

Selected Summaries of Water Research. U.S. Department of the Interior: Federal Water Pollution Control Administration. Cincinnati, Ohio: Cincinnati Water Research Laboratory, October 1966 - Winter 1970. (Reviewed by Alletta Brenner)

These are a series of newsletters published by the Cincinnati Water Research Laboratory, which give brief descriptions and critiques of major water pollution studies from 1966 to 1970. Each short critique includes a full bibliographic citation for the study in reference. While as far as I can tell, none of the studies cited directly reference the Willamette River basin, but they cover a number of extremely pertinent issues, including:

- Pollution due to glue wastes from plywood and wood processing plants;
- Wastewater treatment and sewage runoff;
- Algae growth;
- Nitrogen and phosphorus and their relation to runoff from cities and farms;
- The environmental impacts and concerns related to herbicides and pesticides, including DDT.

Critique

I found this series of newsletters to be highly useful as a bibliographic source for further research. With each one containing references to more than fifteen different studies, they provide a comprehensive way to look at the kind of science that was being done in this period. While there were no direct references to the Willamette, there were studies on Oregon overall, in particular on costal areas and the Klamath Basin. Likewise, covering a vast range of topics from the causes of pollution to attempts at remediation, these newsletters provide a good sense of the problems faced by those who wanted to clean up the Willamette. Somewhat surprisingly, it appears there were actually a number of persons concerned with pollution in the sixties, and in fact, within these groups a significant amount was known concerning the environmental impacts of industry and farming. For example, one study cited in the October 1966 newsletter states that pesticides are able to travel over vast distances through the atmosphere, and that soils tested from all over the world, even in areas where no pesticides are used, showed the presence of pesticidal chemicals. Thus, the impact of pesticide use is far more widespread than one would expect.

One particularly useful piece of information is a flow chart in the October 1967 issue of the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration organization, providing the names of different officials, and showing the division of responsibility and line of authority. For those interested in the way that politics intervened in environmental policy, this chart would likely be quite interesting.

Overall, I would recommend this source as a good starting point. While it only gives a minimal synopsis

and description of the studies cited, it provides all the necessary information to locate them. The set of newsletters I located covered a mere four-year period. It is likely this newsletter ran in some form for a period longer than this, and so one could probably find additional issues as well.

[return to info sources page](#)

[return to home page](#)