

# 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 (USGS) Library is the largest earth sciences collection in the world. The USGS Library System is managed by the Geographic Information Office (GIO), Information Policy and Services Office, and includes four libraries in Reston, Va., Denver, Colo., Menlo Park, Calif., and Flagstaff, Ariz. The library holds over one million books and journals, 700,000 maps, 370,000 microforms, 270,000 pamphlets, and 250,000 photographs. In addition to the four libraries managed by the GIO, the USGS has smaller libraries in other locations with collections closely related to the specialized research of their local USGS scientists.

The USGS Library System supports the research of USGS scientists by providing access to worldwide information resources. While continuing to build and maintain the large collections of maps, books, and periodicals, the USGS Library system is evolving from a traditional library to a more "virtual library." USGS employees, wherever they are located, have desktop access to an increasing wealth of electronic resources 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

## Access to the Library

USGS employees can use the services and collections of the library either onsite or by requesting assistance through mail, e-mail, FAX, or telephone. Full-time and part-time permanent employees may establish borrowing privileges with their regional library. Limited privileges are given to staff with special appointments and to the general public.

An online catalog of USGS library holdings is available on the public USGS Library home page at <http://library.usgs.gov>. In addition, USGS employees have access to major bibliographical databases and electronic journals (licensed for USGS use only), through the internal USGS Library home page at <http://internal.usgs.gov/library>.

## Research and Reference Assistance

Expert librarians in each library assist USGS employees with in-depth reference help, including locating diverse information resources and obscure publications. Upon request, reference librarians will conduct literature searches in additional commercial online databases and obtain quick delivery of source documents. The Reston library will arrange for foreign language translations and other language services on request. USGS employees may place a request for assistance online by accessing the internal USGS Web page, "Ask a Librarian," at [http://internal.usgs.gov/library/int\\_request.html](http://internal.usgs.gov/library/int_request.html).

## Borrowing Materials

The circulation desk staff in each library will assist USGS employees in checking out materials, recalling loaned items, answering questions on circulation policies, and supplying publications or photocopies to USGS users.

Journal articles and library materials will be sent to USGS employees by e-mail, FAX, or overnight delivery when needed quickly. Librarians will borrow publications not owned by the library from other institutions for use by USGS employees through the interlibrary loan (ILL) system or through commercial document delivery services.

## Special Collections

Special collections of the USGS Library include a map archive of USGS topographic quadrangles, a photo library, and a field records library. Digitized photographs from the collection are also available.

## Public Access

The USGS libraries in all four locations are open to the public Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Visitors may use library materials on the premises or request items on ILL through their local library (i.e. public, school, university, or corporate library). The USGS library reference staff provides reference services to the public, answering inquiries received by mail, e-mail, FAX, or in person.

## Contact Information

For more information about the USGS Library System, contact:

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