

**Guide to the Records of the
World Coal Study, 1977-1980
MC.0186**

Finding aid prepared by Amy Sugarman

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Table of Contents

<u>Summary Information</u>	3
<u>Historical note</u>	4
<u>Scope and Contents of the Collection</u>	5
<u>Arrangement note</u>	5
<u>Administrative Information</u>	5
<u>Related Materials</u>	6
<u>Controlled Access Headings</u>	6
<u>Bibliography</u>	7
<u>Collection Inventory</u>	8
<u>Administrative Records</u>	8
<u>Correspondence Files</u>	14
<u>Conference Files</u>	26
<u>Records about WOCOL Publications</u>	28

Summary Information

Repository	Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Institute Archives and Special Collections
Creator	World Coal Study
Title	World Coal Study records
Date [inclusive]	1977-1980
Extent	7.0 cubic feet (7 record cartons)
Location	Materials are stored off-site. Advance notice is required for use.
Language	English
Abstract	<p>The World Coal Study (WOCOL) was organized in 1978 by Carroll L. Wilson, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Mitsui Professor of Problems of Contemporary Technology, to assess the potential of coal to meet world energy needs. The collection consists of records generated by the MIT-based WOCOL staff, including Wilson, during the study's planning, operation and follow-up activities from 1977 to 1980. It includes correspondence, memoranda, and reports; information about the presentation of the study's findings; conference materials; and extensive correspondence with WOCOL members and non-WOCOL members.</p>

Citation

World Coal Study Records, MC 186, box X. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Institute Archives and Special Collections, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Historical note

Introduction to the World Coal Study

Between 1974 and 1977 Carroll Louis Wilson, Mitsui Professor of Problems of Contemporary Technology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, organized and directed the Workshop on Alternative Energy Strategies (WAES)—a three-year study in which seventy-five people from fifteen countries examined global energy prospects to the year 2000. The WAES final report called for an immediate effort to wean the world economy from its dependence on oil and identified only two energy sources—coal and nuclear power—that could serve as substitutes before the year 2000. As there was great uncertainty about nuclear energy, it became evident that coal should be examined more closely. Towards this end, Wilson organized the World Coal Study—WOCOL—(originally termed the Coal Trade Study - COTRA) in 1978, which involved over eighty people from sixteen major coal using and producing countries (Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Netherlands/UK, Poland, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States, West Germany). The members convened several times during an eighteen-month period to develop and present an assessment of coal's potential to meet world energy needs.

Organization of WOCOL

Modeled on the WAES project, WOCOL operated as an independent organization with no official ties to governments or private industry. Members, whether from private or public institutions, participated as individuals and were free to express their own views rather than those of a sponsoring institution. The WOCOL organizational structure was identical to the WAES structure: senior level people (Participants) directed the study while a larger, decentralized project staff (Associates) implemented WOCOL projects. Wilson selected the thirty-five Participants who in turn chose one or more Associates. As Project Director, Wilson gave overall direction to the study. The sixteen national “teams” first assembled data and projections on the supply and use of coal for their own countries. They then combined their information with data from other teams to make regional and finally global estimates. WOCOL headquarters and secretariat expenses at MIT were supported by grants from private organizations(1) and the US Government. Participants provided financial support for activities conducted in their countries and for the expenses involved in attending and sponsoring WOCOL meetings.

WOCOL Findings

The project's two-volume final report was published in 1980. Volume I, *Coal: Bridge to the Future*, includes a summary of the findings and a more detailed presentation of issues considered, such as world energy prospects, coal markets and prices, and coal-using technologies. Volume II, *Future Coal Prospects: Country and Regional Assessments*, contains the full texts of the reports by each of the sixteen national teams. Like WAES, the findings of WOCOL were intended to be useful to industries, national governments and international bodies which make energy choices. As summarized in the *New York Times* on May 13, 1980, the day following the final report's public release, the report concluded that

... coal use must be tripled, and steam coal exports increased at least tenfold, if the world is to solve its immediate energy problems. What are the alternatives? Conservation alone cannot contribute enough. Nuclear power is meeting increasing resistance. Solar and other renewable energy sources cannot be developed and widely marketed until about the year 2000. So in the meantime, most of the added energy needed for moderate economic growth must (and can) come from coal.

NOTE

(1) Alfred Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach Foundation, AMAX Inc., Atlantic Richfield Company, Bechtel National Inc., Massachusetts Institute of Technology, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The Rockefeller Foundation, US Department of Energy.

