

Libraries Program

Visiting USGS Libraries

Public users are welcome to visit any of the USGS libraries and use their collections; libraries are open Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Photo identification is required to enter most Federal government buildings. Staff are always available to assist visitors and give informal orientations. Tours by groups can be arranged on request. Visitors may use library materials on the premises. Photocopiers are available at all locations. The online catalog is available from the library home page (<http://library.usgs.gov>).

Help in the Library

Each library has expert reference librarians available to assist with research and provide answers to reference questions received by telephone, fax, or in person.

Borrowing Materials

To borrow materials from a USGS library, members of the public must work through their local library (public, university, or corporate) to request the materials via interlibrary loan. The USGS does not accept requests by telephone or in person.



Branch Locations

Denver Library

U.S. Geological Survey Library
Box 25046, MS 914
Building 20, Room C-2002
Denver Federal Center
Denver, CO 80225-0046
Telephone: 303-236-1000
E-mail: den_lib@usgs.gov

Flagstaff Library

U.S. Geological Survey Library
2255 N. Gemini Drive
Flagstaff, AZ 86001
Telephone: 928-556-7008
E-mail: flag_lib@usgs.gov

Menlo Park Library

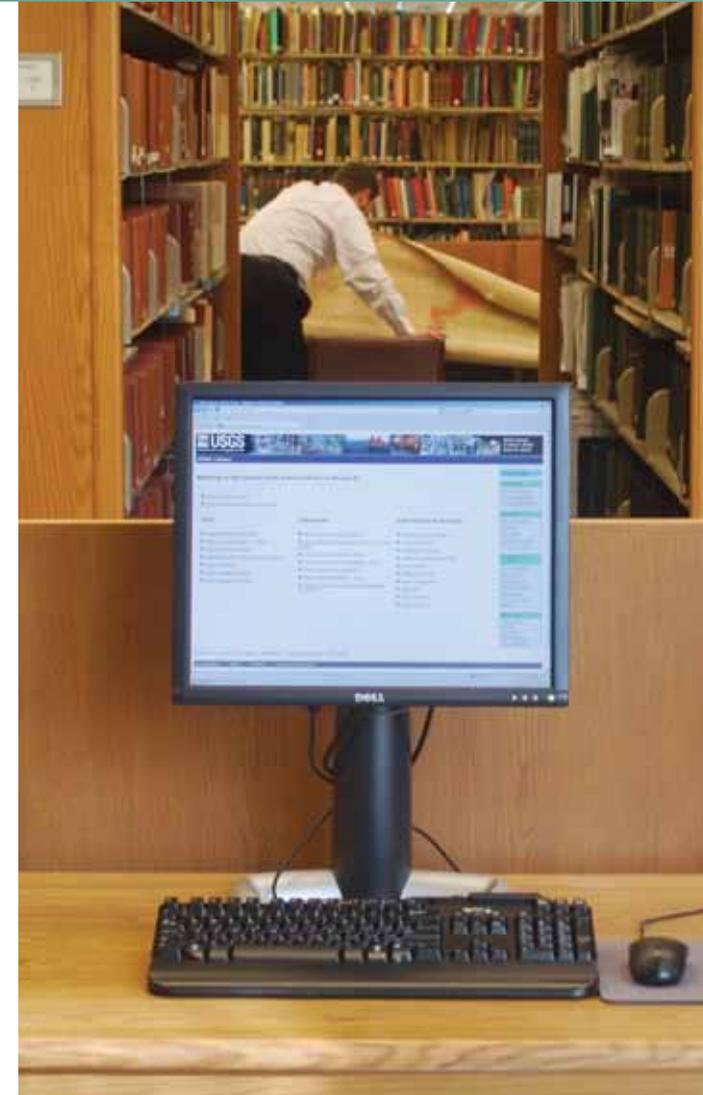
U.S. Geological Survey Library
345 Middlefield Road, MS 955
Menlo Park, CA 94025-3591
Telephone: 650-329-5027
E-mail: men_lib@usgs.gov

Reston Library

U.S. Geological Survey Library
950 National Center Room 1D100
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: 703-648-4302
E-mail: library@usgs.gov

Web Sites

Library <http://library.usgs.gov/>
Publications Warehouse <http://pubs.usgs.gov/>
Photographic Library <http://libraryphoto.cr.usgs.gov/>



General Information Product 125

Overview

History

The U.S. Congress authorized a library for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in 1879. The library was formally established in 1882 with the naming of the first librarian and began with a staff of three and a collection of 1,400 books.

Today, the USGS Libraries Program is one of the world's largest Earth and natural science repositories and a resource of national significance used by researchers and the public worldwide.

Organization

There are four branch libraries and more than 20 smaller libraries in field offices and science centers across the country. Each location features highly specialized items related to the research being conducted locally. Specific locations are listed on the library Web site (<http://library.usgs.gov/>).

The Future

The USGS Libraries Program is pursuing a digital library strategy that is expected to continue expanding access to the research literature that USGS staff and the public need in order to understand the issues our Nation and world face today.

Digital library initiatives are underway to improve the way the USGS manages digital content as well as the ways researchers can find, get, and use Earth and natural science information resources from wherever they are.

Collections

USGS libraries contain approximately 1.5 million volumes spanning more than 400 years of Earth and natural science literature. The libraries also contain more than 700,000 maps covering the globe and more than 500,000 historical photographs documenting the early exploration of the American West and other USGS scientific pursuits since the late 1800s.

Kunz Collection, Reston, Virginia

The George F. Kunz collection is a significant special collection of gems and minerals and includes rare books on gemology, the folklore of gemstones, and archival gem trade records important to the provenance of named stones, such as the "Hope Diamond." Kunz was a special agent for the USGS and vice president of Tiffany & Co. and was a preeminent gem expert.

Photographic Collection, Denver, Colorado

The Photographic Collection is an archive of still photographs and original sketches, dating from the 1870s, taken by USGS scientists as part of their field studies. Selected photographs from the collection can be accessed online from the USGS Photographic Collection Web site (<http://libraryphoto.cr.usgs.gov/>).

Field Records Collection, Denver, Colorado

The Field Records Collection is an archive of field notes, correspondence, manuscripts, maps, analysis reports, and other data created or collected by USGS geologists during field studies and other project work (<http://www.cr.usgs.gov/fieldrecords/>).

Access to Online Resources

Onsite visitors to USGS libraries can access a number of resources, including many of the electronic journal and database subscriptions purchased for use by USGS personnel. To confirm availability of specific resources, please contact the library prior to your visit.

USGS Publications

The USGS Libraries Program manages a central resource for finding and accessing research reports written by USGS staff. The Publications Warehouse contains citations for more than 100,000 reports, articles, and maps. More than 60 percent of the entire catalog of USGS published reports is available online for download from the Publications Warehouse (<http://pubs.usgs.gov/>).

Ask a Librarian

The USGS Libraries Program offers an electronic reference service. If you are a student, teacher, or researcher, you may request assistance in finding information on Earth and natural science topics (http://library.usgs.gov/ext_request.html).

