PRESIDENT’S COLUMN
by
Suzanne T. Larsen

The most exciting thing about our recent annual meeting in Denver was the wonderful comments I heard from first time attendees. They found our program useful and interesting and our Society open and welcoming. That is how I felt when I attended my first meeting in 1988. I kept coming back and I hope they will too.

I would especially like to thank Claudette Clottier for an outstanding, thought provoking technical program. The help and advice of the Executive Committee (Patricia Yocum, Renee Davis, Adonna Fleming and Andrea Twiss-Brooks) was invaluable to me as I planned the conference accommodations. Andrea was also in charge of the Geoscience 101 session held the Saturday before the meeting.

This is our third year for this activity. It was very well organized and presented. The attendees had high praise for the session. Shaun Hardy did a wonderful job as our publicity officer. We were able to fund the majority of conference costs, including Geoscience 101, through the generous support of the Gemological Society of America, Elsevier, the Geological Society of London, Springer, Wiley, CSA, ESRI, and Blackwell Collection Services. The Auraria Library graciously provided a meeting room for Geoscience 101. The University of Michigan provided the projector and computer used for our Collection Development and E-Resources forums, saving the Society a significant amount of money. As always we are deeply indebted to Mary B. Ansari for the support for the Distinguished Service and Best Reference work awards.

New members of the Executive
GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY 2007 Officers

President
Suzanne T. Larsen
Earth Sciences and Map Library
UCB 184
University of Colorado
Boulder, CO 80309
phone: 303-492-4611
fax: 303-735-4879
e-mail: suzanne.larsen@colorado.edu

Vice President (President Elect)
Rusty Kimball
Texas A&M University
5000 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843-5000
phone: 979-862-1909
fax: 979-450-4123
e-mail: rkimball@lib-gw.tamu.edu

Immediate Past President
Patricia B. Yocum
3026 Shapiro Science Library
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1185
phone: 734-936-3079
fax: 734-763-9813
e-mail: pyocum@umich.edu

Secretary
Andrea Twiss-Brooks
John Crerar Library
University of Chicago
5730 S. Ellis Avenue
Chicago, IL 60637
phone: 773-702-8777
fax: 773-702-3317
e-mail: athbrooks@uchicago.edu

Treasurer
Renee Davis
Simpson Library
University of Mary Washington
1801 College Ave.
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
Phone: 540-654-1758
e-mail: rdavis@umw.edu

Homepage: http://www.geoinfo.org
Webmaster: Jim O’Donnell
Geology Library 100-23
Caltech
Pasadena, CA 91125
phone: 626-395-2199;
fax: 626-568-0935
e-mail: jimodo@caltech.edu

Listserv: https://lists.purdue.edu/mailman/listinfo/gonet
Moderator: Carolyn J. Laffoon
Purdue University Libraries, EAS
504 West State Street
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2058
phone: 765-494-0201
fax: 765-496-1210
e-mail: carolyn@purdue.edu

Newsletter Editor
Adonna Fleming
10 Bessey Hall
University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Lincoln, NE 68588 0344
phone: 402-472-3920
e-mail: afleming@unlnotes.unl.edu

Publications Manager
Ellie Clement
Cabot Science Library
Harvard University
One Oxford Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
phone: 617-496-8442
fax: 617-495-5324
e-mail: clement@fas.harvard.edu

Publicity Officer
Shaun J. Hardy
Carnegie Inst. of Washington
DTM-Geophysical Laboratory Library
5241 Broad Branch Road, N.W.
Washington, DC 20015
phone: 202-478-7960
fax: 202-478-8821
e-mail: hardy@dtm.ciw.edu

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Board are Rusty Kimball, Vice President/President elect; Adonna Fleming, Newsletter Editor; and Ellie Clement, Publications Manager.

I am beginning to put the committee assignments together. Many of you volunteered at the meeting and several responded to my message on Geonet asking for volunteers. There is still time so contact me if you are interested in a committee assignment. Remember, you don’t need to attend the meeting to make a contribution as a committee member and play a valuable role for the Society.

