Corporate Geosciences Librarianship

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Geoscience Librarianship 101
Indianapolis, IN
Where Hess explores and produces....

Hess Corporation is a leading independent energy company with operations globally. To learn more about Hess Corporation’s assets, click on a Hess location.
Hess Library patrons

• 12 offices (North America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and South America)
• Numbers have fluctuated – 180 to 490
• Geologists
• Geophysicists
• Geotechs and Engineering techs
• Engineers
• Business Development
• First five year program employees for all of the above
• Summer interns for all of the above
Hess Technical Library….and staff
Technical Librarian – Roles and Responsibilities

• Solo librarian – single point of contact for:
  ◦ Reference requests
  ◦ Document delivery
  ◦ Copyright questions
  ◦ Book orders/loans
  ◦ Library subscriptions
  ◦ Library resource training
  ◦ Information requests outside of the library – point patrons to appropriate departments (Central Records, Subsurface Data Management, etc.)
  ◦ Approval process and digital repository for externally published papers, presentations, etc. by Hess technical employees
## Pros/Cons of Solo Corporate Librarianship

- I get to do it all/no one else to do it (and in many cases, no one to back me up)
- Opportunities to work on projects outside of the library/most projects do not result in improvements or long-term change
- Travel/operational locations (drilling sites) are in remote locations
- Work with people in all locations worldwide/phone calls, web meetings, video chats that have to accommodate various time zones (lots of very early or very late meetings)
Information/Knowledge management responsibilities:

• Manage and maintain internal websites and shared drive folders
  ◦ Care attention to file names – search
  ◦ Folder structure/taxonomy – browse
  ◦ Enterprise architecture
  ◦ Controlled vocabularies
Corporate Oil and Gas Librarians

• E&P (aka Upstream) companies
  ◦ Most have 2-3 librarians; major E&P companies have multiple library locations with up to 25 librarians
  ◦ Geologist, geophysicists, geochemists, engineers, seismic analysts

• Midstream companies (pipelines, gathering systems)
  ◦ Not many libraries
  ◦ Pipeline and facility engineers, government compliance

• Downstream companies (refining, commercial)
  ◦ Either standalone libraries for companies that do only downstream or smaller satellite libraries for those with downstream divisions
  ◦ Chemical engineers, geochemists

• Oilfield service companies
  ◦ All of the above; focused on technologies/patents
Where do MLIS graduates work other than libraries?

• In Hess (and other for-profit organizations):
  ◦ Information Management
  ◦ Data Management
  ◦ Records Management/Legal
• These can be entry points or transition/promotion points
• Get in wherever you can, even if there isn’t an opening in the library
• It’s all about organizing “stuff” so that others can find it
Questions?

mvedas@hess.com