HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION

A Bibliography Is a Long Undertaking

"THE GRAND CANYON BIBLIOGRAPHY" originated in 1974, but it took a peripatetic half-century tour on the way to resolving itself as its own publication.

First conceived as a basic collection of literature citations specifically for Grand Canyon geology, the bibliography almost immediately was redefined to embrace *everything*—all subjects and issues. Soon it ballooned to envelop the broad country bounding the Colorado River between Glen Canyon Dam and the Río Colorado delta in the Gulf of California. It even would eventually acquire the river-refilled Salton Sea in California and from there the geologically, ecologically, culturally and economically coupled Imperial and Mexicali Valleys that reach south into Baja California. All the while, content and citation styles evolved. A bibliography of the Grand Canyon was always there, but swathed in citations about a very much broader region of the United States and Mexico.

In time, the informatively but uninspiringly titled *Bibliography of the Grand Canyon and Lower Colorado River* became more broadly THE GRAND CANON, purposely named as we will see, with the necessary "bibliography" term relegated to the subtitle. The series is arrayed now in five volumes in six (accessible online, https://ravensperch.org, archived at https://archive.org; they may also be available in the digital collections of institutions, organizations, and government agencies):

Spamer, Earle E.

2025 ***THE GRAND CANON*** *: a worldwide bibliography of the Grand Canyon and lower Colorado River regions in the United States and Mexico, 16th to 21st centuries :* ***Volume 1, Part A****: Introduction, statistics, surveys and commentaries.* **(5th edition.)** Raven's Perch Media, Philadelphia. PDF format online, xliii, I–XIV, A–V, 586 pp. [Volume 1 was divided into Parts A and B for the first time in the 5th edition.]

2025 ***THE GRAND CANON*** *: a worldwide bibliography of the Grand Canyon and lower Colorado River regions in the United States and Mexico, 16th to 21st centuries :* ***Volume 1, Part B****: Bibliography.* **(5th edition.)** Raven's Perch Media, Philadelphia. PDF format online, li, 13,712 pp.

2025 **(THE GRAND CANON, Volume 2.)** *Cartobibliography of the Grand Canyon and lower Colorado River regions in the United States and Mexico, a chorographical study, 16th to 21st centuries.* **(3rd edition.)** Raven's Perch Media, Philadelphia. PDF format online, xviii, 76, 1684 pp.

2025 (**THE GRAND CANON, Volume 3.**) *Grand Canyon, Colossal Mirror : the term "Grand Canyon" as used in geographical nomenclature, analogy, metaphor, and neology : with an Appendix on Colorado River nomenclature.* **(2nd Edition.)** Raven's Perch Media, Philadelphia. PDF format online, xii, 212 pp.

2026 (**THE GRAND CANON, Volume 4.**) *The Grand Canyon bibliography : a historical record of events, activities, and interests in the 16th to 21st centuries.* Raven's Perch Media, Philadelphia. PDF format online, xviii, 8640, A1–A54 pp. **(1st edition.)** [*The present volume.*]

2026 (**THE GRAND CANON, Volume 5.**) *Along the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon : a bibliography of adventure, recreation, and activity from 1858.* Raven's Perch Media, Philadelphia. PDF format online, xxxviii, 1010, A1-A13 pp. **(1st edition.)**

Now THE GRAND CANYON BIBLIOGRAPHY is here, no longer diffused among thousands of citations that report on the country straddling the Colorado River through Arizona, Nevada, California, Baja California, and Sonora. Citations are brought up to date, and its plan is improved.

Yet those who expect a bibliography about the *chasm* named *The Grand Canyon* may be perplexed—why does it have citations for places around the Canyon? Stephen Verkamp best put it in perspective when he addressed a Congressional subcommittee in 2011. He said, "I spent my entire childhood living within 50 yards of the edge of the south rim of the Grand Canyon," yet "[w]hen we speak of 'The Grand Canyon' it must be understood that the Canyon does not start at the edge of the precipice. Nor is it an arbitrary line on a map, but rather it is the sum–total of the entire area surrounding those edges."[2] I concur with Verkamp, voicing myself as someone who has engaged personally and academically with the Canyon for over half a century, absorbing its wide-ranging, entwined human and natural histories while traveling, working and studying there.

Though the *chasm* can be and has been defined by a physiographical edge, *viz*,

Billingsley, George H., AND Hampton, Haydee M.

