



GEOSCIENCE
INFORMATION
SOCIETY

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Linda Musser

Over the last two months, I spent a lot of time talking with colleagues at AGI and among the member societies about issues ranging from lobbying to open access to the recent changes in the **USGS Library**. On the latter issue, I would like to acknowledge the retirements of many long-standing GSIS members previously employed by USGS Library and wish them happiness and good health in retirement. Included elsewhere in this newsletter is a summary of my discussion about the USGS Library with Mr. Michael McDermott, National Coordinator of the Natural Science Network, and some updates based upon my knowledge of the current situation.

The theme of the **AGI Leadership Forum** this year focused on government policy related to the geosciences. While most of the discussions centered on how to better lobby various agencies, legislators, and others at the federal level, several of us urged the AGI leadership to develop, provide, and coordinate resources aimed at government entities at the state, regional, and local level. We discussed sharing a booth at such venues as the National Conference of State Legislatures, ways to reach out to the real estate industry, and finding ways to involve local politicians, planners, and developers via outreach efforts such as developing community awards.

The Executive Board revised the **copyright statement** for the *Proceeding* based on feedback from members. The new copyright statement, included in this newsletter, allows broad uses by authors, while assigning copyright responsibility to the society. As one respondent put it, "It is much easier to contact an organization or institution over time than a single individual." We hope to simultaneously promote access while preventing incidents of 'lost works' with this new copyright policy.

On a similar topic, the idea of turning the *Proceedings* into a refereed venue periodically arises. It would be even possible to have an open submissions policy for the *Proceedings* in addition to featuring the events and papers from the annual meeting. I explored the latter aspect by contacting colleagues who are editors or on the editorial boards of refereed science-related library journals. Based on those conversions, there appear to be adequate venues without changing the content of the *Proceedings*. The question of whether the *Proceedings* should provide the option of peer review or its equivalent remains before the membership. (For one example of how this is handled, look at *Issues in Science & Technology Librarianship*; <http://www.istl.org>). If this is something that you would like us to pursue, please let me know.

A **Distinguished Service Award Committee** has been formed and is seeking nominees. Claren Kidd chairs this new committee. She is joined on the committee by Janice Norris and Janice Sorensen. Please consider nominating a deserving colleague – we have so many accomplished colleagues who are deserving of this award.

In recent years, many members have shared their concerns about the evolving challenges of resources going e-only, the difficulties of obtaining non-U.S. geoscience works, and cataloging backlogs in GeoRef resource libraries. At the 2004 annual meeting, at least two papers (by Scott and Noga) touched directly on this topic. Sharon Tahirkheli and I have talked several times about these issues and she is keenly aware of the challenges. I have asked Sharon to consider if there are ways in which the GSIS could contribute to efforts to enhance *GeoRef*. I look forward to sharing the results of future conversations on this topic with you soon.

Finally, I've been thinking a lot about history. Between creating the *Proceedings* table-of-contents list for the web-site (going 'live' soon), discussions about digitizing past *Proceedings* papers, revising the copyright statement, and researching distinguished service awards, it is difficult to not give some thought to the distinguished past of this organization. The Geoscience Information Society has wonderful members and a fascinating history. Looking ahead to our 40th meeting in Philadelphia in 2006, I'm thinking about trying to capture the history of our organization – via the words and memories of our current and past members. If

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GSIS members are encouraged to contribute materials for publication. Material for the August, 2005 issue should be received no later than July 22, 2005. Please send materials by e-mail to cjm@thurston.com

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anyone has experience with gathering oral histories, are interested in gaining experience in **oral history**, or know of a class at your university/college that needs an oral history project to work on, please let me know.

Best wishes and good health to you all.

VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Adonna Fleming

We are finalizing our plans for the annual meeting, *Science – Learning – Colleagues*, October 16-20, 2005, in Salt Lake City. I'm pleased to announce a new program to our schedule.

Geosciences Librarianship 101, a forum geared towards those who are new to geoscience librarianship is planned for Saturday, October 15th at the University of Utah's Marriott Library. The forum will include "Information One Stop" a poster session geared towards providing tips to those who are new to librarianship in this field, roundtable discussions about issues facing geoscience

librarians, lunch with a mentor, and our e-resource forum, where vendor and professionals will demonstrate the latest electronic resources for the geosciences. We need our "experts" to help out! Volunteer to do a poster, chair a roundtable, and mentor a "newbie". Please contact me or anyone on the Executive Board if you can be there on Saturday and wish to contribute to this program. Remember recruiting new members is everybody's responsibility!