Our next meeting is in Houston, October 5-9. It will be a joint annual meeting of the Geological Society of America (GSA), Soil Science Society of America (SSSA), American Society of Agronomy (ASA), Crop Science Society of America (CSSA), and the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies with the Gulf Coast Section of SEPM (GCAGS), hosted by the Houston Geological Society (HGS). The GSIS technical program planning will be done by Lisa Johnston, University of Minnesota. The GSIS meeting planning will be done by Rusty Kimball, Texas A&M University. I hope to see many of you next October in Houston!

VICE PRESIDENT’S COLUMN
By
Rusty Kimball

Hello everyone! I was thrilled to attend the Annual Meeting in Denver this year. For one thing, it was my first visit ever to Colorado. The meeting was so successful and memorable—we continually find new and better ways to do things. The Technical Session, Poster Session, forums, and the luncheon were fantastic. I was able to meet with the officers, including my predecessor, Suzanne Larsen, and start to get a handle on my new responsibilities. I look forward to meeting more of you in the future. I’m the Geology, Petroleum Engineering, and Oceanography Librarian at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas—and the new GSIS Vice President (gulp). I should probably be more intimidated, but for now I’m looking forward to the challenges ahead.

Next year of course, our meeting will be in Houston, Texas as part of a joint meeting between The Geological Society of America (GSA), and the agencies mentioned by Suzanne in her column. The vision of the joint meeting is “to highlight and stimulate discussions in areas of common interest across the diversity of disciplines and organizations represented.” The joint website is at: https://www.acsmeetings.org/2008/

So, I look forward to getting advice from Suzanne Larsen and working with several of our local Houston GSIS members in planning and coordinating our meeting next year!! More details as they develop… I hope to see you in Houston in 2008!
John Mulvihill

First of all, I would like to thank you for this award. It's satisfying to be honored by information scientists.

On the drive here from Virginia, in the manner of a 50’s road trip, my wife and I were listening to a new biography of Benjamin Franklin, by Walter Isaacson. It was remarkable that Franklin at the age of 20 formed a group of 12 friends to discuss questions such as:

1. Did importing indentured servants make us more prosperous?
2. What made a piece of writing good?
3. Why did condensation form on a cold mug?
4. What accounted for happiness?
5. What is wisdom?
6. If a sovereign power deprives a citizen of his rights, is it justifiable for him to resist?
7. This was in 1728. The group called themselves the Junto.
Distinguished Service Award cont.

of GeoRef in 1974, after a decade of work with the Central Abstracting and Indexing Service of the American Petroleum Institute. Prior to that he held librarian positions at Astra Pharmaceutical Products in Worcester, Massachusetts and St. Benedict’s College in Atchison, Kansas. At the American Geological Institute (AGI) Mulvihill dramatically expanded GeoRef’s content and constituency. Its coverage was extended back to 1785 and by the time of his retirement in 1998 the database had grown to 2.1 million references in 40 languages.

Speaking for the Ansari Award Committee, Claren Kidd (University of Oklahoma Geology Librarian, emerita) stated “John’s ability and foresight to develop GeoRef have had a profound influence upon the geoscience information community and the entire geoscience community.” Mulvihill forged strong collegial links with members of the Geoscience Information Society (GSIS) and relied on librarians’

John Mulvihill cont.

I have been thinking of another set of questions.
1. Should scientific information be available to all scientists?
2. Should this information be indexed by humans?
3. Should this information be indexed using a controlled vocabulary?
4. Should this information, in a science such as geology, be in a single database?
5. Should this information be indexed in the same way over time?
6. Should this information be readily searchable?
7. Should the searched data include not only human indexing but also titles, abstracts and text?

To me, the main question is the first one; namely, should this information be comprehensive and readily available to all scientists, everywhere? Nearly all information scientists come down on the “yes” side of this question.