Scope and Contents of the Collection

The records were created and collected by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) based World Coal Study (WOCOL) staff, which included project director Carroll Wilson, his program staff, Robert P. Greene and J. Michael Gallagher, along with his administrative staff headed by Susan Leland. The records span 1977 to 1982, the years of WOCOL's planning, operation, and follow-up activities. The collection offers information on the use of coal as an energy source for the period 1977 to 2000 and the prospects for expanding world coal production, utilization, and trade to meet increased energy needs. In addition, the WOCOL records illustrate a method used to study global problems and solutions.

Arrangement note

The collection is organized into four series: Series 1. Administrative Records, 1977-1981; Series 2. Correspondence Files, 1977-1981; Series 3. Conference Files, 1978-1979; and Series 4. Records about WOCOL Publications, 1978-1982.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Institute Archives and Special Collections Copyright 1984

Revision Description

2010

Access note

The collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use note

Condition of media needs to be reviewed. There may be restrictions on use.

Intellectual Property Rights

Access to collections in the Institute Archives and Special Collections is not authorization to publish. Separate written application for permission to publish must be made to the Institute Archives. Copyright of some items in this collection may be held by respective creators, not by the donor of the collection.

Related Materials

Related Materials in the Institute Archives and Special Collections

Workshop on Alternative Energy Strategies (WAES) Records (MC 180).

Carroll Louis Wilson Papers (MC 29).

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- World Coal Study

Personal Name(s)

- Seamans, Robert Channing, Jr., 1918-2008
- Wilson, Carroll L.

Subject(s)

- Coal.
- Petroleum--Research.

Bibliography

World Coal Study. *Coal: Bridge to the Future: Report of the World Coal Study*. Carroll L. Wilson, project director. Cambridge, MA: Ballinger Pub. Co., 1980. MIT Libraries: TP325.W82 1980

World Coal Study. *Future Coal Prospects: Country and Regional Assessments*. Robert P. Greene and J. Michael Gallagher, editors; Carroll L. Wilson, project director. Cambridge, MA: Ballinger Pub. Co., 1980. MIT Libraries: TP325.W82 1980a

Administrative Records

Collection Inventory

Series 1. Administrative Records 1977-1981

Scope and Contents note

This series is arranged alphabetically by activity and documents the administrative activities of Wilson, Greene, and Gallagher. Correspondence relating to the recruitment of sponsors (box 1, folders 6-12) offers a rich account of the study's financial history and of private industry's concerns for finding solutions to the energy crisis of the 1970s. Correspondence with those foundations which chose not to support WOCOL offers a critical view of the study's methodology (see especially the Ford Foundation, box 1, folder 13). While the presentations Wilson gave to explain WOCOL findings are often repetitive, the related correspondence discusses the responses he received to the presentations (boxes 1-2, folders 41-87).

	Box	Folder
Background readings sent to WOCOL members 1978	1	1
Biographical information about WOCOL members 1978	1	2
Correspondence with MIT administrators undated	1	3
Financial and Funding Records: Allocation of WOCOL final costs by country, (1980?) undated	1	4
Financial and Funding Records: Financial statements 1978-1980	1	5
Financial and Funding Records, Sponsor recruitment: Alfred P. Sloan Foundation 1979	1	6
Financial and Funding Records, Sponsor recruitment: Alfried Krupp Von Bohlen und Halbach Foundation 1978-1980	1	7
Financial and Funding Records, Sponsor recruitment: AMAX Corporation 1979-1980	1	8

Administrative Records

Financial and Funding Records, Sponsor recruitment: Andrew W. Mellon Foundation 1978-1980	1	9
Financial and Funding Records, Sponsor recruitment: Atlantic Richfield Company 1978-1980	1	10
Financial and Funding Records, Sponsor recruitment: Cummins Engine Foundation 1979-1980	1	11
Financial and Funding Records, Sponsor recruitment: Detroit Edison 1979	1	12
Financial and Funding Records, Sponsor recruitment: Ford Foundation 1978-1979	1	13
Financial and Funding Records, Sponsor recruitment: German Marshall Fund of the US 1978-1979	1	14
Financial and Funding Records, Sponsor recruitment: Hewlett-Packard Company 1978	1	15
Financial and Funding Records, Sponsor recruitment: Rockefeller Brothers Fund 1978-1980	1	16
Financial and Funding Records, Sponsor recruitment: Rockefeller Foundation 1978-1980	1	17
Financial and Funding Records, Sponsor recruitment: US Department of Energy 1978-1980	1	18-19
Financial and Funding Records, Sponsor recruitment: Utah Department of Energy 1978-1980	1	20
Financial and Funding Records, Sponsor recruitment: The Volkswagenwerk Foundation 1979	1	21
Financial and Funding Records: Wilson Notes on WOCOL Funding Strategy 1978	1	22
Mailings to WOCOL members 1978 September to 1979 July	1	23

