

The Integration of Grey Literature and Primary Research Data in Open Source Analysis: The Jordan Property Regime

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Abstract

The Jordan Property Regime project was an exciting and challenging in-country research project that combined primary and secondary research, the latter containing substantial amounts of grey literature. Since there is not sufficient time to discuss all of our research in detail, this paper provides the general background of the project, our research methodologies, and highlights our research results and conclusions as they relate to women's rights to land ownership in Jordan. This paper also highlights the invaluable benefit that grey literature provided the researchers to fully discern the cultural, socio-political, and economic factors relevant to the study; this research certainly could not have been as readily substantiated using primary, traditional reference works alone.

Background

Bowman Expeditions

The Bowman Expedition is a global concept in which geographers, scholars, and researchers go to foreign countries to establish or enhance a mutual understanding and appreciation of the legal basis of land ownership, how it is used, mapped, registered, and taxed. The Bowman Expeditions are named in honor of the former American Geographical Society Director, Isaiah Bowman. The expeditions are based on the belief that geographical understanding is essential for maintaining peace, resolving conflicts, and for providing humanitarian assistance worldwide. The Bowman Expeditions provide insights on some of the human conflicts that spring from ruptures in the relationships between land and people. The information discovered in the research process can serve as a tool for foreign policy makers to capture the multi-dimensional and complex sets of land rights and interests that are keys to predicting and responding to global crises.¹ The México Indígena Project was launched as the first Bowman Expedition in 2005. Other Bowman Expeditions have been made to the Antilles Region, Colombia, and Kazakhstan. IIA's project on Jordan's Property Regime was a part of the Bowman Expeditions and was funded by the U.S. Foreign Military Studies Office.



Map 1. Map of Jordan