

**THE LIBRARY OF THE
FORSCHUNGSZENTRUM FÜR MARINE WISSENSCHAFTEN
(GEOMAR)
RESEARCH CENTER FOR MARINE GEOSCIENCES - KIEL**

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The marine geosciences in Kiel do not have a long tradition. After their earliest beginnings as part of the Institute of Oceanography in Kiel, the study of marine geology was more or less shut down in Kiel. It was not until the end of the 1950's that research and teaching in the broader field of marine geosciences were able to develop from modest beginnings as part of the Geological-Paleontological Institute and Museum, the Institute of Geophysics and as part of other institutes of the University. These aspects have enjoyed growing national and international esteem during the past decades. They have been accompanied by the impressive development of the Institute of Oceanography in Kiel, which is now one of the most distinguished European oceanographic research institutes. Despite this growth, the marine geosciences are not represented in this institute.

In the scientific community has been a growing desire to have, in addition to the numerous specialized working groups for marine geology and marine geophysics in the Federal Republic of Germany, additional and innovative lines of scientific specialization in the field of marine geosciences.

Plans for the development and expansion of this branch have been worked out in various committees of the German Research Foundation and of the Federal Ministry of Research and Technology since the beginning of the 1980's. In 1984 the four northern German coastal states decided to establish additional research centers and expand existing research centers in the fields of marine geosciences.

In Schleswig-Holstein this planning phase led to the creation of GEOMAR, which presently consists of the Research Center for Marine Geosciences and the GEOMAR Technologie GmbH and is housed on the premises of the Kiel fish market. The liaison between a research center for basic research financed by a public foundation and an industrial firm supported by private industry is designed to foster intensive collaboration between scientists and technicians. Through this cooperation, innovative joint ideas and products which stem from scientific research in the field of the marine geosciences can be developed. Highly trained specialists operate and maintain sophisticated instrumentation necessary in the modern marine geosciences.

At the same time, specialists are able to keep up to date with new methods and techniques. This blend of both aspects is expected to bring advantages for a broad spectrum of teaching possibilities which are to be grouped in a Study Center for Marine Geosciences at GEOMAR. It will be established in the near future. The GEOMAR Research Center for marine geosciences carries out basic research and examines the natural and artificial processes which shape the floor of the oceans of the world. The formation, features and structure of sediments and of magmatic rocks in the sea differs fundamentally from the geology of landmasses, are the central topics of research in the marine geosciences. GEOMAR's scientific interests follow those of selected well-defined and essential perspectives for marine geosciences.

The research center presently consists of four departments, each with its own scientific focus:

- marine environmental geology
- paleoceanology
- oceanographic geodynamics
- volcanology and petrology

At GEOMAR a specialized library is under development. In addition to general scientific literature the emphasis lies on the sections of marine geosciences and oceanic technology. The library contains about 4,00 volumes and more than 100 journal subscriptions; as well as numerous yearbooks, newsletters, and annual reports.

The holdings are catalogued with a library software. A Datex-P-Connection is mainly used for the fast online-order of English and American monographs. A connection with geological data bases is planned. For the time being the data base GEOREF on CD-ROM is used for our literature investigations.

GEOMAR's location at the Kiel fish market, relatively remote from the university campus with its university and institute libraries, requires a well-equipped library in order to meet the needs of its users.

There is close cooperation among the libraries of the Geological-Paleontological and the Mineralogical-Petrographical Institutes, the Institute of Geophysics and Oceanography, and the university library. Moreover, arrangements for quick and non-bureaucratic aid exist with the other members of the national Association of Marine Sciences Libraries.