The NOAA Central and Regional Libraries

Fact Sheet

The NOAA Central and Regional Libraries are both NOAA and National resources. An impressive array of products and services is provided to NOAA and interested citizens by a relatively small Library staff with a small budget. The NOAA Central Library and Regional Libraries are intrinsic to the success of NOAA science and policy makers. NOAA runs on information. The Library is the primary information provider to the NOAA community. Transcending the functional aspect of the Library, even as programs and researchers come and go, even as library staff comes and goes, the Library serves the continuity and legacy of NOAA and its diverse missions like no other entity can.

Library Scope

Subject matters covered – Collection covers many disciplines and related subject areas – oceanography, meteorology, geophysics, climatology, fisheries science, geography, cartography, upper atmosphere, coastal zone studies, marine biology, geodesy, early explorations, navigation, etc., and supporting disciplines of mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, geology, etc.

Geographic area covered – NOAA Central Library collection include documents from over 100 nations, all continents, and all oceans

Time periods covered - Over 5 centuries of information - oldest book 1485, approximately 6,000 documents in Special Collections Room, many published prior to Civil War. Many Nineteenth and Twentieth Century colonial territories' meteorological and other physical science documents reside in Library.

Languages covered - Many if not most written languages can be found in documents in the NOAA Central Library

Size of collection – Estimated over 600,000 individual volumes in NOAA Central Library - millions of individual documents

NOAA libraries catalog (NOAALINC) contains records for 28 NOAA libraries. Contains 223,214 title records, 454,612 item records for all libraries. For individual libraries, NOAALINC contains:

- 114,830 title records for NOAA Central Library, 192,863 item records
- 17,940 title records for NOAA Seattle Regional Library, 21,118 item records
- 14,785 title records for NOAA Miami Regional Library, 15,862 item records
- 5,771 title records for National Hurricane Center/Tropical Prediction Center Library, 6,320 item records.
- 8268 title records and 9,225 item records for Camp Springs Library

Extensive Historical Photograph collection including at least 100,000 black and white photographs and slides

5,000 electronic journals available and numerous databases providing access to tens of millions of citations

Steward of NOAA's Intellectual Heritage

We are the repository and steward of NOAA's and its ancestor agencies' intellectual heritage. By extension, we are stewards for much of the intellectual heritage of the oceanographic, geophysical, and meteorological communities.

First appropriation for the Coast Survey, NOAA's oldest ancestor agency, was for "books and instruments".

Coordination of NOAA Libraries Procurement

NOAA-wide journal subscription contract which 24 NOAA libraries participate in for purchase of online and print subscriptions for NOAA researchers

Purchase of NOAA-wide subscriptions to JSTOR, BioOne.1 and .2, ASFA, NetLibrary, and Wiley.

Coordinate trials for electronic services with other NOAA libraries.

NOAA Central Library Cataloging Activities

The Library and Information Services Division (LISD) maintains the NOAA Library and Information Network Catalog (NOAALINC) which reflects the holdings of the 5 LISD libraries plus 23 other NOAA libraries located nationwide.

LISD staff provide guidance to NOAA librarians at all cooperating NOAA libraries in the creation of metadata records, coordinate the loading of these records into the NOAALINC database to ensure accuracy and completeness, and upload NOAA catalog records to Worldcat, the world's largest bibliographic database used by over 72,000 libraries worldwide.

Present Federal Library Staff (11 individuals) Recipients of:

Federal Library of the Year 2000

1 Gold medal

1 Group Silver Medal

3 Administrator's Awards

5 Bronze Medals

1 General Counsel Award

1 Diversity Spectrum Award

The relatively high ratio of NOAA and Department of Commerce awards issued to the small staff of the NOAA Central and Regional Libraries is a measure of the quality and dedication of NOAA Library employees and their value to NOAA.

Web Presence of Library

The Library websites are discretionary in nature and used by individuals seeking information concerning specific topics or seeking information on NOAA and its work as opposed to those NOAA websites accessed for and dedicated to the protection of life and property. Based on NOAA Web Operations Statistics, Library websites fall between the very popular Ocean Explorer website (Oceanexplorer has more unique users, but fewer pages looked at) and the National Marine Sanctuaries homepage. The Library is a major NOAA Internet resource.

Library Annual Totals

File requests 75.33 million
Page requests 27.12 million
Distinct Hosts 2.02 million (not a firm number as there is probably overlap between categories)

Data Transferred 41.398 terabytes

Library Home Page

lib.noaa.gov
File Requests: 5.16 million
Page Requests: 1.26 million
Distinct Hosts: 235,215
Data Transferred: 1.72 terabytes

Library On-line Documents

docs.lib.noaa.gov
File Requests: 10.34 million
Page Requests: 966,014
Distinct Hosts: 223,767
Data Transferred: 35.259 terabytes

NOAA Photo Library

File Requests 57,994,075
Page Requests 24,309,776
Distinct Hosts 1,404,989
Data Transferred 2.108 terabytes

NOAA History

File Requests 1,835,637
Page Requests 583,762
Distinct Hosts 159,505
Data Transferred .29 terabytes

Partners throughout NOAA

MPA virtual Library

OER Video Laboratory

NOAA History Project

NOAA Photo Library - 47,000 public domain images on-line

Began NOAA Aquaculture Virtual Library

NOAA Restoration Portal

CORIS Digital Library

PPI/NEPA Digital Library

CDMP Digital collections of millions of pages of NOAA climate and historical documents

NOAA Preserve America Initiative, a key participant, grant recipient, partnering with numerous elements of NOAA on their grants

National Projects

Deepwater Horizon Bibliographies

Spearheaded NOAA 200th Anniversary Celebration

Smithsonian Ocean Hall Team

Editor and Coordinator for Hidden Depths: Atlas of the Oceans, NOAA's companion volume to the Ocean Hall

TIROS 2010 50th Anniversary Bibliography/website

NOAA representative to Advisory Committee for Undersea Features of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names

Professional Organizations

NOAA Librarians founders of Atmospheric Science Librarians International (ASLI) - Numerous past and present officers including a chairperson and five treasurers. In addition, the present webmaster is the Seattle Regional Librarian.

Active participants in The International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers (IAMSLIC) including a past president

Miami Regional Librarian founder of SAIL regional affiliate group of IAMSLIC

Active participant in Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts, the premier ocean science database of citations and abstracts

Education and Outreach:

Manage NOAA-wide subscription to EndNote, Bibliographic Reference Management Software produced by Thomson-Reuters. Endnote is used extensively by NOAA professionals in the publishing process for papers, peer review, and publications. Staff also use EndNote to organize, share and manage citations and references to inform federal register and scientific decisions.Approximately 800 users within NOAA, paid for by all LOs according to usage via DirectSite.

Library Training - 100's of NOAA employees introduced to Library services and products

NOAA Central Library has hosted 438 noon "Brown Bag Seminars" covering a wide array of NOAA science and policy issues– these seminars are a forum for the exchange of ideas and information and literally thousands of individuals have attended since inception of the program in 1994.