Administrative Records

Mailings to WOCOL members 1979 August to October	1	24
Mailings to WOCOL members 1979 November to 1980 December	1	25
Planning for WOCOL: Chronology of WOCOL planning 1978 March to May	1	26
Planning for WOCOL, Planning Meetings: Meeting with Norwegian energy and shipping experts 1978 February 6	1	27
Planning for WOCOL, Planning Meetings: Meeting in Washington 1978 February 16-17	1	28
Planning for WOCOL, Planning Meetings: Meeting at MIT 1978 May 21-24	1	29
Planning for WOCOL, Planning Meetings: Meeting with Walter A. Rosenblith 1978 June 23	1	30
Planning for WOCOL, Planning Meetings: Meeting in New York 1978 November 8	1	31
Planning for WOCOL: Press releases 1978-1979	1	32
Planning for WOCOL: Prospectus mailed and responses to it 1978 January	1	33
Planning for WOCOL, Recruitment of Members: Administrative staff recruitment 1978	1	34
Planning for WOCOL, Recruitment of Members: Participant recruitment, Wilson letters of invitation 1978	1	35
Planning for WOCOL, Recruitment of Members: Participant recruitment, Australia 1978	1	36
Planning for WOCOL, Recruitment of Members: Participant recruitment, China 1978	1	37
Planning for WOCOL, Recruitment of Members: Participant recruitment, Indonesia 1978	1	38

Administrative Records

Presentations to explain WOCOL findings: List of presentations 1980	1	39
Presentations to explain WOCOL findings: Visuals for presentations 1980	1	40-42
		Box
Presentations to explain WOCOL findings: Visuals for presentations - slides undated		7
	Box	Folder
Presentations to explain WOCOL findings: Wilson notes for presentations 1980-1981	1	43
Presentations to explain WOCOL findings: Wilson speech generally used for presentations 1980	1	44
Public release of findings: Agendas 1980 May 12	1	45
Public release of findings: Aspen Institute Round Table Discussion 1980 May 12	1	46
Public release of findings: National plans for other WOCOL nations 1980 May 12	1	47-48
Public release of findings, Press Conference: Correspondence concerning 1980 May 12	1	49
Public release of findings, Press Conference: Local arrangements 1980 May 12	1	50
Public release of findings, Press Conference: Materials distributed to the press 1980 May 12	1	51
Public release of findings, Press Conference: Miscellaneous notes 1980 May 12	1	52
Public release of findings, Press Conference: Wilson address 1980 May 12	1	53
Public release of findings, Press Conference: Wilson notes 1980 May 12	1	54
Public release of findings: Press Release 1980 May 12	1	55
		Box

Administrative Records

	Box	Folder
Presentations to explain WOCOL findings: Television reports on major networks - visual recording undated		7
Presentations to explain WOCOL findings: Presentation to President Jimmy Carter 1980 May 12	1	56
Presentations to explain WOCOL findings: Hearing before the Subcommittee on Energy and Power of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce 1980 May 20	1	57
Presentations to explain WOCOL findings: Committee for Energy Policy Promotion - Japan 1980 May 27	1	58
Presentations to explain WOCOL findings: The Fellowship of Engineering - London 1980 June 16	2	59
Presentations to explain WOCOL findings: Morgan Guaranty Trust - New York, 4 August 1980 1980 August 4	2	60
Presentations to explain WOCOL findings: Consolidated Coal Company - West Virginia 1980 August 19	2	61
Presentations to explain WOCOL findings: Oxford Energy Seminar - Oxford, England 1980 September 4	2	62
Presentations to explain WOCOL findings: World Energy Conference - Munich, 1980 September 2-20	2	63
Presentations to explain WOCOL findings: US Senate Committee on Energy and Resources Hearing 1980 September 19	2	64
Presentations to explain WOCOL findings: American Mining Congress - San Francisco 1980 September 23	2	65
Presentations to explain WOCOL findings: Coal Industry News Meeting - New York 1980 September 30	2	66