1999 Physiographic rim of the Grand Canyon, Arizona. *U.S. Geological Survey, Open-File Report 99-30*, map, scale 1:250,000, contour intervals 25 and 50 m (https://pubs.usgs.gov/publication/ofr9930).

the *Canyon* unarguably comprises the human experience of uncounted Indigenous generations and the activity of adventitious populations in and all around it, enfolds an intricate natural history that suffuses the region, and discloses an incredible earth record of eons before and while it was fashioned in its present majesty. The table of contents for THE GRAND CANYON BIBLIOGRAPHY affords lookout points over this diversified scene.

Beginnings

THIS NEW BIBLIOGRAPHY hugely amplifies a few initial ones for Grand Canyon that served early in the 20th century. It also goes far beyond selective gatherings about the canyon and river that have been sturdy bibliographical mules for decades. None of those compilations, though, were the truly comprehensive work that many researchers and librarians may have wished for, or wondered if such a thing could ever be done.

The first-ever Grand Canyon bibliography was "Bibliography of the Grand Canyon Region," simply a list of 39 books and magazine articles, in no special order or detail, placed at the end of an

[2] "Statement of Stephen Verkamp, President, Verkamp's Inc." page 100 in *H.R. 1980, H.R. 2070, H.R. 2621, and H.R. 3155: legislative hearing before the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands of the Committee on Natural Resources, U.S. House of Representatives, One Hundred Twelfth Congress, First Session, Thursday, November 3, 2011: Serial No. 112-81* (U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 2012). *(See also the frontispiece text and map in the present bibliography.)*

ardent Canyonophile's book a century and a quarter ago (a writer who even then had an understanding of Verkamp's regional Grand Canyon):

James, George Wharton

1900 *In and around the Grand Canyon: The Grand Canyon of the Colorado River in Arizona.* Boston: Little, Brown, and Co. [See pp. 339-341.]

James was helpful in listing a number of significant works to which he had referred, or about which he knew, although many of them would have been beyond the needs of the general audience of his book or their ability to find them. But in the absence of anything else it served the purpose, should anyone have wondered about such a thing.

When Grand Canyon National Park was formally established in February 1919, the National Park Service quickly gathered a bibliography for the new park—and hid it away:

U.S. National Park Service

1919 Bibliography of books, government reports, and magazine articles on Grand Canyon National Park. *As a part of:* "Bibliographies" [Appendix E of the volume]. *From:* Report of the Director of the National Park Service. *In: Reports of the U.S. Department of the Interior for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1919. Volume I.* Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, pp. 1256-1260.

Fairly haphazardly, it listed whatever happened to have been known or quickly rounded up. Despite its government cachet, as a meager 95 items within an appendix to an interminable official report it had a far way to go in content and publicity both.

During the Great Depression, many public-works projects were underway, supported by the federal government as means to get the country's populace back to work, re-encouraging economic growth, and producing socially beneficial products. The first really useful bibliography for the Grand Canyon was created through the Work Projects Administration (renamed in 1939 as the Works Progress Administration), canvassing far more than what had previously been compiled:

Voth, Hazel Hunt, AND Gill, Harold

1939 *Grand Canyon National Park : a bibliography.* U.S. National Park Service, 114 pp.

For more than four decades afterward, Voth and Gill's typewritten production was effectively the only such compilation accessible to the national park's interpretive and administrative staffs, and users elsewhere. It was also absorbed in 1941 into another Park Service publication of broader scope, likewise mimeographed, acknowledging Voth and Gill as compilers of the project from 1936 to 1940, and John Benton continuing its supervision:

U.S. National Park Service

1941 *A bibliography of the national parks and monuments west of the Mississippi River. Volume 2.* Washington, D.C.: U.S. National Park Service (compiled at the Western Museum Laboratories of the National Park Service with assistance provided by the Work Projects Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps). [Grand Canyon, see pp. 3-131.]

These federal productions were all that were available to the park's Research Library, along with its own card catalog of holdings. Various commercially produced indices to new books and serial articles, available in major libraries, filled in gaps, too, if one had access to them.

In 1953, Francis P. Farquhar, a book-collecting mountaineer, writer, and conservationist, turned out a bibliography for the Colorado River and Grand Canyon:

Farquhar, Francis P.

1953 *The books of the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon : a selective bibliography*. Los Angeles: Glen Dawson, 75 pp.

