had thrown 'her' parcel away. There were now two kinds of human beings, male and female.

OCM 773 OCM 554 OCM 776 OCM 842

Later on the Divinity separated itself from the humans due to the couple's endless squabbles and noise. Other narratives give as reason that the first man and woman opened a third parcel that contained divine fertility despite having been told to explore only their own parcels.

OCM 773 OCM 554 OCM 776 OCM 842

Whatever the causes might have been, it was contempt of Divine fecundity that caused the separation between the human and the divine.

OCM 773 OCM 776 OCM 841 OCM 842

Now the way back to this fecundity could only occur through the return journey of the woman back to the Divine in order to beg for parenthood (*ukulomba ubufyashi*). Her monthly period was seen as the symbol of this return to the Transcendent. While menstruating she was seen to move away from human contact in the warm village (*mumushi*), towards the liminality and coldness of the surrounding forest (*mumpanga*).

Step 4

Clicking on a culture name will link you to the documents with the OCM matches. All paragraphs with the searched OCM will be indicated with "matches: 1, 2, 3, etc."

Clicking on a number (see K) will only retrieve the paragraph with the OCM (no figure shown), but not necessarily the text for the entire section or chapter.

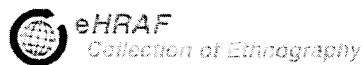
When a document contains a series of matches (see L) it is better to click on the section name right above the matches (see M) to retrieve the full-text of entire section or chapter (see N).

The paragraphs with the OCMs (see O) for the entire section are located in the right-hand side (see N) while the table of contents for the entire document is located in the left-hand margin (see P). Clicking on any hyperlinks will connect you to other parts of the document.

Visit www.yale.edu/hraf/userguides.html for an online eHRAF Tutorial and search strategies.

eHRAF Paragraphs

It is important to understand that the documents in eHRAF are indexed with OCM subject codes at the paragraph level. Unlike other search engines that search the entire text as one unit, eHRAF searches millions of individual paragraph units across hundreds of thousands of documents. Each paragraph of these paragraph units is relatively small--usually no more than a few sentences as you can see circled on this page. Thus, searching for two words (using the Boolean operator "and") is not very effective; though both may occur in the whole text, they will rarely occur in the same paragraph, meaning that there will be few or no matches. In library terms an eHRAF search might be compared to a "proximity" search within 100 characters.



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The Sun god's children / Schultz, James Willard, 1859-1947 / Doc. Number: 67

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hide OCM codes

CHAPTER III WHEN MEN AND ANIMALS WERE FRIENDLY

OCM 902 OCM 773 OCM for Mythology

IN the early part of a very long-ago winter, the Pikú'ni were encamped south of Elk River (Red Deer River, Alberta) and killing buffalo as they needed them. But one morning, when they arose and went outside their lodges, they could not see any of the animals, not even a single old bull. Where, at sunset, herds of them had grazed, there was now naught but lifeless plain; not even an antelope upon it. But this did not cause the people to worry; all were confident that the herds would soon return; so the hunters rested in their lodges, smoking, gambling, dancing, telling stories, and eating of the dried meat and pemmican, back fat, and berry soup that their women set before them. Days and nights passed; the plain remained barren of the buffalo and antelope, the dry food supply of the people diminished, and, when starvation faced them, they broke camp and went in search of the vanished herds; all but one man, who said that he would remain right where he was, for he was certain that the buffalo would soon return.

Page: 49

Culture: North America -- Blackfoot -- NF06

Field Date: no date

Publication 1930

Date:

Place northwestern Plains; Montana, United States and

Coverage: Alberta and Saskatchewan, Canada

Date 1700s-1870s

Coverage:

OCM 902 OCM 773

This man, White Eagle, had two wives and a son of about ten winters. When the dried food in his lodge was gone, he had them go out and gather berries; and when the few that they could find had been eaten, they began to starve.

OCM 902 OCM 773

To the north of this starving family, at Shell Butte, on Elk River, were encamped all the various kinds of meat-eating animals, each kind in a group by itself; the lodges in the particular part of the camp circle which belonged to each kind. In that long-ago time, it must be remembered, the various kinds of animals had the power — given to them by Sun himself — to change themselves into human beings, and back into their right selves, whenever they chose to do so.

OCM 902 OCM 773

Each kind of animals in this great camp circle had its chief, and the greatest of them all was Chief Spotted Wolf. After him in importance was Big Wolf; then in the following order came Black Wolf, Mountain Lion, and Lynx. These were the head chiefs. The lesser chiefs were: Coyote, Wolverine, Red Fox, Black Fox,

Example of a "typical paragraph" in eHRAF

Database Names and Access Info:

eHRAF Collection of Ethnography at <http://ets.umdl.umich.edu/e/ehrafe>

eHRAF Collection of Archaeology at <http://ets.umdl.umich.edu/e/ehrafa>

You can access the databases through IP authentication or password. If you are prompted for login authentication, contact HRAF for a temporary password.

