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# Status of the NOAA Libraries and Path Forward

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# \* With Significant Contributions from



## **NOAA Research Council's Ad Hoc Committee on Libraries**

- Neal Kaske, NESDIS – Committee Co-Chair
- Dottie Anderson, OCIO – Committee Co-Chair
- Stanley Elswick, NESDIS – Committee Exec Sec
- Bill Cushman, OAR
- David Fahey, OAR
- Sonja Kromann, NMFS
- Patti M. Marraro, NOS
- Linda Pikula, NESDIS
- Joan Segal, OCIO
- Steve Quillen, NESDIS
- Kyle Shertzer, NMFS
- Leroy Spayd, NWS



# Outline



- Purpose
- Issues and Challenges
- Background
  - Current State of the NOAA Libraries
  - Progress to Date
- Recommendation



# Purpose



- Decision Briefing
- To inform the NEP of the current state, issues, and challenges of the libraries in NOAA.
- Obtain a NEP decision to champion and provide management and accountability in developing a consolidation plan for a more efficient and effective NOAA Library system.



# Issues



- NOAA is a science and information based agency that requires library services and collections.
  - *“The library is a valuable resource to researchers. Our work both begins and ends there. It houses the articles and books we need to do our job, and it houses our finished product, research papers.”*  
NOAA Researcher, 2012
- There is an urgent need to ensure NOAA’s libraries more effectively provide the information services and knowledge management needed by its customers.



# Challenges



- Resources are decreasing
- Libraries are closing
- Costs of materials are increasing
- Technology is changing
- Facility portfolio is not optimized
- Services to customers are compromised
- Centralized management, oversight and advocacy is lacking



# Current State of the Libraries: Services and Collections



- **Services**
  - Desktop access to thousands of resources
    - 20-25K unique visitors each month spanning 120 countries
  - Ask-a-Librarian
  - Interlibrary Loan
  - Virtual Libraries
  - NOAA Institutional Repository
  - Metadata Standards
  - Tours and training
  - Brown Bag Seminars
  - Space for collaboration and intellectual refuge
- **Collections**
  - Scientific books and journals (print and online)
  - Photos, videos, maps, DVDs, and charts
  - NOAA history collections
  - Rare books collection
  - Imaged historic documents and maps
  - Online historical photo collection



# Current State of the Libraries: Geographic Locations



<b>Alaska</b> <a href="#">Juneau</a> <a href="#">Kodiak</a>	<b>Colorado</b> <a href="#">Boulder</a>	<b>Maryland</b> <a href="#">Camp Springs</a> <a href="#">Oxford</a> <a href="#">Silver Spring</a>	<b>Mississippi</b> <a href="#">Pascagoula</a>	<b>Oklahoma</b> <a href="#">Norman</a>
<b>California</b> <a href="#">La Jolla</a> <a href="#">Pacific Grove</a> <a href="#">Santa Cruz</a>	<b>Connecticut</b> <a href="#">Milford</a>	<b>Massachusetts</b> <a href="#">Woods Hole</a>	<b>New Jersey</b> <a href="#">Highlands</a> <a href="#">Princeton</a>	<b>Rhode Island</b> <a href="#">Narragansett</a>
	<b>Florida</b> <a href="#">Miami-3</a> <a href="#">Panama City</a>	<b>Michigan</b> <a href="#">Ann Arbor</a>	<b>North Carolina</b> <a href="#">Asheville</a> <a href="#">Beaufort</a>	<b>South Carolina</b> <a href="#">Charleston</a>
	<b>Hawaii</b> <a href="#">Honolulu</a>			<b>Tennessee</b> <a href="#">Oak Ridge</a>
				<b>Washington</b> <a href="#">Seattle-3</a>





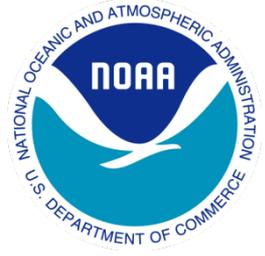
# Current State of the Libraries: Facilities, Staff, and Catalogs



<b>LO</b>	<b>Libraries</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Sq. Ft.</b>	<b>Cataloged Items</b>
NESDIS	5	23	39,046	260,294
NMFS	15	19	25,008	99,292
NOS	3	6	4,453	25,884
NWS	1	1	1,732	9,339
OAR	4	8	7,860	15,062
OCIO	1	8	10,669	25,401
<b>totals</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>88,768</b>	<b>435,272</b>



# Current State of the Libraries: Staffing



- Total library staff 65
  - 37 professional librarians
  - 18 supporting staff
  - 8 others
  - 2 volunteers or interns
- 38 are federal employees



