

# Library Research for Environmental Studies: Aspects of Uranium Mining and Nuclear Energy

# **GPO FDLP Webinar: September 15, 2021**

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Library User: "I spent two weeks searching for what you found in five minutes"

**PRINCETON** UNIVERSITY

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Upcoming and Past Webinars: <u>https://libguides.princeton.edu/geo/librarianwebinars</u>

Princeton University Library <u>http://library.princeton.edu</u> High Meadows Environmental Institute <u>http://environment.princeton.edu</u> Princeton University, Chemistry <u>https://chemistry.princeton.edu/</u>

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Princeton Writing Program <a href="https://writing.princeton.edu/undergraduates/writing-seminars">https://writing.princeton.edu/undergraduates/writing-seminars</a>

<u>Who Do I help the most?</u> Scientists: Chemistry, Geosciences, Environmental Studies

Non-scientists: Environmental Studies, Policy, Law, Finance, Librarians





# **Uranium Family**

#### The Uranium-238 Decay Chain





Yellowcake = U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> <u>https://www.nrc.gov/materia</u> <u>ls/uranium-recovery.html</u>



https://www.gra ndcanyontrust.or g/coloradoplateau-uranium

Yucca Mountain, Nuclear Waste Storage: https://pubs.er.usgs. gov/search?q=Yucca +Mountain+nuclear

#### https://www.energy.gov/Im/Im-sites



Plutonium is formed in nuclear power reactors from uranium-238 by neutron capture. When operating, a typical 1000 MWe nuclear power reactor contains within its uranium fuel load several hundred kilograms of plutonium. https://world-nuclear.org/information-library/nuclear-fuel-cycle/fuel-recycling/plutonium.aspx



http://ready.nj.gov/planprepare/nuclear-generatingstations.shtml



Basis: 45,000 MWd/t burn-up, ignores minor actinides



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#### Schedule a Research Consultation : Mon – Fri Meet Our Specialists – Emily Wild

FIGURE 2. Indexing and Availability Trends of U.S. Geological Survey Publications in Hydrology



Princeton University Library, 2018-Present Chemistry, Geosciences and Environmental Studies Librarian <u>https://library.princeton.edu/staff/ewild</u>

U.S. Geological Survey: <u>https://www.usgs.gov/staff-profiles/emily-wild</u> 2008-2018 : Librarian (Physical Scientist): Denver, Colorado 1996-2008 : Hydrologist : [1998-2008 in Providence, Rhode Island]

2001: Master's Library & Information Studies (MLIS), Univ. of Rhode Island 1995: BA Geology, Hartwick College

*"Many people might be surprised to learn that drinking-water sources, especially groundwater, can contain radioactive elements (radionuclides). Radionuclides in water can be a concern for human health because several are toxic or carcinogenic."* 



#### "Online bibliographic sources in hydrology" Science and Technology Libraries, 2001 <u>https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/70023512</u>

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Emily = the "Uranium Librarian"

Upcoming and Past Webinars: https://libguides.princeton.edu/geo/librarianwebinars

August 2020: Library Research for Energy, Minerals, and Uranium Resources <u>https://www.fdlp.gov/library-research-for-</u> <u>energy-mineral-and-uranium-resources</u>

USGS Library Materials for Earth's Age https://www.fdlp.gov/usgs-library-materials-for-earth-s-age

USGS Library: Indexes, catalogs, and other bibliographic tools, a day in the life of a reference librarian <u>https://www.fdlp.gov/usgs-library-</u> <u>indexes-catalogs-and-other-bibliographic-tools-a-day-in-the-life-of-a-</u> <u>reference-librarian</u>

USGS Library: Oil, Gas, Coal, Uranium, and Minerals Maps and Data <u>https://www.fdlp.gov/usgs-library-oil-gas-coal-uranium-and-minerals-maps-and-data</u>

USGS Library: Using USGS Image, Map, and Data Products for Information Inquiries <u>https://www.fdlp.gov/usgs-library-using-usgs-</u> <u>image-map-and-data-products-for-information-inquiries</u> Review and Interpretation of Previous Work and New Data on the Hydrogeology of the Schwartzwalder Uranium Mine and Vicinity, Jefferson County, Colorado https://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2011/1092/

### Geological Society of America conference (2013): THE PAST IS THE KEY TO THE FUTURE: URANIUM RESEARCH AT THE USGS DENVER LIBRARY

https://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2013AM/webprogram/Paper2220 73.html