Administrative Records

Presentations to explain WOCOL findings: University of Texas - Austin 1980 October 7	2	67
Presentations to explain WOCOL findings: Meeting with the Government of Ontario - Canada 1980 October 14	2	68
Presentations to explain WOCOL findings: US Army Corps of Engineers - Cincinnati 1980 October 23	2	69
Presentations to explain WOCOL findings: Shell Austria - Vienna 1980 November 6	2	71
Presentations to explain WOCOL findings: Interview requests 1980	2	72
Presentations to explain WOCOL findings: Coal Technology '80 - Third International Coal Utilization Conference - Houston 1980 November 18	2	73
Presentations to explain WOCOL findings: State of Maine Board of Environmental Protection 1979 January 7	2	74
Presentations to explain WOCOL findings: Colorado School of Mines - Denver 1981 January 27-29	2	75
Presentations to explain WOCOL findings: Millipore Corporation - Puerto Rico 1981 February 25-26	2	76
Presentations to explain WOCOL findings: International Seminar on Energy - Nice 1981 March 5-11	2	77
Presentations to explain WOCOL findings: International House - New York 1981 March 19	2	78
Presentations to explain WOCOL findings: Dupont - Delaware 1981 April 2	2	79
Presentations to explain WOCOL findings: Salzburg Seminar on Energy and Global Security - Austria 1981 April 21-29	2	80
Presentations to explain WOCOL findings: Chemical Institute of Canada, Halifax, Coal Conference 1981 May 31 to June 3	2	81

Correspondence Files

Presentations to explain WOCOL findings: Salzburg Seminar - Houston 1981 June 3-5	2	82
Presentations to explain WOCOL findings: US Senate Hearing on Port Developments 1981 July 22	2	83
Presentations to explain WOCOL findings: Advanced Management Research Conference on Coal - Washington (cancelled) 1981 October 22-23	2	84-85
Presentations to explain WOCOL findings: Pontifical Academy of Sciences - Rome 1981 November 10-14	2	86
Presentations to explain WOCOL findings: Hearing before the Joint Economic Committee 1982 January 13	2	87
Wilson notes 1978 March 26	2	88
Wilson notes undated	2	89-90
Wilson trips: Australia 1978 September	2	91
Wilson trips: Europe 1979 January	2	92
Wilson trips: Europe 1979 November-December	2	93
Wilson writings: "COTRA - Memo on a Project" 1978 May 5	2	94
Wilson writings: "The Need for Coal Exploration," (draft) 1979 September 17	2	95

Series 2. Correspondence Files 1977-1981

Scope and Contents note

The series is divided into two groups: correspondence with WOCOL members and correspondence with non-WOCOL members, arranged alphabetically within the groups. Many of the correspondents (both members and non-members) were former members of the Workshop on Alternative Energy Strategies. The correspondence often contains interesting personal views about world coal, energy, and political situations.

Correspondence Files

Correspondence with WOCOL members includes the correspondence of those persons officially connected to the study: Participants, Associates, MIT-based WOCOL staff, and Consultants. In addition to routine correspondence, Participant correspondence includes discussions about administrative matters, task assignments, progress reports, and the phrasing and structure of the final report. Many Participants were long-time friends of Wilson, and their correspondence often contains references to personal matters. Major WOCOL correspondents include Shri S. K. Bose, Kenneth Davis, Robert Seamans, Peter Horrobin, F. Taylor Ostrander, David Sternlight, and David Tolmie.

Correspondence with non-WOCOL members includes the correspondence of those persons who were associated with WOCOL as conference observers, advised Wilson on one or two WOCOL-related issues, or in some cases took an active role in WOCOL projects. Many were associated with organizations already represented in WOCOL by a Participant or Associate. Major non-WOCOL correspondents include Barbara Ettles, Gerald Foley, Osgood Nichols, and Michael Koleda.

	Box	Folder
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Address list of Participants and Associates 1979	2	96
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Address list of Participants and Associates 1980 July	2	97
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Austin, Jack (Participant), Canada - Senate 1978-1980	2	98
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Baker, Arnold (Associate), USA - Atlantic Richfield Co. 1979-1980	2	99
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Baker, R. Lisle (Consultant), USA - Suffolk University 1979	2	100
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Belgrave, Robert (Participant), UK - British Institute Joint Energy Programme 1978-1981	2	101
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Bernardini, Oliviero (Associate), Italy - Montedison 1979-1980	2	102
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Bose, Shri S. K. (Participant), India - Coal India Ltd. 1978-1981	2	103