A masterful guide to essential books on the subject, it is restrained by its subtitle, "*a selective bibliography*," choosing publications that should be in any start-up or core library on the subject. It is a nicely categorized and annotated librarians' and historians' guide, and a tantalizing wish-list for collectors that has itself joined that list, demanding now three-figure prices in the used-book market (originally $5). Scholars and booksellers alike continue to unambiguously cross-index their references and offerings to Farquhar's sequential enumeration of publications.

The 1953 edition was increasingly difficult to obtain, and in 1991 a little-noticed reprinting was produced, slightly improving the index:

Farquhar, Francis P.

1991 *The books of the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon.* Austin, Texas: W M Morrison Books, 41 pp. (Includes a [5]-page addendum, "Index of authors and editors, with titles added to the index for the 1991 edition" [by W. M. Morrison].) [*Note*: An "Index of Authors and Editors" was part of Farquhar's 1953 original.]

The text was reset, making for a thinner volume and losing the charm of the book crafted by Glen Dawson based on a design by the American printer and book designer Ward Ritchie.

As it turned out, users waited fifty years for a sequel to Farquhar, privately arranged by a dedicated book collector, avocational bibliographer, and teacher, Mike S. Ford:

Ford, Mike S.

2003 *The books of the Grand Canyon, the Colorado River, the Green River and the Colorado Plateau, 1953-2003 : a selective bibliography*. Flagstaff, Arizona: Fretwater Press, 178 pp.

The wait was worth it. Ford more broadly interpreted the bibliography's geographical coverage for the half century after Farquhar, making a book more than double the size of Farquhar's that had spanned four centuries. Purposely still restrained by the "selective" term, Ford followed on the annotated model and brought the subject up to date for far-flung users including librarians, scholars, and collectors. Novelly, Fretwater Press imitated Farquhar's little gem, perfectly, not in digital facsimile but by printing Ford's text in identical typography and layout. Concurrently, Fretwater reprinted

Farquhar's 1953 volume in the same fashion, improved with added endnotes and an expanded index:

Farquhar, Francis P.

2003 *The books of the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon : a selective bibliography*. (Ed., endnotes by Daniel F. Cassidy; expanded index by Richard D. Quartaroli.) Flagstaff, Arizona: Fretwater Press, 98 pp.

Thus was created indispensably modern paired books, perfectly beckoning together from the shelf—the hardbound books' bindings lovely mimicked the Glen Dawson original.

A New Bibliography

WHEN I STARTED in 1974 to compose what became a comprehensive Grand Canyon–Lower Colorado River bibliography, I had no immediate thought of publication, but rather a list for private distribution. I chased down not only the standalone publications but articles that appeared in serials, and government documents galore. Moreover, I looked for books and articles that also *include*, or even *mention* in some relevant context, the canyon or the river even when that was not their main purpose. This focus, going beyond principal works, resolved observations by thousands of writers, photographers, travelers, and so on, from around the world. Were they not captured and rebroadcast bibliographically, most of their remarks might have been lost in the amnesia of obscurity. The bibliography thus accounts for publications—professional, casual, and slapdash alike—but in the process it proves the worldwide literary, scientific, and cultural attention given to America's Grand Canyon.

A few years after beginning the bibliography, I was introduced through postal mail to Louise Hinchliffe, who *was* the Grand Canyon National Park Research Library. (She began her Park Service career at the Canyon as a secretary in 1951, retiring as a self-educated curator–librarian in 1985.) Hinchliffe was exceptionally helpful in fielding inquiries, a dutiful old-school librarian of the finest, unflagging sort. Through checks in her library she helped strengthen discrete pieces of the bibliography. All the while, my growing handwritten card file became substantial enough to consolidate it as a manuscript rolled through a typewriter and xerographically reproduced. I began to think of publication and found an interested publisher in the Grand Canyon Natural History Association (founded 1932 and based in the national park), which at the time was beginning to produce a Monographs series of more lengthy scholarly publications. So the bibliography's first edition appeared publicly in 1981:

Spamer, Earle E.

1981 (COMPILER; WITH George H. Billingsley, William J. Breed, Robert C. Euler, and Grace Keroher) Bibliography of the Grand Canyon and the lower Colorado River; 1540-1980. *Grand Canyon Natural History Association, Monograph 2*, 119 pp.