Geological Society of America conference (2013): BACK TO THE FUTURE: URANIUM INFORMATION AT THE USGS DENVER LIBRARY https://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2013AM/webprogram/Paper2254 30.html

GPO FDLP meeting (2020) poster session:

"Using U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Uranium Research at the Princeton University Library" <u>https://www.fdlp.gov/2020-fdl-</u> <u>conference/2020-fdl-conference-virtual-poster-gallery</u> Scientist

"Online bibliographic sources in hydrology" https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/70023512

- Raw Data: Real-Time, Continuous, Recent Partial Records, Historical
  - Calculated Data: Equations, Software Results, Lab Results, and Model Results
  - Map Data: Specific Location Information by Geosciences Topic
- Citation Data: Bibliographic Information & Finding Publications



About 99.9% of the research inquiries I receive for the environmental aspects of uranium are answered via USGS data and publications



**U.S. Operating Commercial Nuclear Power Reactors** 



U.S.NRC Uter State Nuclear Regulary Cannot on Protecting People and the Environment As of August 2019



United States Uranium Provinces, Districts, and Important Deposits



Figure 1–23. Uranium province map of the United States.

### Critical Analysis of World Uranium Resources USGS SIR 2012-5239

Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Energy Information Administration https://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2012/5239/

Examples United States: Black Hills, Front Range Colorado, Uravan Mineral Belt, Grants District (Mineral Belt)

"Online bibliographic sources in hydrology" (2001) <u>https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/70023512</u> <u>https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1300/J122v21n03\_05</u> (online 2008) Also published (2001) as a book chapter in *Information and the professional scientist and engineer* 

https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/70176091



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### Integrated Uranium Resource and Environmental Assessment https://www.usgs.gov/centers/cersc/science/integrated-uranium-resourceand-environmental-assessment

#### Critical Analysis of World Uranium Resources, USGS SIR 2012-5239 Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Energy Information Administration <u>https://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2012/5239/</u>

- USGS Mineral Resources on-line spatial data (<u>https://mrdata.usgs.gov</u>). Interactive maps and downloadable data for regional and global geology, geochemistry, and mineral resources including uranium.
- National Geochemical Database (<u>https://pubs.usgs.gov/of/1997/ofr-97-0492/</u>). Downloadable hydrogeochemical and stream sediment data from the Department of Energy's National Uranium Resource Evaluation program, reformatted and now administered by the USGS.
- US Environmental Protection Agency Uranium Mines and Mills Location Database
   (<u>https://www.epa.gov/radiation/uranium-mines-and-mills-location-database-0</u>) A compilation of uranium mine locations
   compiled by the EPA as part of an investigation into potential environmental hazards associated with abandoned
   uranium mines.
- US Energy Information Administration (<u>http://www.eia.gov/nuclear/</u>). Analysis and data describing the US domestic uranium and nuclear fuels industry.

#### **External Links**

- World Nuclear Association (<u>http://www.world-nuclear.org</u>) Information on the nuclear fuel cycle.
- International Atomic Energy Agency Nuclear Fuel Cycle (<u>https://www.iaea.org/topics/nuclear-fuel-cycle</u>). Information describing the nuclear fuel cycle including uranium production (<u>https://www.iaea.org/topics/nuclear-fuel-production</u>) and the world distribution of uranium deposits (UDEPO) database (<u>https://infcis.iaea.org/UDEPO/</u>).
- Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development Nuclear Energy Agency (<u>http://www.oecd-nea.org/</u>) Intergovernmental agency focused on the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Publishes the biennial "Redbook – Uranium resources, production and demand" <u>http://www.oecd-nea.org/ndd/pubs/2016/7301-uranium-2016.pdf</u>

ASSOCIATION

Home / Information Library / Nuclear Fuel Cycle / Mining of Uranium / World Uranium Mining Production

#### World Uranium Mining Production

(Updated September 2021)

- Over two-thirds of the world's production of uranium from mines is from Kazakhstan, Canada and Austr
- An increasing amount of uranium, now over 50%, is produced by in situ leaching.

In 2020 Kazakhstan produced the largest share of uranium from mines (41% of world supply), followed by Au (13%) and Canada (8%).