Dates to Remember:

– **July 12 2005** – Deadline to submit an abstract to our technical session, "Collaboration for the Dissemination of Geologic Information among Colleagues". Remember, we must have at least 12 papers to go forward. Submit directly to the GSA website: <http://www.geosociety.org/meeting/2005/topical.htm>.

– **September 12, 2005** – Deadline to register at the standard rate.

– **October 15, 2005** – Geoscience Librarianship 101, a forum geared towards those who are new to geoscience librarianship. Experts please volunteer now!

Newbies, get ready for a great program!

REPRESENTATIVE MID-YEAR REPORTS

Cartographic Users Advisory Council

The Cartographic Users Advisory Council (CUAC) has spent time planning a meeting of librarians and others who work with maps and spatial data, which will be held at the Library of Congress May 12-13, 2005. Speakers at the meeting are drawn from Federal agencies, academia and private industry. Among the topics that will be addressed is the role of GIS and spatial data in libraries, data archiving and access to current and superseded Federal agencies' spatial data. The program for the conference is available at the CUAC website: <http://cuac.wustl.edu>. Linda Zellmer and Clara McLeod, GSIS representatives to CUAC, have both been active working on various aspects of the conference.

During this last year, CUAC has responded to several issues, including the possibility of limiting FOIA access to high-resolution satellite imagery, the Government Printing Office's digitizing and preservation initiatives, which includes plans for a collection of last resort, as the plan did not include much about maps and spatial data, and the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency's plans to curtail public access and sale of certain aeronautical charts.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Zellmer and Clara McLeod, co-representatives

GeoRef Advisory

The GeoRef Advisory Committee met in Denver on November 6, 2004 at the GSA Annual Meeting. The Committee assists AGI Information Systems Director Sharon Tahirkheli by providing recommendations on GeoRef and other AGI databases, and developing ideas for information products and services for the geoscience community. Members in attendance were: Harvey Cohen, Shaun Hardy, Suzanne Larsen, John Steinmetz, and Dennis Trombatore

(Chair). Connie Manson joined the meeting in progress to report on her study of state survey publications.

GeoRef Thesaurus. The 10th edition of the *GeoRef Thesaurus* has just been published, incorporating 1200 new terms. The electronic file is provided to all GeoRef vendors, but unfortunately not all keep their online versions up to date. Subscribers are encouraged to check with their vendors and urge them to upgrade to the new edition of the *Thesaurus* if they are lagging.

BIG. AGI is committed to publishing the *Bibliography and Index of Geology* in print form for one more year. Incentives will be offered to print-only subscribers to encourage migration to electronic (GeoRef) access modes.

GeoScienceWorld. GSW will provide access to the world's most current edition of GeoRef, with updates scheduled weekly. [Note: GSW was launched on February 25, 2005.] Since GeoRef is fully integrated and linked on the GSW platform, subscribers will either have to pay a GeoRef surcharge directly to GSW, or maintain a GeoRef subscription through another vendor of their choice. In the latter case, this will permit subscribers to search the database two different ways: via the GSW interface and through their vendor's search engine. Efforts are being made to identify sponsors for universities in lesser-developed countries that do not currently have GeoRef access; special discounts are being offered as an incentive. Sharon T. pointed out that neither GeoRef nor GSW may be marketed to countries on the U.S. Treasury Department's "prohibited" list, which forbids or limits exports to a number of nations (Cuba, Iran, Iraq, etc.). The prohibition applies to both electronic access and print publications.

AusGeoRef. AusGeoRef, the Australian-focused subset of GeoRef, is now available online via subscription. Pro-

duced in cooperation with Geoscience Australia, the database is intended primarily as a service to Australian industry and consulting geologists. Document delivery is available. Search enhancements continue to be added. Some users have requested an Excel download option; the Committee recommended that this capability be integrated into all AGI-hosted databases.

Coverage of Abstracts. Plans to create temporary, incomplete GeoRef records for rapid loading of meeting abstracts have run into technical difficulties, as some vendors' loading mechanisms were found to be incompatible with less-than-complete records. Putting such records into the In Process or GeoRef Preview files is one possible work-around, but not all vendors load the In Process file. Nonetheless, GeoRef staff are making progress in processing more abstracts, which accounted for 30% of the records added to GeoRef in 2004. The incorporation of publisher-supplied bibliographic data into GeoRef on GSW will provide exceptional currency in that version of the database.