It had partly absorbed a previously compiled but unpublished bibliography of Grand Canyon geology authors affiliated with the Museum of Northern Arizona (Billingsley and Breed) and the U.S. Geolo-

gical Survey (Keroher), adding contributions from Grand Canyon National Park's archaeologist and anthropologist (Euler). This was, incidentally, among the last of its kind, published the old-fashioned way prior to commonplace digital technologies—typewritten, then typeset and proofed from galleys before being sent to the printer for final page makeup; all communications by postal mail.

Although I continued to compile new citations, the prospect of a newer edition slowly arose. As things progressed I became more alert to how bibliographies can convey more information than simple citations. Annotations helped, but I planned that each subject-specific part of the bibliography would also be preceded by an introduction to the content of that part from the perspective of the Grand Canyon and Colorado River, written either by me or by a contributor knowledgeable in that field. And when a second edition did appear nine years after the first, it was a technological and bibliographical leap forward, produced in inkprint, on microfiche, and in text-only electronic form on 5¼-inch "floppy disks"! [3]

Spamer, Earle E.

1990 (COMPILER; WITH George H. Billingsley, William J. Breed, Robert C. Euler, Dorothy A. House, Grace Keroher, Valerie Meyer, Richard Quartaroli, and Lawrence E. Stevens)
Bibliography of the Grand Canyon and the lower Colorado River; from 1540. (Foreword by Louise M. Hinchliffe.) *Grand Canyon Natural History Association, Monograph 8*, 12 separately paginated sections [370 pp. total].

By then I had acquired a computer with word processing ability, and my earlier professional experience in typesetting had let me compose the pages for that edition myself, which I printed out—"desktop publishing" so called in those days. The Association sent these to their commercial printer as "camera-ready copy" for offset lithography. In a 1991–1992 competition of publications from National Park Service cooperating associations it won second prize—not bad for a *bibliography*. While this second edition was designed as a loose-leaf volume so as to accommodate future additions, a 156-page "Supplement" in 1993 promptly filled the binder, so that was that. The Supplement likewise was distributed on microfiche and diskettes, and filling the binder was a first step toward realizing that all-digital productions would be the way to the future for this sort of work.

[3] These are illustrated in the Appendix to Part 1 herein. Specifications were recorded on the title-page verso as follows: "Printing and Collating: Whitehall Company, Wheeling, Illinois. Microfiche Production: Comgraphix, Phoenix, Arizona. Computer Diskette Production: Star-Byte, Inc., Hatfield, Pennsylvania. Bibliographic Information: This edition is produced in three versions: loose-leaf, microfiche, and computer diskette. The loose-leaf version is set in Times Roman and is printed on acid-free archival paper. The text and page images were compiled through WordPerfect 5.0 word processing software. Camera-ready pages for the loose-leaf and microfiche versions were printed through QMS JetScript page description software, which uses the Adobe Systems Inc. PostScript page description language, to a Hewlett-Packard LaserJet Series II printer. The microfiche version is produced on six fiche cards each with 60 frames. The computer diskette version provides the text in ASCII format; it is issued on five 5.25-inch, double-sided, double-density diskettes. (The use of registered trademarks or brand names does not imply any specific product endorsement by the publisher or author.) Production run for first release of this edition: 1,000 loose-leaf volumes, 25 microfiche sets, 25 sets of computer diskettes. Published October, 1990."

I continued apace, finding publications and compiling citations while prosaically anticipating roll-outs of future editions on CD-ROM disks; but that idea would change before the new millennium. In the meantime, again the bibliography was reformatted, editing it throughout to increase the number of subject-specific parts from 12 to 32 and greatly improving the style of the citations. In the process, the reorganized subject areas eliminated the "Miscellaneous" category, a persistently-appearing group in this sort of work that actually is unhelpfully arbitrary to users who are not likely to spend the time perusing an unorganized assembly of chance citations, except perhaps out of curiosity. (Items that might be deemed "miscellaneous" are now more carefully evaluated and placed within other parts of the bibliography.) Notably, the bibliography also now dispensed with abbreviated serial titles—so often used in academic literature—spelling them out for the benefit of users who might not be attuned to such scholastic gabble, particularly titles that are not in English. Significantly more explanatory comments and annotations were appended to citations, too, foreseeing their value for a broad spectrum of users beyond librarians and researchers looking for quick look-ups.

In light of the bibliography's brief print–fiche–disk excursion toward multiple means of distribution and access, it was ready to move on in earnest. But it would follow two different roads.