As Benjamin Franklin said, “To pour forth benefits for the common good is divine,” Let me repeat, “To pour forth benefits for the common good is divine”

That is what we do. And that is why I am honored to be among you and grateful for this award.
input on GeoRef coverage and priorities, as well as for help in assessing its effectiveness. He served as president of GSIS in 1978 and worked with the Society in supporting international conferences on geoscience information. He also facilitated production of the *Union List of Geologic Field Trip Guidebooks* – a joint project of AGI and GSIS – in both print and online versions.

Sharon Tahirkheli, GeoRef’s current director, added “John’s dedication to information services and his deep understanding of the needs of the geoscientist resulted in his receiving the AGI William B. Heroy Award upon his retirement. This award, usually presented to geoscientists, was presented to John in recognition of his distinguished service to AGI and to the geoscience profession in general.”

Since retiring from AGI Mulvihill has worked with the Fairfax County (Virginia) Public Library.

### 2007 AWARDS FOR BEST GEOSCIENCE PUBLICATIONS PRESENTED IN DENVER

*by* Shaun Hardy

Four outstanding earth science publications were recognized by the Geoscience Information Society at its October 30 awards ceremony, held in conjunction with the Geological Society of America’s annual meeting in Denver.

The *Encyclopedia of Quaternary Science*, published by Elsevier in 2007, received the Mary B. Ansari Best Reference Work Award. Editor-in-chief Scott Elias (Royal Holloway, University of London) accepted the prize on behalf of more than 400 scientists from 28 countries who contributed to the publication. The *Encyclopedia* is a four-volume set that contains over 360 articles covering physical topics such as climate change, landforms, and Earth events of the past 2.6 million years, as well as topics in Quaternary life such as vertebrate records, insect fossils, and humans. The award citation from Janice Norris, chair of the selection committee, noted that the committee “found [the *Encyclopedia*] superior in the criteria used for evaluation including among others: uniqueness, comprehensiveness, quality of work, and illustrations. It should be useful to many disciplines in the environmental and geosciences.”

*GSIS Newsletter, no. 229, December 2007*
The Ansari Award has been presented annually since 1988 and honors an outstanding reference work in the field of geoscience information published during the previous three years.

Lura E. Joseph, Associate Professor of Library Administration and Geology Librarian, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, was awarded the GSIS Best Paper Award for her research article “Image and figure quality: A study of Elsevier’s Earth and Planetary Sciences electronic journal back file package.” Joseph’s study examined more than 6000 journals issues published before electronic format was available and documented the incidence of unacceptable image quality in the scanned versions. “The implications of poor image quality in electronic journals should be considered when libraries are deciding whether to discard print copies,” Joseph cautioned. “Publishers and librarians should work together to ensure that print journals converted to digital format are of acceptable quality.” Her paper was published in the September-December 2006 issue of Library Collections, Acquisitions, and Technical Services. The award is given to the best professional paper in the field of geoscience information published during the previous year.

Two recipients were chosen for this year’s Best Guidebook Award: Geology of the Chama Basin, published by the New Mexico Geological Society in 2005, and 1906 San Francisco Earthquake Centennial Field Guides, published by the Geological Society of America in 2006.

Geology of the Chama Basin was produced in conjunction with the New Mexico Geological Society’s 56th annual fall field conference in 2005 and was edited by Spencer G. Lucas (New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science), Kate E. Ziegler (University of New Mexico), Virgil W. Lueth (New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral
the road log references; the inclusion of a clear stratigraphic column for the study area; and the abundance of captions, both on and below the numerous color photographs, that help readers visualize the various rock units described in the text and log. Dr. Owen was present to accept the award on behalf of his colleagues.

1906 San Francisco Earthquake Centennial Field Guides was edited by Carol S. Prentice (U.S. Geological Survey, Menlo Park), Judith G. Scotchmoor (University of California Museum of Paleontology), Eldridge M. Moores (University of California, Davis, emeritus), and John P. Kiland Resources), and Donald E. Owen (Lamar University). In announcing the award committee’s selection, chair Dorothy McGarry cited the excellence of the guidebook’s articles and their logical arrangement; the usefulness of the road log references; the inclusion of a clear stratigraphic column for the study area; and the abundance of captions, both on and below the numerous color photographs, that help readers visualize the various rock units described in the text and log. Dr. Owen was present to accept the award on behalf of his colleagues.