#### Production from mines (tonnes U)

Country	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Kazakhstan	19,451	21,317	22,451	23,127	23,607	24,689	23,321	21,705	22,808	19,477
Canada	9145	8999	9331	9134	13,325	14,039	13,116	7001	6938	3885
Australia	5983	6991	6350	5001	5654	6315	5882	6517	6613	6203
Namibia	3258	4495	4323	3255	2993	3654	4224	5525	5476	5413
Uzbekistan (est.)	2500	2400	2400	2400	2385	3325	3400	3450	3500	3500
Niger	4351	4667	4518	4057	4116	3479	3449	2911	2983	2991
Russia	2993	2872	3135	2990	3055	3004	2917	2904	2911	2846
China (est.)	885	1500	1500	1500	1616	1616	1692	1885	1885	1885
Ukraine	890	960	922	926	1200	808	707	790	800	400
USA	1537	1596	1792	1919	1256	1125	940	582	58	6
India (est.)	400	385	385	385	385	385	421	423	308	400
South Africa (est.)	582	465	531	573	393	490	308	346	346	250
Iran (est.)	0	0	0	0	38	0	40	71	71	71
Pakistan (est.)	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45
Brazil	265	326	192	55	40	44	0	0	0	15
Czech Republic	229	228	215	193	155	138	0	0	0	0
Romania	77	90	77	77	77	50	0	0	0	0
France	6	3	5	3	2	0	0	0	0	0
Germany	51	50	27	33	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malawi	846	1101	1132	369	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total world	53,493	58,493	59,331	56,041	60,304	63,207	60,514	54,154	54,742	47,731
tonnes U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	63,082	68,974	69,966	66,087	71,113	74,357	71,361	63,861	64,554	56,287
% of world demand	87%	94%	91%	85%	98%	96%	93%	80%	81%	74%

\* Data from the World Nuclear Association. NB: the figures in this table are liable to change as new data becomes available.

https://world-nuclear.org/information-library/nuclear-fuelcycle/mining-of-uranium/world-uranium-mining-production.aspx





#### **Integrated Uranium Resource and Environmental Assessment**

https://www.usgs.gov/centers/cersc/science/integrated-uraniumresource-and-environmental-assessment

# Critical Analysis of World Uranium Resources, USGS SIR 2012-5239

Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Energy Information Administration https://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2012/5239/

### Search = Kazakhstan uranium

# USGS MRDATA https://mrdata.usgs.gov/catal og/science.php?thcode=1&ter m=fKZ

#### GeoScienceWorld

https://pubs.geoscienceworld. org/searchresults?page=1&quicknav=1& q=Kazakhstan%20uranium

#### WORLD NUCLEAR ASSOCIATION



Home / Information Library / Country Profiles / Countries G-N / Kazakhstan

#### Uranium and Nuclear Power in Kazakhstan

#### (Updated February 2021)

Kazakhstan has 12% of the world's uranium resources and in 2020 produced about 19,500 tU.

search

- In 2009 it became the world's leading uranium producer, with almost 28% of world production. In 2019, Kazakhstan produced 43% of the world's uranium.
- A single Russian nuclear power reactor operated from 1972 to 1999, generating electricity and desalinating water.
- Kazakhstan has a major plant making nuclear fuel pellets and aims eventually to sell valueadded fuel rather than just uranium. A fuel fabrication plant is being built with 49% Chinese equity.

Kazakhstan has been an important source of uranium for more than 50 years. Over 2001 to 2013 production rose from 2022 to about 22,550 tonnes U per year, making Kazakhstan the world's leading uranium producer. Capacity is around 25,000 tU/yr. In 2019 production was 22,808 tU, up from 21,705 tU the year before. In 2020 Kazatomprom produced 19,477 tU, down from recent totals due to the impact of coronavirus. In August 2020, the company stated that it expected to produce 2,000-22,500 tU in both 2021 and 2022.

Of its 17 mine projects, five are wholly-owned by Kazatomprom and 12 are joint ventures with foreign equity holders, and some of these are producing under nominal capacity. In 2019, Kazatomprom's financial results show 13,291 tU – 25% of world production, putting it ahead of Orano, Cameco and Uranium One.



Home / Information Library / Nuclear Fuel Cycle / Mining of Uranium / World Uranium Mining Production

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Pakistan (est.)	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45
Brazil	265	326	192	55	40	44	0	0	0	15
Czech Republic	229	228	215	193	155	138	0	0	0	0
Romania	77	90	77	77	77	50	0	0	0	0
France	6	3	5	3	2	0	0	0	0	0
Germany	51	50	27	33	0	0	0	0	0	0
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Total world	53,493	58,493	59,331	56,041	60,304	63,207	60,514	54,154	54,742	47,731
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<u>https://world-nuclear.org/information-library/nuclear-fuel-</u> cycle/mining-of-uranium/world-uranium-mining-production.aspx



United States Uranium Provinces, Districts, and Important Deposits



Figure 1–23. Uranium province map of the United States.