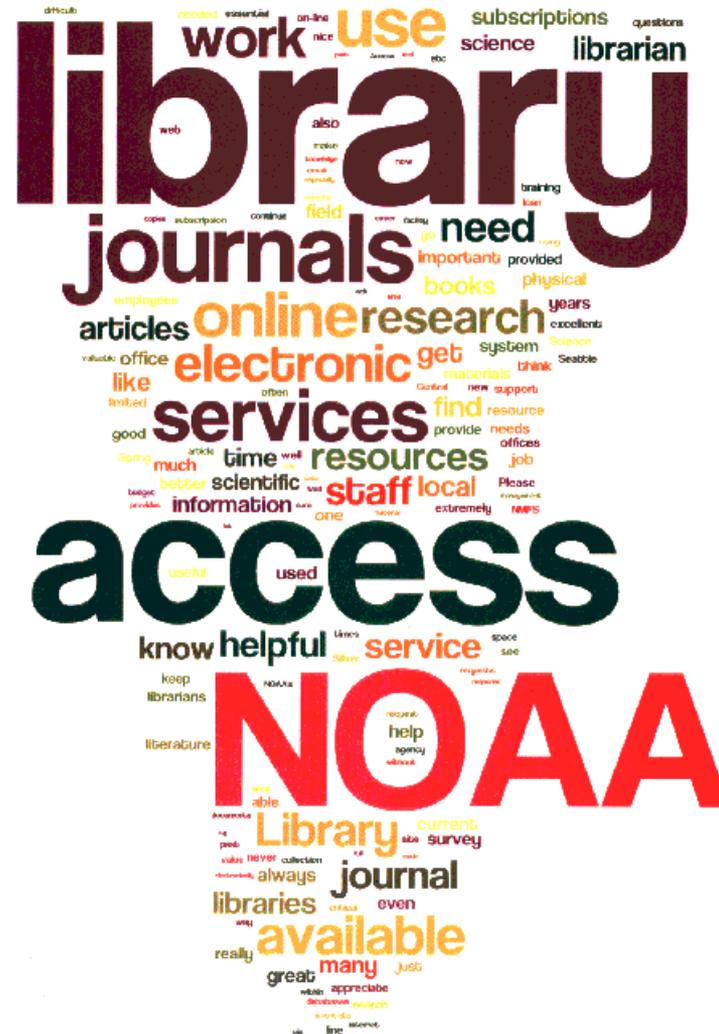
# Progress to Date

- **Pursuing purchasing efficiencies**
- **Developing facilities optimization plans**
- **NOAA Research Council Ad Hoc Committee on Libraries**
  - Reports and the NOAA-wide survey are available at <http://www.lib.noaa.gov/survey/>
  - Survey of users January 2012
    - 3,444 responses
    - 1,300 individual written comments
    - 1/3 noted they did not have access to a NOAA library
    - Access to online journals was highly requested
    - The results of the NOAA-wide survey were analyzed as a total and by line offices.



# Progress to Date

## Word Cloud of Survey Feedback





# Progress to Date



## Ad Hoc Committee Phase 2 Recommendations

A more effective NOAA library system will feature consistent and reliable funding at the corporate level to make the following happen:

1. A set of core resources available to all NOAA staff
2. A NOAA Institutional Repository (IR) for digital material available to NOAA staff and the public
3. A strategic communications and continuing education plan
4. An improved NOAA library organizational structure

For full details see <http://www.lib.noaa.gov/survey/>



# Recommendation



- Provide NEP management and accountability for a solution
- Identify NEP members to serve as champions
- Create a Library Task Force from the Ad Hoc Committee
  - NOAA Central and Regional Library Director to chair
- NEP champions deliver decision brief in November for:
  - Consolidation plan with timing, management structure, budget structure, and levels of authority



# Backup Slides

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# NOAA Research Council's *Ad Hoc Committee on Libraries: Phase I Charge*



- In Phase I of its task, the Committee will develop an Action Plan including descriptions of the following:
  - The current situation with respect to NOAA's purchasing of journal subscriptions, databases, and e-books;
  - Recommendations for steps that could be taken immediately to eliminate the cost of as many "decentralized" and "redundant" electronic subscriptions as possible and to apply those savings to purchasing centralized electronic subscriptions, with the goal of maintaining, and, to the extent possible, increasing the current level of access to journals across NOAA.