Two Wins, One Loss

IN 1999 the Grand Canyon Association (so renamed in 1994) reconceived the entire Grand Canyon–Lower Colorado River bibliography as a *queryable database online*—the "Internet Edition." It embraced the loose-leaf edition now reorganized in 32 parts, plus more than 13,000 additions I had gathered since 1993. Convenient and current, it would also be continuously updated (but it lost its introductory essays).

The database went live in January 2000 (http://www.grandcanyonbiblio.org), containing more than 22,500 citations. I frequently revised it—thousands of new citations, emendations, and corrections; software had been written to facilitate my online work. By 2015, however, increasing technological problems with the now more antiquated process precluded further updates. Thereafter, the database was still queryable but static in content, frozen at more than 68,000 citations. The Grand Canyon Conservancy (so renamed in 2018), with my concurrence, removed it in 2021. The Internet Edition's 22-year run was a remarkably long-lived achievement for interactive online productions from the earlier years of the World Wide Web.

Despite the great usefulness of a queryable database, users did not have the ability to study the bibliography as a single publication; its tens of thousands of citations were effectively invisible—undiscovered—amidst the convenience of individual query returns online. It was not a human browser's resource, nor an administrator's accessible digest of activities and interests that had relied upon the resources of the area they managed. Further, should the database disappear (which it did)

the thousands of citations compiled during the years since the last print version of 1993, with accrued corrections and emendations, would be unknown and unreachable.

Anticipating its need, in 2010 I had created the Raven's Perch Media imprint to accommodate a revived monographic bibliography, THE GRAND CANON, which later became a series. I contrived the title of *The Grand Canon* to emphasize the bibliography's uniqueness as a standard or essential list of works—a **canon**—a grand one, in fact, as there is nothing else like it. The title is also a whimsical allusion to "Grand Canon," the widely used typographical form from the late 19th and early 20th centuries that stood in for the also widely used "Grand Cañon," dropping the Spanish accent mark while retaining the pronunciation "canyon." But the grand canon *is* pronounced "cannon."

With the creation of THE GRAND CANON the bibliography added embellishments like cross-listings of citations to both of the print editions, to help locate them in order to see changed bibliographical data and topical categorization—for users who are so inclined to study bibliographies, and above all, for the record. The first two editions were distributed on CD-ROM and DVD in 2012 and 2015, while the online database was still active. During the Internet Edition's six ensuing dormant years, THE GRAND CANON nevertheless progressed, adding 36,000 citations to those that were arrested online. It far outran its online companion. Users who still preferred the database were left behind, unaware of new citations, emendations and corrections.

In 2018, planning for ongoing work in retirement after nearly 45 years in museum collections, libraries, and archives, I established the Raven's Perch Media website (https://ravensperch.org). There I made things more readily accessible through the internet—THE GRAND CANON first, as well as its 32 parts individually, adding in 2021 a similarly comprehensive cartobibliography. Soon thereafter many specialized bibliographies and historically focused volumes were introduced.

Revised editions of THE GRAND CANON's main bibliography, now Volume 1 of the series, appeared in 2019, 2022, and 2025. The third edition (2019) also reformatted the cross-listings to the citations that appeared in the first and second editions, and for the first time it cross-listed certain publications against reviews cited in Part 30 of the bibliography (see example on page 15 herein). In the fifth edition (2025), Volume 1 was for the first time divided into Parts A and B—the extensive front matter and the bibliography-proper. The division was necessitated by perceived user preferences and because the combined size of the two, if kept to a single volume, had exceeded the 100 MB size limit for individual digital documents on the website (a limit imposed by the host, since enlarged to 1 GB but too late).

From Typewriters to PDFs

ALL THIS IS a long way from the day when I had showed up in the Grand Canyon National Park Research Library a couple of years after the slim 1981 volume was published. Miss Hinchliffe was taken aback; not for my unannounced arrival but because she had assumed I was an older man, perhaps retired, indulging himself in this bibliographical project. I was in my early 30s when we met (22 when I had begun the project). Now I am in fact retired in my 70s, still indulging and having embraced a world of born-digital publications. The entire project has grown exponentially, from under 4,000 citations in 1981 to more than 111,000 in 2025, advancing from typewriters to word processors and printers to PDFs, from printing presses to the internet, from analog to digital. A *Cumulative Supplement* (2026) further expands the count to more than 113,700 (and continuing).