Correspondence Files

Correspondence with WOCOL members: Bosma, Bik (Associate), Netherlands - Energy Study Center 1978-1980	2	104
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Bradshaw, Thornton (Participant), USA - Atlantic Richfield Co. 1978-1980	2	105
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Brodman, John (Liaison), France - International Energy Agency, OECD 1978-1979	2	106
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Brown, Donald (Participant), Australia - CSR Ltd. 1978-1979	2	107
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Ciszak, Eugeniusz (Participant), Poland - Chief Mining Studies and Design Office 1978-1980	2	108
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Colitti, Marcello (Participant), Italy - ENI 1978-1979	3	109
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Colombo, Umberto (Participant), Italy - Montedison 1978-1981	3	110
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Corey, Gordon (Participant), USA - Commonwealth Edison 1978-1979	3	111
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Cretin, Daniel (Associate), France - ATIC 1979	3	112
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Davis, Kenneth (Participant), USA - Bechtel Power Corp. 1978-1979	3	113
Correspondence with WOCOL members: deMontbrial, Thierry (Participant), France - Institute Francais des Relations Internationales 1978-1981	3	114
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Durie, Robert A. (Participant), Australia - R. W. Miller & Co 1978-1980	3	115
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Elms, Brian (Associate), Netherlands/UK - Shell Coal International 1978-1980	3	116

Correspondence Files

Correspondence with WOCOL members: Ezra, Derek (Participant), UK - National Coal Board 1977-1981	3	117
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Gaffen, Michael (Liaison), USA - Department of Energy 1978-1979	3	118
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Gallagher, J. Michael (Technical Director), USA - Bechtel National Inc. 1978-1981	3	119-120
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Giesel, Harold, (Participant), Germany - Gesamtverband de deutschen 1978-1979	3	121
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Gousseland, Pierre (Participant), USA - AMAX Inc. 1979-1980	3	122
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Greene, Robert P. (Deputy Director), USA-MIT 1978	3	123
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Häfele, Wolf (Participant), Austria - International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis 1978	3	124
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Hannus, Seppo (Associate), Finland - Ministry of Trade and Industry 1979	3	125
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Hawthorne, William (Participant), UK - University of Cambridge 1978-1980	3	126
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Horrobin, Peter (Associate), UK - S. G. Warburg & Co. 1979	3	127
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Ikuta, Toyocki (Participant), Japan - Institute of Energy Economics 1978-1980	3	128
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Inaba, Hidezo (Participant), Japan - Committee for Energy Policy Promotion 1978-1980	3	129
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Ippolito, Marc (Associate), France - Charbonnages de France 1979-1980	3	130

Correspondence Files

Correspondence with WOCOL members: Kekkonen, Juha (Associate), Finland - Ministry of Trade & Industry 1979-1980	3	131
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Kinoshita, Akira (Associate), Japan - Electric Power Development Co. 1978-1980	3	132
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Kirvelä, Kaarlo (Participant), Finland - Ekono OY 1979-1980	3	133
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Laverick, Keith (Associate), Australia - Broken Hill Proprietary Co. 1979	3	134
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Leibson, Irving (Associate), USA - Bechtel National Inc. 1979	3	135
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Liu Huan-Min (Observer), China - China Coal Society 1978-1980	3	136
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Lundberg, Arne (Participant), Sweden - Swedish State Co. Ltd. 1978-1981	3	137
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Major, Robert (Associate), USA - AMAX Coal Co. 1979-1981	3	138
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Males, René (Liaison), USA - Electric Power Research Institute 1979-1980	3	139
Correspondence with WOCOL members: McCluskey, Joseph (Associate), USA - Commonwealth Edison 1979-1981	3	140
Correspondence with WOCOL members: McIntosh, Ronald (Participant), UK - S. C. Warburg & Co. 1978-1980	3	141
Correspondence with WOCOL members: McKinlay, Kenneth (Associate), UK - BP Coal 1978-1980	3	142
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Nardelli, Eugenio (Associate), Italy - ENI 1978-1981	3	143

Correspondence Files

Correspondence with WOCOL members: Okita, Saburo (Participant), Japan - Institute for Domestic and International Policy Studies 1978-1981	3	144
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Ormerod, Richard (Associate), UK - National Coal Board 1978-1981	3	145
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Ostrander, F. Taylor (Associate), USA AMAX Coal Co. 1979-1981	3	146
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Page, Garnet (Participant), Canada - Coal Association of Canada 1978-1980	3	147
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Parker, Michael (Associate), UK - National Coal Board 1978-1979	3	148
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Pecchioli, Frank (Participant), Netherlands/UK - Shell Coal International 1979-1980	3	149
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Sachman, Paul, (Participant), Denmark - ELSAM 1978-1980	3	150
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Schilling, Hans-Dieter (Participant), Germany - Bergbau - Forschung GmbH 1978-1980	4	151
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Schmitt, Dieter (Associate), Germany - Institute of Energy Economics 1979	4	152
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Schneider, Hans (Participant), Germany - Institute of Energy Economics 1978-1981	4	153
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Schulz, Hartmut (Associate), Denmark - ELSAM 1979	4	154
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Seamans, Robert (Participant), USA - MIT 1978-1980	4	155
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Sigit, S. (Participant), Indonesia - Department of Mines and Energy 1978-1980	4	156