# NOAA Research Council's Ad Hoc Committee on Libraries: Phase I Recommendations



- Stabilize and confirm the commitment to financially support NOAA libraries to acquire quality research materials and to be interactive about defining their needs and accommodating solutions that have budgetary and other constraints.
- Establish an enterprise-wide central funding source for the purchase of a core list of journals, databases, and e-books that everyone in NOAA can access online.
- Charge the NOAA Central Library with execution of this annual purchase with input and agreement on the selection of core journals, databases, and e-books coming from the other NOAA library organizations.
- Recognize the need to maintain individual library budgets to fund the acquisition of specialized library materials, journals, databases, and e-books required to support local research.
- Charge NOAA Central Library, with assistance from others, to negotiate NOAA-wide agreements for library materials and to make all of NOAA aware of these resources.
- Document the process and the titles selected and produce a NOAA-wide collection development plan for the licensing of electronic journals, databases, and e-books.
- Report annually to NOAA's Research Council and others on the



# NOAA Research Council's *Ad Hoc Committee on Libraries: Phase II Charge*

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- In Phase II, the Committee will develop an Action Plan including descriptions of the following:
  - The current situation with respect to total library costs, FTEs, and space;
  - At least one recommended situation in terms of total library costs, FTEs, and space, and the milestones and dates by which a transition from the current to the recommended state would be achieved (the recommendation should include cost savings while maintaining sufficient library services); and,
  - Alternatives to the recommended situation.”



# Phase II: Committee Recommendations



A more effective NOAA library system will feature **consistent and reliable funding at the corporate level to make the following happen:**

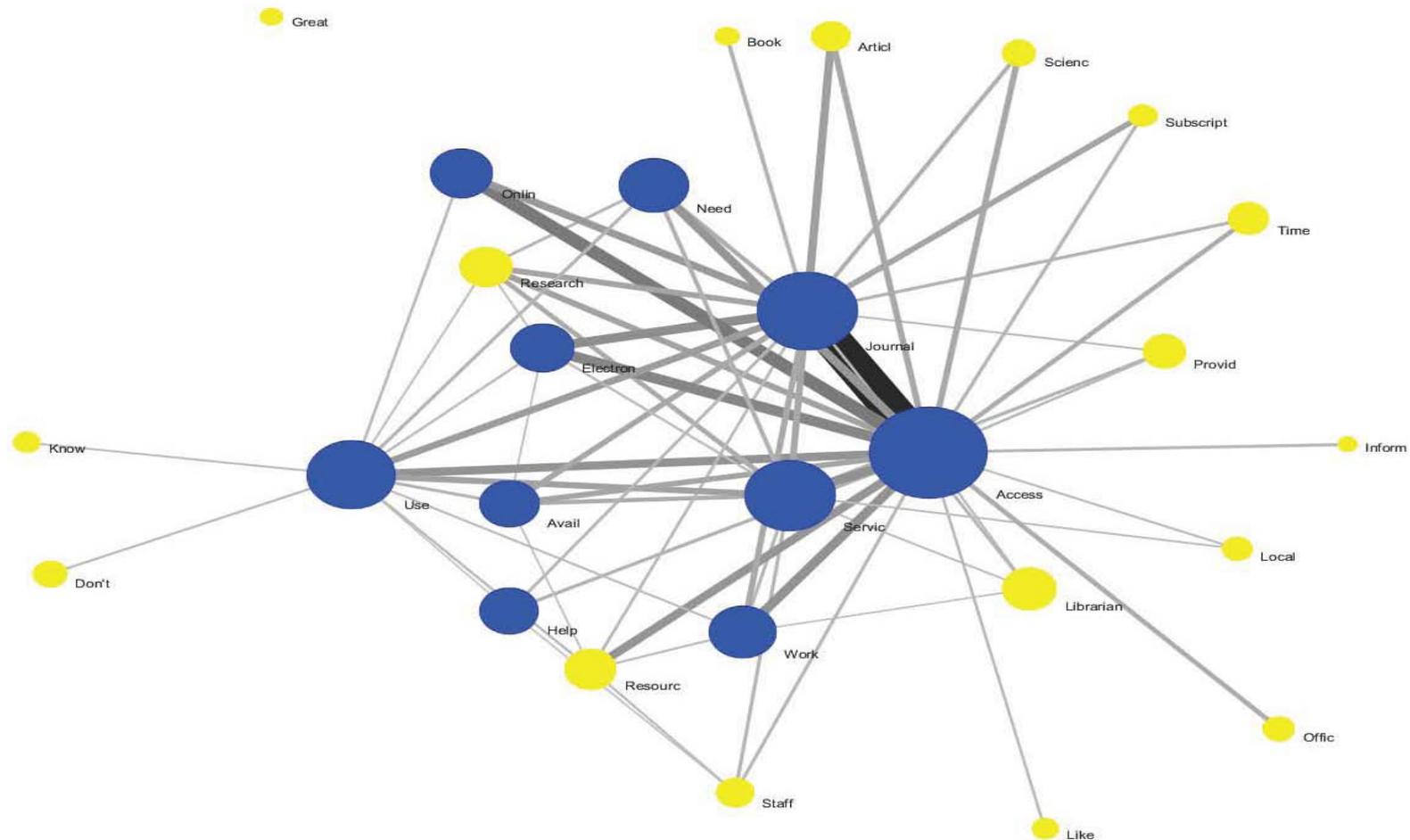
- **1. A set of core resources available to all NOAA staff**
  - electronic journals, databases, e-books, and related software that all of NOAA can access
  - distributed set of printed resources within the NOAA library network available to all NOAA staff
  