Cold Regions Databases. The two components of AGI's Cold Regions Bibliography Project – the *Antarctic Bibliography* and *Bibliography on Cold Regions Science and Technology* – are now free to all, thanks to an agreement with the National Science Foundation and the Army Corps of Engineers. A 5-year proposal to extend funding for the databases has been submitted by AGI. Together the cold regions databases contain around 260,000 references, only about 30% of which are duplicated in GeoRef.

USGS Publications Database. Arrangements for continuing AGI maintenance of the USGS Publications Database for another year are under discussion. Unlike the Survey's "Publication Warehouse", which lists only internal USGS publications, the Publications Database also tracks publications by Survey authors in external sources. [*Editor's note:* AGI production of this database ceased effective December 31, 2004. See ESIC press release, this issue, p. 8.]

Palynodata. John Steinmetz presented a proposal for a possible working relationship between GeoRef and the producers of *Palynodata* – a subscription-based resource of bibliographic references and data (taxa and biostratigraphic ranges) extracted from 22,000 palynological documents. More than 15,000 genera and 122,000 species are represented in the datafile. *Palynodata* was supported primarily by petroleum exploration companies and the Geological Survey of Canada, but with dwindling support from corporate subscribers the continuation of this significant database is in jeopardy. The Committee requested more specifics on esti-

imated usage, costs, scope of work, etc. before making any definite recommendations.

Coverage of State Survey Publications. Connie Manson presented a detailed analysis of GeoRef coverage of state geological survey reports (both published and open-file reports, print and online) for the period 1994-2003. Her data indicate that GeoRef's coverage of state publications has dropped since a sample study was conducted in 1988 and that GeoRef is now capturing about 1/3 of the published state survey output; coverage rates for print and online reports are comparable. Connie attributed the decrease to the decline of publication exchange programs and the abandonment of distribution lists. Open-file reports are especially problematic, since many surveys do not even list them in their publications catalogs. The Committee discussed strategies for reducing the coverage gaps, in particular, working through the American Association of State Geologists (AASG). John Steinmetz offered to draft a letter to his colleagues in the AASG to encourage state surveys to deposit their publications in state libraries, university libraries, and/or the USGS library in Reston. GeoRef staff will make renewed efforts to catalog state survey reports available online and may try to arrange loans of print documents for indexing purposes by contacting state survey offices directly. Eventually Connie may extend the scope of her survey back to the beginning of each publication series.

The Committee will next meet on May 13 at AGI headquarters in Alexandria. Any GISIS members with questions or comments on GeoRef are welcome to contact me at hardy@dtm.ciw.edu.

Respectfully submitted, Shaun J. Hardy

GeoScienceWorld Librarians Advisory Committee

I am pleased to note the appointment of Irena Kavalek, U.S. Geological Survey, to the GeoScienceWorld Librarians Advisory Committee (LAC) for a term concluding December 31, 2006. Irena joins six other librarians on the LAC which is asked to advise on any and all aspects of GSW. The Board also invites ideas about new features, additions, directions and services which GSW might consider.

If you would like to comment on GeoScienceWorld please contact a committee member listed in the April issue of this newsletter or contact me as GSW Board liaison to the Librarians Advisory Committee.

Respectfully submitted, Patricia Yocum, GSW Board of Directors (2007)

COMMITTEE MID-YEAR REPORTS

Best Paper Award

A Call for Nominations for the Best Paper Award was published in the April GISIS Newsletter. Another Call for Nominations was sent out on the Geonet listserv on April 15. The Committee will soon begin its review of GISIS *Proceedings* Volume 34 to identify candidates for the award. Within the next few weeks we will begin the search process

to identify additional papers for consideration. Nominations from the Committee will be due to the Chair in early June. The Committee will be rating the nominated papers during June and July, and we anticipate that the winner will be announced in early August.

Respectfully submitted, Renee Davis, chair

Mary B. Ansari Best Reference Work Award

The Mary B. Ansari Best Reference Work Award Committee nominates and evaluates reference material to determine the winner of the award, which is presented at the Annual Meeting. Titles for nomination must have been published within the three years preceding the GSA Annual Meeting (October, 2005). The committee is currently compiling the title nomination list and evaluations will begin in May.

