



Library Exchange Program

October 2010

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO THE USGS LIBRARY EXCHANGE PROGRAM

ESTABLISHMENT (1879):

As stated in paragraph 5 of the United States Geological Survey Establishing Legislation:

" ... All special memoirs and reports of said survey shall be issued in uniform quarto series if deemed necessary by the Director. ... Three thousand copies of each shall be published and all literary and cartographic materials, received in exchange shall be the property of the United States and form a part of the library of the organization ..."

PURPOSE:

The Exchange Program provides USGS publications to public and private organizations and libraries for use by scientists and researchers worldwide.

The Program acquires publications for the USGS Libraries on a global basis.

BENEFITS:

Exchange agreements eliminate vendor fees, renewal paperwork, credit card processing, purchase orders, invoices, foreign currency exchange and other accounting problems.

The Library can obtain materials quickly and without interruption through automatic exchange distribution.

Fluctuating political situations can jeopardize the purchasing process, but USGS Library exchanges have continued through world wars and in the absence of diplomatic relations. For example, we have maintained exchanges with partners in Germany and Russia throughout hot and cold wars. We established an exchange with a Cuban government agency in the 1970s.

Some scientific organizations do not sell their publications. Often these materials can only be obtained by non-members on a "quid pro quo" basis.