

In order to complete a shortened version of my thesis for my English Honors Seminar, I used the Michael and Margaret B. Harrison Western Research Center at Shields Library. This center has rare research about the author, Dorothy M. Johnson, which my project focuses on. I knew about the Harrison Western Research Center due to my Western Seminar class during the Fall 2017 quarter; this class is where I developed the basis of my shorter thesis with Professor Scott Simmon.

Regarding methods or strategies I used for my research, I sifted through the library's online database and used the assistance of librarian Dan Goldstein. I checked out many books from the Western section of Shields, which is on the fourth floor of the library in a desolate corner. It was great having the space to myself to delve through the bookcases. Goldstein helped me confirm which books I wanted to use outside of the Harrison Western Research Center, however, the Harrison Center is where I learned the most about my subject given the vast amount of Western resources. The only place in the library I was able to get a book about Dorothy M. Johnson was from the special collections by Michael and Margaret Harrison.

As far as the methods I used when researching, I knew what my claim was (to compare the adapted film versions of three of Johnson's short stories). These models, the films themselves, I already had DVD copies of and also ordered a comprised collection of the three stories Johnson wrote off of Amazon. My secondary and outside sources were the ones I found at Shields, again using the online database to find them. The search terms I used included 'westerns', 'women authors', 'females in westerns', 'western genre', and 'western film'. The content analysis I found was very intriguing, but I soon realized I could not use every single book I wanted to about western cinema. I focused on my framework of Johnson's three stories (*The*

*Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*, *The Hanging Tree*, and *A Man Called Horse*). A flaw of mine for this project was wanting to use Western resources that were not as related to my specific topic, such as other elements of the genre besides Native Americans, the desert landscape, and the shootout scene. I was intrigued by cattle drives, outlaws, and pioneers, but understood that is not what this shortened thesis was about. I was too broad at first when finding a variety of books and had to narrow down my general love for genre.

This research project for my Honors Seminar was a sample of what I aim to do for my longer thesis, which I will complete during the Spring Quarter 2018. This project taught me that the Western genre is still applicable and treasured today, which is also what the Harrison Center showed me. I was inspired by Michael and Margaret's passion for the American West, which is what I knew I wanted to write about when I first saw the center last fall. In the spring, I will continue polishing my current thesis draft and will add about ten more pages to my research. I may need more findings from Shields, specifically ones at the Harrison Western Research Center, and I am excited to continue my project about a genre I, too, am passionate about.