Database Provider:

Human Relations Area Files (HRAF) at Yale University

755 Prospect Street

New Haven, CT 06511

www.yale.edu/hraf

Phone: 203-764-9401 or toll-free: 1-800-520-HRAF

Fax: 203-764-9466

Email: hraf@yale.edu

eHRAF Search Strategies

written by

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- **Less is more** in eHRAF! The fewer OCM subject codes and/or words you use in your search, the better the results will be!
- Searching for a **specific culture, society, nation or region**: Log on to the database and click on “BROWSE” (blue horizontal) tab then click on “BROWSE CULTURES BY REGION” (left-hand margin). Scroll down the list of regions and countries to make sure that the culture, you are looking for, is available in eHRAF.
- Searching for a **specific topic or subject**: Log on to the database and click on “BROWSE” (blue horizontal) then click on “BROWSE SUBJECTS” (left-hand margin) and then on “BROWSE SUBJECT CATEGORIES” (left-hand margin). This will show you **all** the OCM subjects that are available for searching in eHRAF effectively. Make sure you read the descriptions for the OCMs for a better understanding of what you are about to search. Click on the “SEARCH” (blue horizontal) tab; then type in the 3 or 4-digit OCM in the “OCM Subject Codes” box. Click on the gray “Search” box to execute your search.
- The **word choice** may be the most important aspect of searching (successfully) in eHRAF. The search engine uses "exact" word searching--this means that one too many letters, words or phrases, spaces between words, hyphens and typos will influence the search results. For example, searching for “after-birth” will return different results than searching for “afterbirth.”
- Use the "**Chapter-Title**" search for words describing "**broad**" concepts (e.g., botany, music, illness) as the titles of the chapters and subchapters are searched. Use the "**Paragraphs**" search for words describing "**specific**" actions or objects (e.g., sagebrush, flute, influenza) as paragraphs usually contain more specific wording.
- **Try word variations and different words** (e.g., flu, influenza, Grippe (German for flu)). Once you have performed a few searches and have reviewed the text for the results, you may find that the author's choice of words in text will give you further clues.

- **Truncate** a word at the word stem using an "*" asterisk (e.g., child* for children, child's, childhood, etc.) to expand your search. By the way, you can also truncate an OCM to two digits. For example, truncating OCM 75* (for Sickness) will retrieve all subcategories for sickness (e.g., 751 Preventive Medicine, 752 Bodily Injuries, etc.).
- **Avoid using phrases in one box**, but instead use one word per box. Exceptions are phrases that are always used together (e.g., "evil eye," "projectile point," etc.). The more boxes (whether OCM or word boxes) the fewer the search results.
- The **Boolean operators** (and, or, not) occur in the OCM Subject Code and Exact Word or Phrase section. Using the appropriate Boolean operator greatly enhances your search results!
 - **And** (both terms must be present in the same paragraph) >>> **narrows** a search
 - **Or** (either term must be present in the same paragraph) >>> **expands** a search
 - **Not** (excludes the second term in paragraph) >>> **narrows** a search
- Some of the documents in eHRAF were written many years ago and some of the expressions were not used then. For example, "domestic violence," is a fairly recent expression (although the concept is old), and thus words used then seem more ordinary-- like "fighting," "beating," "hitting." This is where OCM subject codes can help in finding appropriate information.
- You may search for graphics in eHRAF by using an OCM or word and by typing in "<graphic" (without quotes) in the 'Exact Word or Phrase' box. For example, OCM 532 and <graphic searches for pictures in representative arts.
- If you are performing many searches in eHRAF, a printed copy of the culture results page helps you to keep track of your searches and can be used to evaluate your results.
- The ethnographic nature of the documents makes eHRAF a valuable tool in searching for contemporary as well as traditional and past cultural practices. So, please pay attention to the fieldwork and publication dates that are listed on the pages, and keep in mind that foreign (primarily Western) influence may have changed the customs of cultures in the last few decades.
- Use the *eHRAF Collection of Ethnography* in combination with the *eHRAF Collection of Archaeology* as the two databases compliment each other in the study of time and place.
- A hard copy of the *Outline of Cultural Materials (OCM)* manual with a list the all the OCM subject codes and descriptions and an alphabetic index is best for the frequent user of eHRAF. You can contact HRAF to order a copy.
- For online help visit the "eHRAF Tutorial" and/or the "Search Methods, Tips, and Example" section at www.yale.edu/hraf/userguides.html.
- Visit www.yale.edu/hraf/teachingehraf.html for an online student workbook.
- HRAF, as academic research organization, provides extensive database support services to the users of its member institutions. Contact us for any questions on how to use eHRAF. We always like to help users in optimizing the eHRAF Collections for their research and teaching.