- **2. A NOAA Institutional Repository (IR) for digital material available to NOAA staff and the public**
  - **collection, preservation, and access to all NOAA digital intellectual output**
  - collection, preservation, and access to pertinent non-NOAA non-copyrighted material
  - a digitization program to convert print NOAA legacy publications into a digitized form for inclusion to the IR



# Phase II: Committee Recommendations Continued



- **3. A strategic communications and continuing education plan**
  - plan to inform and educate all NOAA staff in the services available through the NOAA library system
  - a continuing educational program for librarians and library staff which permits them to stay current with required skills and knowledge to continually provide high quality services to NOAA's staff and the public where possible
  
- **4. An improved NOAA library organizational structure**
  - central coordination of the acquisition and distribution of core NOAA-wide information resources
  - coordinates the provision of services via phone, email, chat, social media, or any other means, regardless of location,
  - addition or re-assignment of librarians to cover added functions of electronic resource management, coordination of services, and training and outreach to NOAA librarians and staff
  - coordination of any closing or downsizing of libraries to ensure that NOAA intellectual heritage is not lost



The Word Network of Comments was generated by using Sci2 (see <https://sci2.cns.iu.edu/user/index.php>). The words “Library” and “NOAA” were used as “stop words” and thus do not appear in this network. The network shows the relationship between 28 words that are used 100 or more times. The nodes (circles) being the words (note: some words are truncated) and the thickness of the lines between the words (edges) represents the two words appearing together in more than 100 comments. From this network one can see there is a clear relationship between **access, journal, service, online, electronic need, use, and research. Therefore, the message is clear from these two analysis techniques - online journal access is needed for research.**

# Current State of the NOAA Libraries: Staffing, Facilities, and Collections

Libraries	Offices	Staff	Square Feet	Number of Cataloged Items
Miami AOML	NESDIS	4	2,434	16,109
Miami NHC	NESDIS	1	812	6,548
Silver Spring	NESDIS	16	28,000	195,881
Asheville	NESDIS	1	1,800	19,176
Seattle Regional	NESDIS	1	6,000	22,580
<b>Sub Totals</b>		<b>23</b>	<b>39,046</b>	<b>260,294</b>

Juneau	NMFS	1	1,200	28,388
Kodiak	NMFS			*
La Jolla	NMFS	2	2,328	7,316
Pacific Grove	NMFS	1	248	*
Santa Cruz	NMFS	1	2,900	7,080
Milford	NMFS	2	1,420	1,804
Miami NMFS	NMFS	1	1,120	3,941
Panama City	NMFS	1	2,200	981
Honolulu PIFSC	NMFS	1	1,200	6,862
Woods Hole	NMFS	1	1,120	3,107
Pascagoula	NMFS	1	3,000	875
Highlands	NMFS	2	3,300	6,905
Narragansett NMFS	NMFS	1		*
Seattle NMML	NMFS	2	1,972	2,855
Seattle NWFSC	NMFS	2	3,000	29,178
<b>Sub Totals</b>		<b>19</b>	<b>25,008</b>	<b>99,292</b>

Oxford	NOS	3	1,170	4,330
Beaufort	NOS	1	2,648	16,979
Charleston	NOS	2	635	4,575
<b>Sub Totals</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>4,453</b>	<b>25,884</b>

Camp Springs	NWS	1	1,732	9,339
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Princeton	OAR	2	576	5,665
Oak Ridge	OAR	1	224	*
Ann Arbor	OAR	1	1,300	8,716
Norman	OAR	4	5,760	681
<b>Sub Totals</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>7,860</b>	<b>15,062</b>

Boulder	OCIO	8	10,669	25,401
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<b>Totals</b>		<b>65</b>	<b>88,768</b>	<b>435,272</b>
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\* = not in NOAALINC.

Note: Some libraries have their own catalog and do not have everything in NOAALINC (Boulder, Norman)