Correspondence Files

Correspondence with WOCOL members: Smith, Charles (Participant), Canada - Department of Energy, Mines, and Resources 1978-1979	4	157
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Sore, Jean-Claude (Participant), France - Charbonnages de France 1978-1979	4	158
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Stanley-Miller, John (Liaison), USA - Department of Energy 1978-1980	4	159
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Sternlight, David (Associate), USA - Atlantic Richfield Co. 1978-1980	4	160
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Tolmie, David (Associate), Canada - CSR Limited 1978-1980	4	161
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Train, Russell (Participant), USA - World Wildlife Fund 1978-1980	4	162
Correspondence with WOCOL members: van der Wart, Robert (Associate), Netherlands - Netherlands Energy Research Foundation 1978-1980	4	163
Correspondence with WOCOL members: van Rhijn, A. A. T. (Participant), Netherlands - The Hague 1978-1981	4	164
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Viala, M. Albert (Participant), France - ATIC 1978-1979	4	165
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Walsh, John (Associate), Canada - Department of Energy, Mines, and Resources 1978-1979	4	166
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Wiegand, Detlef (Associate), Germany - Bergbau - Forschung GmbH 1978-1980	4	167
Correspondence with WOCOL members: Wybrow, Kenneth (Participant), Australia - Wybrow & Associates 1978-1980	4	168
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Baylis, Kenneth E. (Observer) - UK, Rio-Tinto Zinc Corp. 1979	4	169

Correspondence Files

Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Borré, Peter - USA - Department of Energy 1979	4	170
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Bishop, James (Public Relations) - USA Burson-Marsteller 1980	4	171
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Bundy, William P. (Observer) - USA - <i>Foreign Affairs Magazine</i> 1979	4	172
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Cox, Loren (Observer) - USA - MIT Center for Energy Policy Research 1979	4	173
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: de Ruiters, Hendrikus (Observer) - Netherlands/UK - Shell Coal Intl. 1978-1979	4	174
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Elbek, Bent - Denmark - Niels Bohr Institute 1978-1979	4	175
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: USA - Electric Power Research Institute 1978-1979	4	176
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: USA - Environmental Protection Agency 1979	4	177
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Ettles, Barbara - Canada - Coal Association of Canada 1978-1979	4	178
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Everett, Bruce: USA - Department of Energy 1979	4	179
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Faucounau, Jean - France - Charbonnages de France 1978	4	180
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Flowers, Brian - UK - Imperial College of Science and Technology 1978-1980	4	181
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Foley, Gerald - UK - International Institute for Environment and Development 1979-1980	4	182

Correspondence Files

Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Frannsen, Herman - USA - Department of Energy 1977-1979	4	183
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Garside, Grenville - USA - Senate 1978-1979	4	184
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Goerz, David - USA - Bechtel National Inc. 1979	4	185
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Gordon, Douglas - Canada - Ontario Hydro 1978	4	186
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Griffith, Edward D. - USA - Atlantic-Richfield Co. 1978-1979	4	187
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Grundy, Richard - USA - Senate 1979	4	188
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Heal, N. B. - Australia - Energy Commission of New South Wales 1978	4	189
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Hoffman, Mark - Canada - George Weston, Ltd. 1978	4	190
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Hopkins, J. Wallace - France - OECD International Energy Agency 1978-1979	4	191
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members - France - OECD International Energy Agency 1979-1981	4	192
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Austria - International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis 1978	4	193
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Jackson, Henry - USA - Senate 1978	4	194
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Jacoby, Henry - USA - MIT Energy Laboratory 1978	4	195

Correspondence Files

Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Johnson, Howard - USA - MIT 1979-1980	4	196
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Kelly, Peter - France - OECD International Energy Agency 1979	4	197
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Koleda, Michael - USA - President's Commission on Coal 1978-1979	4	198
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Kohler, Martha - USA - Bechtel National Inc. 1979	4	199
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Lantake, Ulf - France - OECD International Energy Agency 1978-1980	4	200
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Lekäs, Kurt - Sweden - Swedish Coal Study 1978-1979	4	201
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Leuchtenberg, Thomas - USA - Gas Research Institute 1979	4	202
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Liu Wen-Fang - China - Liaison Office 1978-1979	4	203
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Lewis, Susan - USA - New York University 1978	4	204
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Lyall, K. D. - Australia - Department of National Development 1978	4	205
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: MacNeil/Lehrer Report - USA - WETA Television (PBS) 1980	4	206
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: McCloskey, J. Michael - USA - Sierra Club 1978	4	207
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Matthews, Jessica - USA - <i>Washington Post</i> 1980	4	208