This year's committee includes the following members: John Hunter, Rice University, Houston (2004-2005); Janice Jaguszewski, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis (2005-2006); Ed Lener, Virginia Tech (2004-2005); April Love, University of Utah, Salt Lake City (2004-2005); Linda Newman, University of Nevada, Reno (2004-2005); Michael Noga, MIT (2004-2005); Sally Scott, University of Wyoming (2005-2006); Charles "Wil" Weston, University of New Orleans (2004-2005); Thomas Zogg, University of Minnesota, Duluth (2004-2005), Janice Norris, Chair, Penn State, DuBois (2005-2006)

Respectfully submitted, Janice Norris, chair

Best Website

The GSIS Best Website Committee will be accepting nominations for the fourth annual Best Geoscience Website Award. Geological sciences-related websites are eligible, including general public as well as scholarly websites. The committee is reviewing websites that fit the following criteria: content, design and organization, and technical considerations, and overall site effectiveness. For more information, see: www.geoinfo.org/websitecriteria.html The deadline for nominations is June 15. Please send nominations to: carolyn@purdue.edu. Please be sure to include the URL and a few comments about why you nominated that site. Last year, we received 28 nominations. Should we not get enough nominations, we will resubmit sites from that group.

The Best Website Committee this year consists of Suzanne Larsen, Lee Regan, Janice Sorensen, and chair Carolyn Laffoon.

Respectfully submitted, Carolyn J. Laffoon, chair

Collection Development Issues

The Committee hosts the Collection Development Issues Forum at the Annual Meeting. Journal price changes are reported 1-3 times per year. In response to a question to the membership on GSIS-L, the following issues were identified for consideration during the rest of this year:

- 1) The implications of changes in personnel and budgets at the U.S. Geological Survey Library.
- 2) A review and strategy regarding journals that are held in very few places because of cancellations.
- 3) Collection assessment techniques.
- 4) Availability of government documents when no geoscience titles appear on the GPO Depository Core List.
- 5) Coverage of materials in abstract and indexing services (e.g. geoscience monographs that are reviewed in *Choice* or *E-Streams*).

The Committee will address some of these issues in the GSIS Newsletter and GSIS-L.

Respectfully submitted, Michael M. Noga, chair

Exhibits

The Exhibit Committee is doing research for prices to purchase a new traveling case to transport the exhibit booth materials. The Committee would like the membership to suggest possible themes for this year's exhibit. On our own, we have come up with the themes of "preservation issues" or "electronic journal archival issues." We are looking forward to this year's exhibit.

Respectfully submitted, April M. Love, chair

GeoRef Users Group

The Georef Users Group is considering a proposal about the sponsorship of the E-Resources Forum. The question revolves around whether the Committee should continue to hold and sponsor the Forum or should any member be allowed to schedule and run the Forum. The Committee encourages your opinion on this issue. Please respond to either Linda Musser or Diane Baclawski.

The Committee is beginning the planning process for the Forum and encourages members with ideas or projects or wish lists to contact the Committee to see if we can include your idea, project or dream session in the E-Resources Forum. We had an exceptionally good session last year (although the Chair's opinion may be somewhat biased), but only because members offered ideas and suggestions.

We need you and your suggestions to make this year's forum a success!!!!

Please put on your thinking caps and may the Force be with us all!

Respectfully submitted, Diane Baclawski, chair

International Initiatives

Fellowship Program: To date, the committee has facilitated the visit of two International Fellows. At this time, we have no plan to bring in a fellow this year, but we want to concentrate on raising enough money to do so in the future. – We agree that it is important to continue with the International Fellowship program, and to that end, continue to search for funding to support our next fellow. We estimate the expense of bringing a fellow to the United States, providing living expenses, registration for the GSA / GSIS annual meeting, etc. to be about \$6000.

– We agree that it is time to once again begin looking for corporate donations, and will work out a strategy for this effort during the coming year.

– We also agree that we are willing to have the fellow or the fellow's institution pay a portion of the expense (airline ticket for example) even if that means that our fellow is not necessarily from a developing country.

– We will continue the Silent Auction held at the annual meeting for this purpose (raising approximately \$600 - \$700 each year during the three years of its existence). We intend

to hold another Silent Auction at the 2005 Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City.

GeoInfo VII: To date, we are still in limbo on this issue. Sharon Tahirkheli and Barbara Haner continued their efforts to contact members of the IUGS Commission for the Management and Application of Geoscience Information (see http://www.bgs.ac.uk/cgi_web/welcome.html) about their support and ideas for hosting the next GeoInfo meeting. So far, this has been a difficult process but they are persevering. My sense is that most of the committee would prefer to exhaust this effort before we turn our efforts to joining forces with other organizations in an international meeting effort that might not provide the kinds of emphasis and opportunities for our own members that we'd like. We'll reassess this with the start of the next GSIS fiscal session.