Carol S. Prentice (USGS, Menlo Park) and Donald E. Owen (Lamar University) were present at the ceremony to accept the Best Guidebook Award for their respective publications, 1906 San Francisco Earthquake Centennial Field Guides and Geology of the Chama Basin. (photo by Shaun Hardy)
(KWP Structural Engineers, Oakland, California). It is a guide to twenty-five field trips associated with the 100th Anniversary Conference in San Francisco in April 2006 and includes a wealth of historical information. Good maps, clear photographs, a glossary of terms, and the inclusion of GPS coordinates all contribute to the guide’s usefulness. “The guide points out problems that happen even now as a result of earthquakes,” the award citation noted. “It is likely to become a classic.” Dr. Prentice thanked GSIS for honoring her and her co-editors with this year’s award.

**OCEAN WORLD NAMED TOP GEOSCIENCE WEBSITE OF 2007**

by

Shaun Hardy

*Ocean World* (oceanworld.tamu.edu), a website developed and maintained by the Jason Education Project at Texas A&M University, has been awarded the 2007 Outstanding Website Award of the Geoscience Information Society (GSIS). Robert Stewart, professor of oceanography

Professor Bob Stewart (Texas A&M), at left, accepts the Outstanding Website Award for 2007 from GSIS Webmaster Jim O’Donnell (Caltech) at the GSA annual meeting in Denver. (photo by Shaun Hardy)
at Texas A&M and head of the *Ocean World* “crew,” accepted the award at the Geological Society of America annual meeting in Denver on October 30.

“We chose this site because it had an impressive array of visuals, informative sections on an interesting variety of ocean-related topics as well easy and straightforward navigation,” commented Beth Roberts, chair of the Society’s selection committee. The Outstanding Website Award has been presented by GSIS annually since 2002 to a site which exemplifies outstanding standards of content, design, organization, and overall site effectiveness.

*Ocean World* offers customized tracks for students and educators and an extensive section of resources. It provides links to real-time oceanographic data ranging from coral reefs to icebergs and an innovative, problem-based, online textbook by Stewart, *Our Ocean Planets: Oceanography in the 21st Century*.

Stewart has been at Texas A&M since 1989. Prior to that he held research positions at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Among his principal research interests are improvement in the teaching of oceanography and the production of oceanographic teaching materials for elementary, middle, and high school students and teachers.

Lura Joseph and Dorothy McGarry enjoy the GSIS reception and silent auction at the 2007 meeting in Denver. (photo by April Love)
GeoScience Information Society 2006 Business Meeting
Sunday, October 22, 2006
Marriott Independence Hall I & II
Philadelphia, PA

President Adonna Fleming called the meeting to order at 9:45 am. GSIS ribbons and luggage tags commemorating the 40th year anniversary were distributed. The agenda along with the minutes from the last Business meeting were approved. The new Secretary Andrea Twiss-Brooks was introduced along with acknowledgment of our new Vice President/President Elect Suzanne Larsen (absent). Reports were published in the October newsletter.

Other announcements

President-elect Patricia Yocum reported that a total of 14 events were scheduled for Philadelphia. They included the Topical Papers, Poster Sessions, Silent Auction and the tour to Cherry Hill to visit ISI. Most of the events for Philadelphia were funded by sponsors, including CSA, ESRI, Elsevier/Cambridge, Gemological Institute of America, Springer, University of Michigan and the University of Philadelphia.

A signup sheet was distributed for those interested in volunteering for a committee, officer or representative position. Ideas for the 2007 meeting in Denver were requested to be sent to Patricia Yocum.

The GSIS exhibit was in Booth 212 of the exhibit hall.

