

African Wildlife and Range Management Collection from Drs. Graham & Brian Child

PETER MALANCHUK

I curated this impressive wildlife/ecology gift resource collection for southern Africa. The Child family has made a valuable donation of their personal papers and library to the University of Florida Libraries Africana Collection. The organizational preparation and research work has been ongoing for the last two years and the collection will become accessible during the fall of 2009. Doctoral student Theron Morgan Brown assisted me throughout.

Dr. Brian Child is an associate professor in Geography & African Studies. He trained at Oxford University and has worked in various official Zimbabwean governmental and non-governmental wildlife capacities prior to his arrival at the University of Florida. Graham Child, his father, received his doctorate from the University of Cape Town and served as Zimbabwe's initial governmental wildlife ecologist and subsequently as FAO forestry officer for the Botswana government advising on wildlife and land use. He then became Director of National Parks and Wild Life Management in Zimbabwe from 1971-1986.

Their collection includes more than three hundred rare books, periodicals, government and NGO reports, many of which are sole source items within the U.S. There are another two thousand monographs, government and NGO research reports and grey literatures concerned with wildlife and game management for Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana, and South Africa. Maps, field notes, and interviews with other prominent African wildlife and biodiversity scholars are significant components as well. Of special note is that the collection includes nearly 25 masters and doctoral theses from African institutions. The combined collection includes resources from the mid-1960s through 2005.

There are seventy cubic feet of manuscript archives related to game ranching, CAMPFIRE, Luangwa Valley (Zambia), protection areas and conservation strategies. Community-based natural resource management (CBNRM), sustainable wildlife use, tourism, and the Zimbabwe Department of National Parks and Wildlife (1971-1986) are also



principal components. The books and journals will be available for use by December 2009. The papers will become available in Spring 2010 and selected items may be scanned with permission from the Child family.

Peter Malanchuk M.A., M.L.S., is the University Librarian for the Africana Collection and affiliate faculty with the Center for African Studies. Funding for the curation of this collection was provided by the Center for African Studies through its Department of Education Title VI grant & the University of Florida Libraries.