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U.S. Geological Survey Library: Special Collections

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Field Records Library, Denver

The Field Records Collection in Denver, Colorado, is an archive of materials created or collected by USGS scientists during field studies and other project work. The majority of the collection dates from 1879 and relates to work done in the contiguous United States. Materials in the collection include:

Field notes	Analysis reports
Sketches and maps	Stratigraphic logs and columns
Plane-table sheets	Geologic sections
Compilation maps	Drafts of published and unpublished reports and maps
Aerial photographs (many with annotations)	Project-related correspondence

The Field Records Collection is open to USGS employees and the public. For further information, call (303) 236-1005.

Geoscience Education Outreach Centers (GEOCenters)

The Reston, Denver, and Menlo Park libraries maintain GEOCenters, containing materials that are loaned to teachers in the region and to USGS staff who speak before public gatherings and school groups. The collections include maps, posters, models of the earth and dinosaurs, rock samples, books, videos, and other instructional materials. For information on the use of these collections, contact the appropriate regional library.

Map Collections

The Denver, Menlo Park and Reston libraries have broad collections of maps covering domestic and foreign areas. The Flagstaff library concentrates on maps of the Southwestern United States. Staff can provide information or referral on a variety of cartographic topics.

USGS Topographic Maps - These maps date from the early 1880's to the present.

Denver - The collection includes current and historic editions of topographic maps for all states.

Flagstaff - Although the emphasis is on current and historic editions of 15-minute quadrangles of the Southwestern states, the library includes 1:250,000 and 1:100,000 sets for all states.

Menlo Park - The library has current editions for the Western states and historic editions for California only. Current editions of map sets for 1:250,000 and 1:100,000 are available for all states.

Reston - The collection includes current and historic editions of topographic maps for all states.

USGS Series Maps- Denver, Menlo Park, and Reston have complete sets of specialized maps showing the geology, water resources, minerals, and other earth science aspects of areas of the United States, foreign countries, and outer space. Flagstaff has nearly complete sets of all series.

Non-USGS Maps - All four libraries have extensive collections of maps published by other mapping organizations, both domestic and foreign. The maps deal with subjects represented in the book collection. In general, the USGS Library does not collect detailed topographic maps of areas outside North America.

Related Materials - In addition to maps, the USGS Library collects atlases, gazetteers, map catalogs, indexes, and other materials related to maps and mapping. Contact the library closest to you for more information.

Photographic Library, Denver

The Photographic Library, located in Denver, Colorado, is an archive of still photographs dating from the 1870's and taken by USGS scientists as part of their field studies. The works of pioneer photographers W.H. Jackson, T.H. O'Sullivan, C. Watkins, J.K. Hillers, T. Moran, A.J. Russell, E.O. Beaman, and W. Bell are represented in the collection. Topics include portraits of USGS personnel, earth science subjects, 19th century mining operations, and personnel at work.

Reproductions (prints, transparencies, and negatives) may be ordered from the library at cost. Because the collection consists of more than 300,000 photographs, researchers are encouraged to visit in person to make their selections. Three photo CD-ROM's in the Digital Data Series (DDS) provide an overview of the collection and are available for purchase as DDS-8, DDS-12, and DDS-21. Topics covered include earthquakes, volcanoes, geologic hazards and other phenomena, historical mining operations in Colorado and Utah, and earth science photographs. For more information, call (303) 236-1010.

The photographs from the DDS-21 CD-ROM are now available on the Web. They are grouped by geologic category, national parks, national monuments, and pioneer photographers but can be searched by free-text terms as well. To view the Earth Science Photographs from your browser, link to <http://minerals.cr.usgs.gov/cabston/dds21lib.htm>.

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