### https://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2012/5239/

"The geology of the Jewel Cave SW quadrangle, South Dakota and its bearing on the origin of the uranium deposits in the southern Black Hills." Princeton University, Geosciences, PhD : <u>https://catalog.princeton.edu/catalog/9928436</u> 633506421 USGS Open-File Report :

https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/ofr5910 PRINCETON UNIVERSITY



The Dewey Burdock Uranium Project is located in South Dakota and is a high-grade in-situ recovery deposit. Azarga Uranium owns 100% of the Dewey Burdock Uranium Project. Azarga Uranium

https://azargauranium.com/projects /usa/dewey-burdock/ Technical Reports:

https://azargauranium.com/report-

type/technical/

EPA: <u>News release</u>

## https://www.theupa.org/



Uranium Producers of America Members
Cameco Resources
ConverDyn
enCore Energy Corp.
Energy Fuels Inc.
Ur-Energy Inc.
Laramide Resources Ltd.
Rio Grande Resources
Strata Energy - Peninsula Energy Ltd.
Uranium Energy Corp

United States Uranium Provinces, Districts, and Important Deposits



principal aquifers. The areas where each aquifer is the uppermos

water utelding unit are shown here.



# Navajo Nation: Cleaning Up Abandoned Uranium Mines

https://www.epa.gov/navajo-nation-uranium-cleanup

Navajo Nation: <a href="https://www.navajo-nsn.gov/">https://www.navajo-nsn.gov/</a>

USGS research, Navajo uranium https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/search?q=Navajo+uranium

#### Uranium 120°W 70°W EXPLANATION U - Top 0- to 5-cn 90 to 100 3.4 to 23. 80 to 90 28 to 34 70 to St 251028 60 to 7 2.2 to 2.5 50 to 60 20 to 22 40 to 50 1.7 to 20 20 to 30 12:015 10 to 20 0.9 to 1.2 <0.1 to 0.9 0 to 10 Base map from U.S. Geological Survey data ambert Conformal Conic projection Standard narallels 33"N and 45"N Central Meridian 96"W mg/kg: milligrams per kilogran Datum NAD 1983

Soils – Uranium

#### National Geochemical Database https://pubs.usgs.gov/of/1997/ofr-97-0492/

Reformatted Data from the National Uranium Resource Evaluation (NURE) Hydrogeochemical and Stream Sediment Reconnaissance (HSSR) Program

### https://mrdata.usgs.gov/nure/water/



### Trace Elements Investigations: https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/browse/Report/USGS%20Numbered%20Series/ Trace%20Elements%20Investigations/

#### **Trace Elements Memorandums:**

https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/browse/Report/USGS%20Numbered%20Series/ Trace%20Elements%20Memorandum/



**International Atomic Energy Agency** 

https://www.iaea.org/

Fukushima Daiichi Status Updates <u>https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/focus/fukushima/status</u> <u>-update</u>

Fukushima Nuclear Accident https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/focus/fukushima

USGS research: <u>https://bqs.usgs.gov/fukushima/</u> Fission Products in National Atmospheric Deposition Program Wet Deposition Samples Following the Fukushima Dai-Ichi Nuclear Power Station Incident, March 8 - April 5, 2011. <u>https://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2011/1277/</u>



Dot size represents relative deposition amounts. Fallout amounts measured in precipitation by USGS provide a clearer picture of fission-product wet deposition across the USA.

65th IAEA General Conference 20 – 24 September 2021, Vienna International Centre, Vienna https://www.iaea.org/about/governan ce/general-conference/gc65/generalinformation



# **Environmental Studies : Reading List for Uranium**

Critical Analysis of World Uranium Resources, USGS SIR 2012-5239 https://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2012/5239/

Review and Interpretation of Previous Work and New Data on the Hydrogeology of the Schwartzwalder Uranium Mine and Vicinity, Jefferson County, Colorado <u>https://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2011/1092/</u>

Annotated Bibliography of Environmentally Relevant Investigations of Uranium Mining and Milling in the Grants Mineral Belt, Northwestern New Mexico <u>https://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2011/1140/</u>

Uranium concentrations in groundwater, northeastern Washington <a href="https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/sim3401">https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/sim3401</a>

Characterization of selected radionuclides in sediment and surface water in Standley Lake, Great Western Reservoir, and Mower Reservoir, Jefferson County, Colorado, 1992 <u>https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/wri954126</u>

# Thank You! Questions?



