

For example, the student who, this year, is working up the sources of revenue of the University of Oregon since its founding, will present in graphic form the curves to show the increase of the University revenues and their relations to the expenditure curves.

Some of the material for the research class is easy of access, and the work of the student is simply to collect, and to bring into one paper material from various sources. But some times the material is hard to get, and is obscured under the law systems of record keeping in the early days of the state. One student spent several weeks working over the published reports of the state treasurer and the secretary of state for the first two years of statehood. Repeatedly it was found that the totals given could not be obtained from the items given.

Another thing the student in economic research is taught to do is to weigh the material he finds. For example take this report of the secretary of state on Oregon's finances for 1860-62:*

*Oregon Laws and Journals, Vol XI.

Balance Sept. 10, 1860	\$ 3,899.01
Receipts	91,788.04
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	\$95,687.05
Expenditures	55,372.39
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Balance, Sept., 1862

\$40,315.00

At first sight it looks plausible, but a little inspection shows the disregard for the odd cents in the final subtraction. A further examination shows that the first balance and the receipts are cash items, while the expenditures is the sum of the warrants issued. Not all of these warrants were paid during the period given, and the secretary ignores some \$6,000 worth of warrants that were outstanding at the opening of the fiscal period.

In investigating the fee system, the student often found laws passed granting to county officers certain sums, with but slight attempt to give the reason for the appropriation, and the enactments regarding county boundaries were often vague.

All of these muddles in the books of the early Oregon officials serve only to teach the student the necessity for verifying statements, no matter what their source, and train him to be a keen analyst of whatever material he has to work with.

Thus by searching out widely diffused material and gathering