



About the USGS Library

October 2010

The U.S. Geological Survey Library

Established in 1879 to build and organize a collection of scientific materials in the earth sciences, the U.S. Geological Survey Library is now the largest library for earth and natural sciences in the world. The USGS library system is managed by the Core Science Systems Mission Area and includes four libraries in Reston, Va., Denver, Colo., Menlo Park, Calif., and Flagstaff, Ariz. as well as a suite of online tools.

The USGS library is the premier national collection of geologic, ecological, hydrologic and biological publications, supplementing natural science collections in the Nation's large library collections in major universities and government agencies. Materials available from USGS Libraries include books, maps, and published research dating back to the 16th and 17th centuries. USGS Libraries contain an almost complete set of the official USGS materials published over the history of the Survey as well as publications developed by states, provinces, and countries around the globe.

The Library supports the research of the Department of Interior and other government agencies, universities, and professional communities. Their information needs vary greatly and their use of libraries and their services are changing rapidly. USGS libraries are adapting to the needs of their customers in a variety of ways; by licensing access to commercial research, digitizing collections of public domain materials, and interacting more and more with our customers online in a variety of ways. Besides providing resources for scientific investigations, the USGS Library's multidisciplinary collection provides access to geographical, scientific, historic, and technical literature and maps in paper and electronic formats for the public and the private sector. As the work of USGS evolves, the USGS libraries will continue to evolve as well.

Access to the Library

Today library users have access to over a million items: books, periodicals and journals, maps (thematic, topographic, raised relief), microfiche, microfilm, pamphlets, photographs (aerial as well as landscape, in color and black and white), transparencies, field record notebooks, 16 mm film, album slides, lantern slides and negatives, videos and audio tapes, computer media, globes, foreign language materials and electronic books.

The USGS Libraries are open to the public Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Visitors may use library materials on the premises or request items on interlibrary loan through their local library (i.e. public, school, university, or corporate library). An online catalog of library holdings is available on the public home page <http://librarv.usgs.gov/>

The reference staff in each library provides reference services to the public by answering questions received by regular mail, e-mail, FAX, or in person. Expert librarians assist customers in person or by remote access, in using the wealth of well organized library information.

Special Collections

Special collections of the USGS Library include a map archive of USGS topographic quadrangles, a photo library, and a field records collection. Each USGS library also contains unique, rare, and historical research materials.

Digitized photographs from the collection are available as U.S. Geological Survey Photographic Library on the Internet at <http://libraryphoto.cr.usgs.gov/>.

Services Available to USGS Staff

Electronic Resources available from USGS libraries include electronic journals, databases, books, and reference works, USGS licenses over 600 full-text electronic journals Bureau-wide, including:

- Elsevier Science Direct
- Springer Link
- Wiley Interscience
- GeosciencWorld
- Bio One
- JSTOR

Over 20 databases and Online Tools including:

- Scopus and Web of Science
- EndNote Web (for citation management)
- Water Resources Abstracts, Aqualine and GeoRef

Over 1,000 E-Books and over 40 major reference works in the earth and natural sciences

USGS Library Locations

In addition to the four-libraries managed by the GIO, the USGS has small libraries in other locations with collections closely related to the specialized research of their local USGS scientists:

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| 4 Regional Libraries | - Santa Cruz, CA | - Jamestown, ND |
| - Flagstaff, AZ | - Fort Collins, CO | - New Cumberland, PA |
| - Menlo Park, CA | - St. Petersburg, FL | - Sioux Falls, SD |
| - Denver, CO | - Hawaii National Park, HI | - Austin, TX |
| - Reston, VA | - Boise, ID (2) | - Kearneysville, WV |
| | - Lafayette, LA | - LaCrosse, WI |
| 22 Science Center Libraries | - Woods Hole, MA | - Madison, WI |
| | - Laurel, MD | |
| - Anchorage, AK | - Ann Arbor, MI | |
| - Flagstaff, AZ | - Columbia, MO | |
| - Tucson, AZ | - Carson City, NV | |

For more information, visit the USGS Libraries Web site at <http://library.usgs.gov/> or contact the USGS Libraries through the Ask a Librarian service at <http://library.usgs.gov/extrequest.htm>!