Between 1910 and 1996, the US Bureau of Mines (USBM) published nearly 12,000 reports as part of their Bulletins, Circulars, and Research Investigations publication series. The excel spreadsheet accompanying this note, includes, at a minimum: report series and number, title, year, author(s), alternate title, and keywords for all of these reports; many entries also include informative notes. An ‘Arizona’ column facilitates search for those titles with an Arizona footprint.

The US Bureau of Mines (USBM) reports focus on the extraction, processing, use, and conservation of mineral resources. Unfortunately, locating digital copies of USBM indexes and reports Bureau of Mines can be challenging. In 1996, the US Geological Survey took up certain functions of the USBM - such as the collection, analysis, and dissemination of minerals information. According to the USGS, the National Technical Reports Library (NTRL) contains a ‘legacy’ collection of USBM publications.

A search of the NTRL for ‘Bureau of Mines’ as the ‘Source Agency’ yielded 5,010 titles. Or approximately 41%, of all USBM published documents. Unfortunately, only a fraction (~15-25%) of the 5,010 titles are digitally linked to reports. The HathiTrust, ‘a partnership of academic & research institutions, offering a collection of millions of titles digitized from libraries around the world’, is another possible source of digital USBM reports.

At its peak in 1968, the USBM employed 6,000 people and staffed 14 centers around the U.S.; its largest division provided for health and safety in mines nationwide. The Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 made the new Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA - https://www.msha.gov/) responsible for enforcing safety and health rules for all U.S. Mines.

Seven examples of USBM reports with an Arizona footprint: title, author(s), year, series & number.

i. Petrographic and Geochemical Analyses of Leach Samples From Artillery Peak, Mohave County, Az. Brink, Susan E., Rolland Blake, and Dianne Marozas, 1995  BM-RI-9554.


vii. Safety work at Calumet and Arizona Mines, Colburn, C.L., 1919  BM-RI.

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