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Geoscience Information Society
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CLARA McLEOD HONORED FOR DISTINGUISHED LIBRARY SERVICE

Clara McLeod, Earth and Planetary Sciences Librarian at Washington University in St. Louis, is the recipient of the 2019 Mary B. Ansari Distinguished Service Award of the Geoscience Information Society (GSIS). The award was presented on September 24 in Phoenix at the society’s annual meeting, held in conjunction with the meeting of the Geological Society of America. It recognizes significant contributions to the field of geoscience information.

“Clara has been a wonderful and selfless colleague, warm and informative,” commented Louise Deis (Princeton University Library), chair of the selection committee. “She has provided unassuming leadership and many significant contributions to the Geoscience Information Society and geoscience librarianship.”

For more than a decade McLeod has led and coordinated “Geoscience Librarianship 101,” the Society’s annual professional development workshop. She served as GSIS secretary from 1992-1994 and has chaired the Membership and Distinguished Service Award committees. She also served on the Society’s Exhibits and Field Guidebooks committees. From 2000-2014 McLeod represented GSIS on the Cartographic Users Advisory Council.

McLeod received her B.A. degree from Spelman College with a major in Biology, completed her MSLS at Atlanta University, and did further study at Indiana University School of Library and Information Science. She began her professional librarian career as an Assistant Cataloger and Assistant Reference Librarian at West Virginia State College Library and served as Coordinator of Technical Services and Head Cataloger at Texas Southern University Library. Subsequently she worked at Abbott Labs in North Chicago and at Indiana University Libraries, where she was an associate Librarian responsible for a science branch library and taught a graduate course on the literature of science and technology.

In 1985, McLeod became Science Engineering Librarian at Washington University in St. Louis and was promoted to her present position in 1987. She has chaired and served on university and library committees and presented on various topics to faculty, staff, students, and organizations.

The Ansari Distinguished Service Award was established in 2005 through the generous support of Mary B. Ansari, Director Emerita for Branch Libraries and Administrative Services at the University of Nevada-Reno and past president of GSIS.
The Geoscience Information Society (www.geoinfo.org) is an international professional organization devoted to improving the exchange of information in the earth sciences. The membership consists of librarians, editors, cartographers, educators, and information.

[Photo caption: Clara McLeod (Washington University at St. Louis), at right, accepts the 2019 Mary B. Ansari Distinguished Service Award from Geoscience Information Society president Cynthia Prosser.]