Part of the adopted style of arranging and compiling already approaches "vintage" status because the project is the result of five decades of work, having begun in the era of card catalogs, carbon paper, and mid-20th century business-course training. Adherence to particular style guides may also no longer be desirable. Yet my methods look to the future, too. Annotations assist users, among which may be an acronym spelled out, or an abbreviation or an odd term explained, because their meanings might be archaic and difficult to rediscover. I have added information that conveys some idea of the relevant content of a cited work when it is only a small portion of the work, or when a title lacks contextual clarity. Much of this sort of detail—and more—is not usual in bibliographies but is adapted to this highly augmented one, to help users and with an eye to the future. In fact, it is what a broadly useful bibliography should be, if it wants to avoid being a blandly clerical author–title–date publication register. Further, the more extended quotations of items, often in full, are meant to serve users who may not have the ability, or the time, to find the item to see if it may pertain to their needs.

I am an adherent of paper, but the realization of economics and convenience now directs me to rely more on digital media. THE GRAND CANON series, including this new Volume 4, is now impractically huge for print reproduction anyway, approaching 25,000 pages, a voluminous, encyclopedia-scale figure that does not include thousands of pages more in other specialized bibliographies and historical publications from Raven's Perch Media. And there is more that makes the digital medium all the more practical.

The Grand Canyon–Lower Colorado River bibliography itself (THE GRAND CANON Volume 1) and the complementary Cartobibliography (Volume 2) cite publications in 114 languages other than English, accounting for more than ten percent of all citations. THE GRAND CANYON BIBLIOGRAPHY here gathers from that master bibliography, with further editing and embellishments. The digital medium, unconventionally from traditional print bibliographies, allows citations to retain

author names, titles, publication data, and selected quotations that are shown in non-Roman orthographies (alphabets other than A to Z). To aid users who cannot read those languages they are accompanied by transliterations and translations (see an annotated example on page 14). While digital presentations advantageously follow this design with ease, presenting the various orthographies in print would be time-consuming and expensive, which while it would retain precision and provide comprehensiveness it would be for a very limited audience. The digital environment retains these features with economy; users who are not interested can skip them and move on. Still, the publications thus cited are nonetheless present; to withhold such information from users who may in fact benefit from them is inexcusable.

Raven's Perch Media publications are in PDF format. Each is a book-layout presentation that can be easily read on larger screens as opposing pages; and in many cases the design of the publication is with that in mind (though single-page viewing is satisfactory). The book layout corresponds to the profusion of online offerings of scanned books, for the benefit of traditional book users. It allows for the precise finding and unambiguous citation or quotation of information by page number or permits a consistently reproducible page appearance should a selection be printed from the PDF. It avoids the uncitable format of run-on digital texts. For convenience most of the Raven's Perch publications are also available in flip book formats through a third party (a few are unfortunately too large for that conversion without substantially greater expense). Both formats are searchable; hyperlinks within the texts permit users to navigate in the digital environment if desired. Download links to the PDFs and flip books are provided across the Raven's Perch website and in the occasionally updated portable Publications List (https://ravensperch.org/publications-list).

But the Raven's Perch Media website is ephemeral. Positioned as it is on the internet, it is bound to disappear when it is no longer supported or paid for, or if its online host ceases operation. Its organizational pages may survive in site-captures such as those accessible through the Way Back Machine initiative of the Internet Archive online, but its embedded content—the library—is not there. The library is, however, independent of the website, designed for digital longevity. In 2025 I began separately archiving all of the principal Raven's Perch publications in the Internet Archive (https://archive.org/). Specific publications may have been downloaded into digital collections elsewhere; and I have distributed the entire library to individuals and libraries. The U.S. Copyright Office has also received PDF files as part of the copyright registrations for the principal publications.

The library's PDF documents are a medium that is now effectively universal and likely to be readable for a long time, or, if necessary, migratable to another program or medium not now in existence. I offer a liberal Reproduction and Fair Use policy (see title-page verso) that encourages copying these publications. It also permits migrating that content to media not now in existence, or reproducing it as non-digital conservational copies.