International Membership: The committee would like to see a greater international membership in GSIS, and have some ideas that might help foster this. But it is also recognized that as long as GSIS insists on dues payments in U.S. currency or from a U.S. bank, the logistics and expense of paying for a foreign membership are prohibitive.

Respectfully submitted, Dena Hanson (Chair), Claren Kidd, Sharon Tahirkheli, Elaine Clement, Joanne Lerud-Heck, Julia Triplehorn, Barbara Haner, Pauline MacDonald, Margy Walsh, Independencia Isledh, Dorothy McGarry

Membership

The Committee members and their regional responsibilities are: Karen Bolm: AZ, part of Canada; Lisa Fish: NY, PA; Anne Graham: CT, MA, ME, MD, NH, NJ, RI, VT; Wendie Helms: CA, CO, NV, NM, UT; John Hunter: AR, KS, LA, MO, OK, TX; Miriam Kennard: DC, DE, NC, OH,

VA, WV; Paul Kirk: AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, SC, TN; Connie Manson: HI, ID, OR, MT, NE, ND, SD, WA, WY, Mexico; Julia Triplehorn: AK, part of Canadal; Patricia Yocum: IA, IL, IN, MI, MN, WI, International.

The Committee has revised the Membership Brochure. A spreadsheet of existing and target members was built and distributed to Committee members. The members have been contacting members in their regions to recruit new members. So far in 2005, five new members have joined, one each from California, Colorado, Idaho, New York, and Texas.

Respectfully submitted, Connie J. Manson, co-chair

Nominating

We are fortunate to have two strong candidates for Vice President/President Elect. The ballots are being readied, and should be mailed within the next several weeks. Ballots will be counted 6 weeks after the mailing date. We hope all members will participate in GSIS by voting. Ballots must be returned by mail.

Respectfully submitted, Lura Joseph, chair

Preservation

The Preservation Committee is up and getting acquainted. Plans are starting for the meeting in Salt Lake City, although nothing definite is scheduled yet. Preservation projects in the Utah area are being considered. The Committee encourages any member with a preservation project, or with an idea they wish to explore, to contact the Preservation Committee chair; we are looking for ideas and innovative programs.

Respectfully submitted, Diane Baclawski



MEMBER NEWS

We offer our congratulations to our newly retired members from the USGS including **Nancy Blair, Lee Regan, Carol Messick, Nora Tamberg, and Kay Baker.**

Congratulations to **Marie Dvorzak**, geology librarian at the University of Wisconsin-Madison! She recently received the Distinguished Service Award from the UW Department of Geology and Geophysics.

Linda Musser, Head of the Fletcher L. Bryom Earth and Mineral Sciences Library at Penn State, received the Penn State University Libraries Award for outstanding professional contributions and service to the University Libraries.

NEW GSIS MEMBER

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Author signature:

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DEVELOPMENTS AT THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY LIBRARIES

News of the USGS Library Retirements

by Linda Musser, April 22, 2005

Many of our colleagues in the USGS Library system retired as of April 1, 2005. There was little advanced knowledge of these retirements and no information about the plans for the future of the Library or the positions vacated. For about a month I, along with representatives of the American Geological Institute, Special Libraries Association and others, have been seeking information from the USGS about the retirements and their plans for the future. At last I have some information to share.

On April 21, 2005 I spoke with Mike McDermott, the National Coordinator of the Natural Science Network at the USGS. The Natural Science Network is a new organizational entity within the Geospatial Information Office of the USGS. The purpose of the Network is to bring together all public service functions within the USGS. Thus, the USGS Library(s), the Earth Science Information Centers, the mapping warehouse in Denver, etc. will all be part of this Network. Since the Library is now part of the Network, Mr. McDermott is the primary contact for issues related to the USGS Library.

Mr. McDermott provided details about the retirements from the Library as follows. There were 19 retirements across the Library system: 9 from Reston (Eastern Region); 1 from Headquarters (Eastern Region); 6 from Denver (Central Region); 1 from Flagstaff (Western Region); 2 from Menlo Park (Western Region). Approximately 28 peo-

ple continue to be employed in the Library; therefore the retirements represent a 40% reduction in workforce at this time. The retirements were part of a buyout under two federal programs, VSIP and VERA (Voluntary Separation Incentive Payments and Voluntary Early Retirement Authority, respectively). Mr. McDermott stated that 9 or 10 employees were expected to take advantage of the VSIP/VERA opportunity and that double that number was unanticipated.

