

Step by Step Guide to Using the Aerial Photography Collection

1. To find available aerial photos for the county you are interested in, consult the Holdings Guide online at <http://map.lib.umn.edu/apindex.phtml>. There is also a hard copy in the aerial photo section of the map library.

On the website:

Click on the arrow next to the county name. This PDF shows you the years and scales we have available at the map library. An “*Indexes Available*” link indicates that you can view the index online.

Follow links to *MHAPO*, *MNDNR*, and *NORTHSTAR* to access photo sets available in digital format.

2. How to find photos in formats that are not digital:

Negatives: These are the black canisters on the right side of the aerial photography section. We do not have the ability to reproduce photos indicated as “*Negatives*,” they must be viewed in library.

Slides: Some years are only available as slides, which are located on the wall behind the negatives. In most cases, you will need to know the township, range, and section number for the area you are looking for. There is a slide scanner in the ACIC.

Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Enlargements: Metro area photo enlargements are found in the drawer cases in the aerial photo section. Indexes are on the top of the drawers.

NAAP color infrared: For 1991/1992 NAAP photos, indexes are found in an orange binder on top of the indexes case. They are filed with the rest of the photos in the gray boxes.

High Altitude Aerial Photography: Indexes are found in the binders labeled #70 and #90. Visit <http://map.lib.umn.edu/aphighalt> for holdings.

USGS Statewide Collection: Guide soon to be created.

For all other counties and for other metro area photos, the indexes are found in the big maroon binders.

3. To find the aerial photo you are looking for, you may need a map/atlas to compare since features on the indexes are not labeled. Once you pinpoint the location on the index, note the letter code and number on that photo. Photos are organized by county and year in the gray boxes along the back wall.

High altitude photos are located on the shelves directly behind the negatives (black canisters).

See map on top of the index case if you’re having trouble finding your photos.

If you’re still having trouble, ask for help at the desk!

4. When you are finished, do not re-file the photos! Return small photos to the cardboard box. Place enlargements on top of the enlargement cases. Return slides to the front desk.

Certain aerial photographs circulate to UMN students, staff & faculty as well as Friends of the Library cardholders. Aerial photographs may be copied at the Wilson Library Copy Center or scanned in the ACIC. For more information, ask the front desk attendant.