

Archives in the History of the Geological Sciences

In this new series short overviews of Archives from around the world that are relevant for research on the History of the Geological Sciences will be given occasionally in order to highlight their existence and help foster scholarly interest in their content. We hope to thus encourage the use of these fundamental resources by INHIGEO members worldwide and underline the key importance of this historical-scientific heritage for studies of the global development of the geological sciences. In this issue of the INHIGEO circular we present a geological archive in Mexico.

Archive: Acervo Histórico del Instituto de Geología de la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) [Historical Archive of the Geology Institute of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM)]

Host Institution: Geology Museum of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), Mexico City

Brief Overview:

The Historical Archive of the Geology Institute of the UNAM (AHIG, by its acronym in Spanish), is located in the Museum of the Geology Institute in Mexico City. This archive acts as the custodian of the Mexican geologists' scientific memory. This important heritage is composed of five documentary holdings that contain nearly 15,000 records as well as books, magazines, pamphlets, photographs, slides and maps from the late nineteenth to the middle decades of the twentieth centuries. On the whole, it is a registry of studies in Geology, Hydrogeology, Petroleum Exploration, Vulcanology, Seismology, and Palaeontology. In addition, there are documents on studies related to the first mining developments in the country made by scientists and engineers that worked at the Geological Institute of Mexico (established in 1888) and later at the Geology Institute, as it was renamed in 1929 when it was integrated into the National Autonomous University of Mexico. Furthermore, the personal archives of Mexican geologist María Fernanda Campa Uranga and Hungarian geologist Dr. Zoltán de Cséna form part of the archives.

The value of the archive lies in the possibility of preserving essential information for the production of knowledge about the past and -within a historical perspective- about circumstances that still matter in the present day. Documentary records allow us to understand scientific, agricultural, mining, industrial, and economic development history related to non-renewable resources, from minerals, water, and fossil fuels to coal and petroleum, fertilizers, soils and various construction materials, as well as the experiences that helped guide the formation of the Mexican State and the participation of experts in geological sciences.

Availability/Accessibility: AHIG is a public consultation space for all those interested in delving into concepts and geological studies evolution experienced in Mexico since the nineteenth century. Record consultation and research visits are by reservation only and enquiries should be directed to the following e-mail: luceromr@geologia.unam.mx.

Travel Awards:

We do not offer scholarships or funding for research visits.

Website: <https://www.geologia.unam.mx/>

Online catalogue:

The general digital catalogue is available at <https://www.ptolomeo.unam.mx/archigeo>

Bibliography:

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Studio David Pompa, *Stone Archive*, 2022. Available at:

<https://www.davidpompa.com/stonearchive/>

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<https://www.davidpompa.com/events/design-week-mexico-2023/fragmentos-en-movimiento-davidpompa.pdf>

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Photo caption: First floor of the Geology Museum where the oil paintings of Mexican landscape artist José María Velasco (1840-1912) can be seen. Photograph by Héctor Pineda, 2017.