Correspondence Files

Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Neill, Roger - USA - Department of Energy 1978	4	209
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: USA - National Coal Association 1980	4	210
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Nichols, Osgood - USA - Osgood Nichols Associates 1978-1980	4	211
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Owen, Henry - USA - Ambassador 1979-1980	4	212
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Peters, Werner - Germany - Bergbau - Forschung GmbH 1978	4	213
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Potter, Frank - USA - House of Representatives 1978-1980	4	214
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Prain, Ronald - UK 1977-1980	4	215
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Read, Ben - USA - Department of State 1978	4	216
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Reddington, James - France - OECD International Energy Agency 1978	4	217
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Reichl, Eric - USA - Conoco Coal Development Co. 1975-1979	4	218
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Rensch, Joseph - USA - Pacific Lighting Corp. 1978	4	219
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Roberts, Walter - USA - Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies 1978-1979	4	220
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Rohatyn, Felix - USA - Lazard Freres 1980	4	221

Correspondence Files

Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Roosa, Robert - USA - Brown Brothers 1978	4	222
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Rockefeller, John, IV - USA - President's Commission on Coal 1978-1979	4	223
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Rosenthal, Jack - USA - <i>New York Times</i> 1980	4	224
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Ruebhausen, Oscar - USA - Debevoise, Plimpton, Lyons, & Gates 1978	4	225
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Sawhill, John - USA - New York University 1978-1981	4	226
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Strongman, John - USA - World Bank 1978-1980	4	227
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Taher, Abdulhady - Saudi Arabia - Petromin 1978-1979	4	228
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Van Vactor, Samuel - France - OECD International Energy Agency 1978	4	229
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Vogelsang, Ingo - USA - MIT Energy Laboratory 1978-1979	4	230
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: White, David - USA - MIT 1978	4	231
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Whitten, Charles - USA - Bechtel National Inc. 1978-1979	4	232
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Wilcox, J. M. - Australia - Department of Trade and Resources 1978	4	233
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Wolfensahn, James - USA - Salomon Brothers 1978	4	234

Conference Files

Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Zimmerman, Martin - USA - MIT Energy Laboratory 1978	4	235
Correspondence with non-WOCOL members: Miscellaneous correspondence 1977-1979	4	236

Series 3. Conference Files 1978-1979**Scope and Contents note**

This series is arranged chronologically by conference, with the US Team Meetings material filed chronologically at the end of the series. Types of records are fairly consistent throughout the series. Materials distributed to all conference participants include agendas, reports of sessions, papers presented, and working group reports.

Box

Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies, Aspen, Colorado: Audio tapes of meetings 1978 October 15-21		7
	Box	Folder
Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies: Chinese delegation 1978 October 15-21	5	237
Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies: Correspondence 1978 October 15-21	5	238
Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies: Local arrangements 1978 October 15-21	5	239
Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies: Papers presented 1978 October 15-21	5	240
Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies: Summary report, volume I 1978 October 15-21	5	241
Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies: Summary report, volume II 1978 October 15-21	5	242

Conference Files

Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies: Visuals 1978 October 15-21	5	243
		Box
Le May d' Artigny, St Paul de Vence, France: Audio tapes of meetings 1979 February 25 to March 3		7
	Box	Folder
Le May d' Artigny: Background readings 1979 February 25 to March 3	5	244
Le May d' Artigny: Local arrangements 1979 February 25 to March 3	5	245
Le May d' Artigny: Summary report, volume I 1979 February 25 to March 3	5	246
Le May d' Artigny: Summary report, volume II 1979 February 25 to March 3	5	247
		Box
Scanticou Conference Center, Aarhus, Denmark: Audio tapes of meetings 1979 June 24-30		7
	Box	Folder
Scanticou Conference Center: Briefing book 1979 June 24-30	5	248
Scanticou Conference Center: Local arrangements 1979 June 24-30	5	249
Scanticou Conference Center: National reports, volume I 1979 June 24-30	5	250
Scanticou Conference Center: National reports, volume II 1979 June 24-30	5	251-252
Scanticou Conference Center: Summary report 1979 June 24-30	5	253
		Box
The Homestead, Hot Springs, Virginia: Audio tapes of meetings 1979 September 20 to October 6		7
	Box	Folder
The Homestead: Briefing book, volume I 1979 September 20 to October 6	5	254

