

Burgess Undergraduate Research Scholarship - Student Essay
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For my History Capstone project, I created a Volume II of sorts, continuing off of my J400 Research Seminar topic of environmental history. In the first project, titled *To Love A Thing*, I looked at the Rim Road at Crater Lake National Park, and the social, economic, political, and cultural justifications that led to its creation. For this project, titled *To Sell A Thing*, I focused on the first designated concessionaire at Mount Rainier National Park and the tense relationship between the National Park Service and private concessionaires. My research was inspired by my time spent working at Crater Lake NP, Mount Rainier NP, and Denali NP in the summers between school during college.

Much of my research for this project was influenced by the resources at the IU libraries that I had found while researching the Crater Lake project, most notably including the annual NPS reports, one of which was from 1907 that I viewed at the Lilly Library. Library staff pointed me in the direction of the NPS archives and encouraged me to reach out for specific guidance from the archive staff. This project utilized content from the 1906, 1908, 1911, 1915, 1916, 1917, and 1919 reports. For my initial sources I started with searching through IUCAT and the Jstor access IU provides its students, and then moved on to other archives including the University of Western Washington archives, University of Washington (UW) archives, and the Library of Congress Newspaper and Photo Archives. I of course also utilized the National Park Service Archives, both the general and Mount Rainier catalogs. Many of these sources established the administrative intention behind changes made in the park, and the cultural reaction to those changes. To tie a modern connection between my sources and my personal experience, I used TripAdvisor and Google Maps reviews to illustrate guest expectations and experiences.

As part of the course we visited Wells Library to source books from the stacks and learn the best ways to search for them using the library websites. From the IU Libraries A-Z Database I found the many newspaper databases that we have access to as students. Because of this project, they are now the first step I take in a new assignment or paper. I ended up citing 13 newspaper articles from these sites, including World Newspaper Archive, NewspaperARCHIVE, and Newspapers.com. I also used the interlibrary loan service for one book, titled *Mount Rainier's Historic Inns & Lodges*.

One book in particular shaped my research and outlook on the project, *Stealing the National Parks* by Don Hummel. This book was an odd find from IUCAT, and one that many reviews say not to give the time of day, but it provided the necessary “other side”, the concessionaire’s view, to the problem of park concessions. This led me to browse the business library for what content they provide on national parks. The books, including titles such as *Wilderness in National Parks: Playground or Preserve*, *National Parks & Protected Areas:*

Approaches for Balancing Social, Economic, and Ecological Values, and *Linking Tourism, the Environment, and Sustainability*, were not directly cited in my paper but solidified and informed my choice to move forward with the contradictory nature of concessions I had dissected from Hummel's book as they represented the cross-field interests and conversations on land use.

Overall, the various library resources, physical and digital, steered my research strategies. For the first two months of research I had no idea what my claim or focus would be other than a storytelling format on the Rainier National Park Company. The variety of library resources and the sources they led me to shaped my project almost entirely, as well as my outlook on park management and the role of concessions in the parks in general. As a graduating senior, I am already mourning the loss of access that students are provided to these kinds of archives. Thank you for providing them and for the opportunity to apply for this scholarship!