Academic and Policy Uses of Oil and Gas Archives

Professor Alex Kemp
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Examples of PhDs from Aberdeen relating to Oil and Gas and employing archives

1. W.J. Pike (1991), the Development of the North Sea Oil Industry to 1989, with Special Reference to Scotland’s Contribution. University of Aberdeen (History)

Examples of PhDs from Aberdeen relating to Oil and Gas and employing archives

3. W. Mackie (2001), The Impact of North Sea Oil on the North East of Scotland – A Historical Analysis. University of Aberdeen (History)

Many books have also been written with the employment of archives as a prime source. Examples are as follows under independent and corporate categories.
THE SEA OF LOST OPPORTUNITY
NORTH SEA OIL AND GAS, BRITISH INDUSTRY AND THE OFFSHORE SUPPLIES OFFICE
Norman J Smith

SERIES EDITOR
John Cubitt
The Story of the Craig Group

Jeremy Cresswell
OFFSHORE PIONEERS
BROWN & ROOT AND THE HISTORY
OF OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS

JOSEPH A. PRATT
TYLER PRIEST
CHRISTOPHER J. CASTANEDA
Morten Hahn-Pedersen

A.P. Møller

AND THE DANISH OIL
Drops of black gold

Statoil 1972-2002

Bjorn Vidar Leroen
Portrait in Oil

An Illustrated History of BP

Berry Ritchie
British Petroleum and Global Oil, 1950–1975
The Challenge of Nationalism

James Bamberg
Prelude to Merger:

Joseph A. Pratt
TWILIGHT IN THE DESERT

THE COMING SAUDI OIL SHOCK AND THE WORLD ECONOMY

MATTHEW R. SIMMONS
What Academic and Policy Benefits from Oil and Gas Archives?

1. Is history bunk?
   Or Can study of history (only) enhance understanding of historic events? 
   Or Can study of history inform the present and inspire the future?
What Academic and Policy Benefits from Oil and Gas Archives?

2. Study of archives can reveal thinking with respect to past policy formulation and investment decision-making which can inform future decisions. To obtain full benefit archives which discuss details of thinking and options are likely to be most useful. Summaries alone of final adopted policies and investment decisions unlikely to give adequate insights into options and reasons for choices made. (cont.)
What Academic and Policy Benefits from Oil and Gas Archives?

... Thus, relatively comprehensive archives are most useful for enhancing quality of information and thus basis for sound policy/decision-making.
What Academic and Policy Benefits from Oil and Gas Archives?

3. Example subjects in government policy-making where knowledge of historic thinking and events is useful include the following:
   a) Criteria for assessing licence applications
   b) Criteria for licence relinquishment terms
   c) Criteria for assessing field development plans
   d) Knowledge for assessing reasonable stewardship target
   e) Knowledge for assessing reasonable access to infrastructure terms
What Academic and Policy Benefits from Oil and Gas Archives?

f) Knowledge for assessing likely effects of possible tax changes

g) Knowledge for assessing likely investor reactions to policy changes of all types

h) Knowledge of pros and cons of various functions and other constitutional arrangements for national oil company

i) Knowledge of pros and cons of Oil Fund

j) Lessons from UK licensing and taxation experience for other oil producing countries
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4. With respect to decision-making of investors examples of wider benefits for future relate to the following examples:
   
a) The pros and cons of different field development options and the reasons for the choices made
   
b) The pros and cons of different decommissioning options and the reasons for the choices made
What Academic and Policy Benefits from Oil and Gas Archives?

5. Academic studies in several areas can be greatly enhanced through the availability of quality archives. Examples are as follows:

a) Understanding the process of technological change in the industry

b) Understanding the effects of national policies (such as those noted above) on investor behaviour

c) Understanding investor behaviour more widely such as attitudes to risk-taking would enhance quality of government decision-making
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6. To encourage more PhD and other research work at University the provision of unique information is a main attraction. The availability of knowledge on how other archives in the oil/gas/energy area can be readily accessed would also be attractive to prospective researchers. Link arrangements with other archives such as BP one at Warwick, National Archives at Kew and Edinburgh, and other largely untapped major archives such as British Gas at Macclesfield would also be beneficial.