Records about WOCOL Publications

The Homestead: Briefing book, volume II 1979 September 20 to October 6	5	255-256
The Homestead: Chinese delegation 1979 September 20 to October 6	5	257
The Homestead: Local arrangements 1979 September 20 to October 6	5	258
The Homestead: Summary report 1979 September 20 to October 6	5	259
US Team Meetings, MIT, Cambridge, Massachusetts: Background readings 1978 December 7-8	5	260
US Team Meetings, MIT: Correspondence, summary report 1978 December 7-8	5	261
US Team Meetings, AMAX Inc., New York, New York: Agenda, correspondence, visuals, Wilson notes 1979 May 7-8	5	262
US Team Meetings, Atlantic Richfield Co., Los Angeles, California: Agenda, paper circulated 1979 August 21-22	5	263

Series 4. Records about WOCOL Publications 1978-1982**Scope and Contents note**

This series is arranged chronologically by publication and then alphabetically by type of activity. The collection contains copies of the Prospectus (box 5, folder 264) and Brochure (box 5, folder 265). Both outline the objectives, organization, and procedures of the study. The Prospectus was used in the recruitment of sponsors. The Brochure lists the WOCOL members, sponsoring organizations, and conference schedules. The remainder and bulk of the series documents the administrative aspects of producing the two-volume final report. Several folders contain drafts and galley proofs of portions of the report (box 6, folders 290-303), but the published volumes are not in the collection. Of special interest are the publications based on the final report (box 6, folders 276-279), which offer concise overviews of the WOCOL findings and, in one case, a critical assessment (box 6, folder 279). Responses to the release of the report in all WOCOL countries are documented in the volume of press clippings, "World Press Reception of the Final Report" (box 6, folder 287-288).

Box **Folder**

Records about WOCOL Publications

Prospectus of WOCOL 1977-1979	5	264
WOCOL brochure 1979 November	5	265
Final report, copyright agreement 1980 April	5	266
Corrections in final report 1980	5	267
Final report, distribution lists undated	5	268
French translation of final report undated	5	269
Polish translation of final report 1981	5	270
General correspondence regarding final report 1980	6	271
Final report, John Wiley and Sons Inc. - correspondence 1979	6	272
Final report, letters of transmittal 1980	6	273
Final report, McGraw Hill Book Company - correspondence 1978-1979	6	274
“Outreach Plans for WOCOL Report,” by James Bishop Jr. 1980 April	6	275
Publications based on final report: <i>COAL: Energy for the Future</i> , by Shell Briefing Service 1980	6	276
Publications based on final report: “Re-Industrializing with Coal,” <i>Financier</i> , by J. M. Gallagher 1980	6	277
Publications based on final report: <i>Report of the I.E.A. Coal Industry Advisory Board</i> 1980 December	6	278
Publications based on final report: “The World Coal Study,” by C. L. Wilson, <i>Coal and Energy Quarterly</i> (Summer 1980). “What Has WOCOL Done,” by J. Surrey, <i>CEQ</i> (Fall 1980) 1980	6	279
Publisher of final report - Ballinger/Harper and Row: Advertisements 1980	6	280
Ballinger/Harper and Row: Correspondence 1978-1980	6	281-282

Records about WOCOL Publications

Requests for copy of final report 1980-1981, undated	6	283
Requests/permissions to quote for final report 1980-1982	6	284
Responses to final report: Book reviews and clippings 1981	6	285
Responses to final report: Correspondence 1980	6	286
“World Press Reception of Final Report” 1980	6	287-288
Reviewers of final report - correspondence 1980	6	289
Final report, Volume I - Coal conversion chapter by H. D. Shilling - draft, correspondence 1979	6	290
Final report, Volume I - Part I: Annotated Drafts 1979 August	6	291-292
Final report, Volume I - Part I: Comments on G. Foley’s introduction 1979	6	293
Final report, Volume I - Part I: Galley proof 1980 March	6	294
Final report, Volume II - National Reports: Chinese National Report 1979 September	6	295
Final report, Volume II - National Reports: Federal Republic of Germany National Report 1979 September	6	296
Final report, Volume II - National Reports: French National Report 1979 June	6	297
Final report, Volume II - National Reports: Italian National Report (draft) 1979 September	6	298
Final report, Volume II - National Reports: Japanese National Report 1979 September	6	299
Final report, Volume II - National Reports: Netherlands National Report (draft) 1979 September	6	300
Final report, Volume II - National Reports: Swedish National Report 1979 September	6	301

Records about WOCOL Publications

Final report, Volume II - National Reports: United Kingdom National Report 1979 August, 1980 May	6	302
Final report, Volume II - National Reports: Analyses for Non-WOCOL Countries in Africa, Latin America, the Far East, and Southeast Asia 1979 August	6	303