THE GRAND CANYON BIBLIOGRAPHY (At Last)

It took all of 52 years to finally produce what was originally intended: THE GRAND CANYON BIBLIOGRAPHY. I cannot say how more closely it would have been confined to the chasm itself when the project began in 1974, but I certainly secured from the learnings of a half century to discover that—as Stephen Verkamp explained—the cultural, environmental, and geological Canyon is not confined to physiographical edges. Some users may object to the geographical extent to which I reach away from that edge and the Canyon's Colorado River "center line" (see the frontispiece map herein), but it is an interpretation. This is much the same situation as with George Billingsley and Haydee Hampton's 1999 map of the "Physiographic Rim of the Grand Canyon" (cited on page 2). As George explained to me, the rim is of course dramatically obvious in most places, while in others where topography is more subdued drawing the Grand Canyon's limit was a subjective determination, open to disagreement. So to make THE GRAND CANYON BIBLIOGRAPHY I had to read through the entire bibliography (not for the first time) to find the citations I thought best expressed the interweaving human and natural histories of an arbitrarily delimited Greater Grand Canyon region. In the process, I made corrections and emendations, reformatted the citations to make the annotations easier to read, and opportunistically added to many citations. The present volume is the result; a first edition. We will see where it may lead.

THE GRAND CANYON BIBLIOGRAPHY utilizes the same subject-specific divisions first formulated for the Internet Edition and used for THE GRAND CANON monographs. This necessitates that users canvass the entire bibliography for author names and other data strings that may recur throughout multiple parts, a process that is expedient in the searchable PDF environment but had understandably been simpler with the former online database. Though users with computers or digital devices with lesser technological capabilities may experience unsatisfactorily longer times between "hits" when searching for something in the largest PDFs, it is reasonable to assume that in due time devices and software will offer greater processing power, with a reduction in disappointing experiences. Still, the contiguous digital presentation of the entire bibliography enables users to expeditiously scour the whole, avoiding the need to examine an entire volume by eye, an exceptionally sluggish and less dependable process, if one not wholly impractical.

Much supporting information is available to THE GRAND CANYON BIBLIOGRAPHY, founded as it is upon THE GRAND CANON.[4] Volume 1/Part A of the more expansive bibliography details, for those who wish to know more about it, how the bibliography is fashioned—about its coverage

[4] See THE GRAND CANON Volume 1/Part A (*Introduction, Statistics, Surveys and Commentaries*), available from Raven's Perch Media at https://ravensperch.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/TGC-Vol-1_Pt-A_INTRO_5th-ed.pdf (6 MB, 586+ pp.); searching, extracting, and printing are possible from the PDF. A searchable but not downloadable third-party flip book is also available at https://online.fliphtml5.com/ryvqb/kiyu/.

and format, and how its many citation styles are crafted—information that is not necessary for regular use of the bibliography but which provides a comprehensive historical background on how this unique compendium was formulated. The supporting information also contains a study that compares how THE GRAND CANON positions itself among other such products in the national park system, and an essay that demonstrates and defends the utility and worth of bibliographies in the digital age.

Futures

RAVEN'S PERCH MEDIA objectively does not employ Artificial Intelligence (AI) to compile or produce its publications, except for a reliance on automated—but critically evaluated—translations of non-English material. I can, however, envision how with the aid of AI the basic and supplemental data of an existing bibliography might be broadened, dissected, analyzed, and restructured to draw out new presentations and analyses to discover and deliver data in modified ways, customized to individual users and broader audiences alike, perhaps even in novel ways. It may also be used to construct from the bibliography a new database version, replacing and hugely improving upon the one that was lost in 2021—even so far as preserving the presentation of non-Roman orthographies and bibliographically informative styles of typography that were not present in the earlier database. The bibliography would be available for conventional uses, but AI-supported tools may go further, to discover, extrapolate, amass, and integrate more information from sources beyond the bibliography.

I originally had drafted some more ideas about how AI might figure into bibliographical work, like identifying things about which the user may be unaware. However, the technology advances and transforms itself far too quickly to sensibly forecast such uses in this static Introduction. I hope users will move forward with the understanding that a bibliography is not a rigid, unchangeable list. It can be joined to other resources. It can be a tool with which to identify whole classes of interrelated material for a user's needs.

Whether or not AI could *update* a bibliography is theoretical at this time, inasmuch as it may spontaneously retrieve unrelated items and miss others, while contextually miscategorizing some. There are matters of availability and access. But in the end it is the human who credibly evaluates the relevance of information to specific tasks then at hand. And it is they who will assess the efficacy of a bibliography—or whatever else it may come to be called—in the digital age.

ONWARD...