



**Western Region Technical Attachment  
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**NOAA LIBRARY: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE WITH  
CUSTOMIZED SERVICE**

*[Editor's Note: The following Technical Attachment is extracted from Southern Region's Technical Attachment SR/SSD 94-68 dated December 15, 1994.]*

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) Central Library maintains a collection of more than one million books, journals, technical reports, and other sources that support research in disciplines such as the atmospheric sciences, fisheries, space sciences, marine biology, meteorology, oceanography, and related disciplines of interest to NOAA. The library collection incorporates the holdings of NOAA's predecessor and component agencies, including Coast and Geodetic Survey, National Weather Service, U.S. Fisheries Commission, and Environmental Data Service. Most of the collection dates from 1820. Recently, the NOAA Central Library was designated a Government Printing Office (GPO) Depository; thus a considerable number of GPO publications are also available.

The NOAA Central Library in Silver Spring Metro Center Building 3 is a resource for all NOAA staff and is also open to the public. Library staff members will find answers to brief reference questions or more complex research questions. "Quick reference" questions include determining if an item is present in the library, book verification, local climatological data retrieval, and referrals. When the library staff receives a request for information beyond the scope of the library's materials, the library staff will provide guidance on where the requester can get the information.

For in-depth information retrieval, the library provides a computerized literature service including CD-ROM and on-line retrieval from more than 500 databases of environmental and other information. Information on the centralized, automated NOAA Library and Information Catalog (NOAALINC) can also be accessed from a personal computer via a modem. NOAALINC includes information on the availability of materials in NOAA libraries throughout the country.

NOAA's library is operated by the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Services (NESDIS) National Oceanographic Data Center. For general information, call (301) 713-2607 during normal office hours (Eastern time zone). For reference materials, literature searches, or information about the NOAALINC, call (301) 713-2600 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Eastern time zone), Monday through Friday.