When asked about future plans for the USGS Library, Mr. McDermott assured me that there are no plans to close any of the libraries and that they are working on a plan to restructure their organization, combining the Library with other information services in order to build more digital library capabilities. They hope to see changes in FY06. As far as the positions gained from the retirements, they are in the process of evaluating their needs, re-writing jobs, and giving consideration to possible outsourcing opportunities. (Under the VSIP/VERA programs, new employees cannot be hired by the agency to do the same job, however, agencies have the ability to hire in a new job category.) Mr. McDermott stated that he welcomes input from the library community about the USGS Library, how they can make the transition to a digital library, and how they can better utilize knowledge management. His contact information is Mike McDermott, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA 20192-0002 USA; 703-648-5771; mail to: <mmcdermo@usgs.gov> mmcdermo@usgs.gov.



Responding to the USGS Library Changes, by Linda Musser, April 22, 2005

I encourage all GSIS members to contact the USGS and let them know the importance of the USGS Library as a repository of last resort, as the foundation for the GeoRef database, and any other reasons why the USGS Library has value not only within the geoscience community but also to the people you serve. Additionally, I urge you to share your experiences as librarians who have transitioned to the digital environment with them. Clearly, the USGS Natural Science Network, of which the Library is now a part, is focused on identifying efficiencies and becoming more digital. As we all know, going digital doesn't necessarily mean less work; the work is just different. Sharing the many ways in which the work at your library has changed and how you have adapted may help shape the way the USGS Library operates in the future. Send your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions to Mike McDermott, National Coordinator, Natural Science Network, U.S.G.S., 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA 20192-0002 USA; 703-648-5771; mail to: <mmcdermo@usgs.gov>mmcdermo@usgs.gov and consider copying me.

Update on the USGS Library, by Linda Musser, May 25, 2005

Irena Kavalek and Bob Bier are sharing the duties of Chief Librarian. Irena is focusing on technical services, Bob on patron services. Some of the circulation functions are being outsourced and staff from the ESICs are assisting in the Library. Chip Groat assured AGI that he is dedicated to preserving the library and will shift resources to support it.

End of AGI Contract to Provide the Catalog "New Publications of the USGS" from: ESIC Information Bulletin Number: 05-05, May 24, 2005)

The USGS contract with the American Geological Institute (AGI) to provide the catalog "New Publications of the U.S. Geological Survey" and the USGS Publications Database ended on 12/31/04.



newsletter

Connie J. Manson, GSIS Editor
2525 Sleater Kinney Road N.E.
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The online annual supplement, "Publications of the U.S. Geological Survey 2004," was delivered in May. This is the final catalog under the contract. All of the online "New Pubs." catalogs delivered under the AGI contract will continue to be available to users on the USGS Web site: <http://pubs.usgs.gov/publications/index.html>.

The USGS Publications Database: <http://usgspubs.georef.org/usgsns.htm> will no longer be available, effective June 1, 2006. The database is a subset of AGI's proprietary GeoRef database, and USGS purchased access to, but not ownership of, the database through the contract. As a courtesy, AGI continued to maintain and provide access to the database for the last 5 months. Now that the contract has ended and all the catalog products have been delivered, access to the database will cease.

The USGS library will continue to subscribe to the complete GeoRef database and GeoRef will continue to be available to USGS users through the USGS Intranet. The USGS Publications Database was a subset of GeoRef that USGS provided free of charge to the public through the contract with AGI. It is this subset that is no longer available.

For more information, contact Sheryle Girk-Jackson 303 202 4176, FAX 303 202 4633, email: sjjackson@usgs.gov

Comment, by Sharon Tahirkheli, AGI Information Systems Director

The AGI contract that expired included the production of the monthly publications lists online and the annual printed list. In addition, the contract for the publications database that we produced for the USGS that was made available to the public has expired.

We will begin tracing new publications of the USGS through the Publications Warehouse. We don't know what this will mean in terms of the speed with which we'll be able to find out about publications. We are also unsure about URL changes that used to be reported to us directly from the USGS. There have been large numbers of changed URLs over time, however, over the last few years the USGS has been working toward persistent URLs.