

## OBSERVATORY PUBLICATIONS

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My library dates back to 1904, shortly after Dr. George Ellery Hale came west from Yerkes Observatory to the sleepy little town of Pasadena, California to start the Mount Wilson Solar Observatory. The classification system used in this new library was published for the International Council by the Royal Society of London. Over time the librarians managed to acquire many complete runs of observatory publications from all over the world, and they were arranged alphabetically according to the place where they were published. University publications have been included in this collection as well.

In our library all new material is placed on a display table in our reading room (pictures of our reading room are on the bulletin board) for one week. Normally the observatory publications are shelved in a room next to the reading room, with a few exceptions: some very old material is kept in a storage area in an adjacent building; oversized atlases are kept in a separate area (near the reading room); preprints are stored for approximately one year in drawers in our reading room; and occasionally an item is placed in the monograph collection, according to subject matter.

Catalog cards are filed showing the place of publication as the main entry. Title cards are filed; only rarely is a subject card needed. Shelf list cards act as charge-in records and are kept in the librarian's office.

Although ten years ago most of our library monographs were reclassified using the Library of Congress classification system, the observatory publications will most likely remain under the Royal Society of London, which serves them well. Any change, if there is to be one, would probably come about if we someday computerize our catalog.

Observatory publications may be bound or loose, newsletters are shelved along with their home collections, and an occasional preprint is made a permanent item if it is so suggested. Duplicates (including major journal reprints) are not kept, and ephemerides, with the exception of The Astronomical Almanac (formerly The American Ephemeris and Nautical Almanac) are usually not kept past a two year period, due to a space problem.

In our observatory the Editor handles the production and distribution of our publications.