Member News:

- Marie Dvorzak announced that Marcus Milling (a former executive director of the American Geological Institute) died. Shaun Hardy suggested that we send something to AGI to publicly express our sympathy.

- Linda Zellmer noted that she is giving two talks in a couple of weeks about archiving earth sciences information.

- Two sponsored members for 2006 are Cristal Albrecht and Sarah Hodkinson (formerly Ziegler).

Updates to annual Reports of Officers, committees and Representatives

Linda Zellmer (Cartographic Users Advisory Council) noted that commercially printed topo maps would no longer be available from USGS. Concern was expressed by those present that the quality of “maps on demand” was poor, as the plotters used are often inadequate. Jan Heagy (International Initiatives Committee) reported several items available for the Silent Auction. Louise Zipp commented that there is a backlog of guidebooks for the guidebooks database. She seeks at least two more people to assist in getting these items added.

Old Business

The executive committee voted to discontinue the GSIS-L.
New Business

Treasurer Renee Davis explained and answered questions about the 3rd quarter 2006 budget report and 2005 final quarter report. Based on feedback, she will add additional lines in her report for the meeting budget. Expect the revised copy in the February newsletter.

Angela Gooden initiated a motion (that passed) to assist the Vice President and President with up to $600 a year for conference expenses, effective October 2007. There was discussion from the floor about lengthening the Vice President term but it was decided that this would certainly cause burnout. Discussion ensued about reassigning some of the responsibilities of the Vice President, particularly technical program organizing and Geoscience Librarianship 101 workshop coordination and planning. A pilot program to have the technical program and workshop coordinated by two volunteers was approved.

After some discussion, it was agreed that in order to continue the Geoscience Librarianship 101 workshop, there will need to be a sponsoring organization that will donate their space for an instructional facility. There was also discussion about having Geol 101 as a separate entity in alternate years at ACRL, ALA, SLA, etc.

Due to the frequency of having GSA in Denver it was decided (with no objections) that we not have a field trip in Denver in 2007.

Introductions of all present were made then the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.

Respectively Submitted, Andrea Twiss-Brooks, GSIS Secretary,

GeoRef Advisory Committee Meeting
May 21, 2007

The GeoRef Advisory Committee met on May 21, 2007 at the American Geological Institute in Alexandria, VA. In attendance were, Shaun Hardy, Lura Joseph, Afifa Kechrid, Suzanne Larsen, Monika Long, Jim Mehl, John Steinmetz, Sharon Tahirkeli, and Dennis Trombatore (presiding).

Budget Notes:
The print version of GeoRef is no longer being produced. GeoRef is financially sound. A sales record was set for the month of December, 2006, distribution has increased, and sales have grown, even in areas where subscriptions have formerly been rare.

AESIS (Australia’s Geoscience, Minerals, and Petroleum Database) and other potential databases: AusGeoRef is paying for itself. AusGeoRef includes literature about Indonesia. The records from AusGeoRef are also added to regular GeoRef. Expansion into other areas such as Canada and Latin America are being considered.

MetaCarta Demonstration:
MetaCarta representatives demonstrated their map-based search tool which could possibly be used as a front-end for some versions of GeoRef and related specific databases. They returned to AGI the following Tuesday for more
discussion about their geotagging software. Dr. Leahy, the new Director of AGI, joined the committee for the MetaCarta Demonstration.

**Meeting with Dr. Patrick Leahy:**
Dr. Leahy considers the Advisory Committee to be important. He recommended that the committee examine GeoRef in relation to the AGI Strategic Plan, with a special focus on elements and geographic areas that might be missing or under-represented by GeoRef such as the areas of South Africa, South America, and China, and geospatial information.

**Guidebook Database of North America:**
Lura Joseph, who is on the GSIS Field Trip Guidebooks Committee, presented spreadsheets that illustrate many gaps in GeoRef regarding inclusion of field trip guidebook titles. The spreadsheets also revealed gaps in the Geologic Guidebooks of North America Database (GGNAD). The GGNAD (formerly the print Union List) is more complete for older material while GeoRef is more complete for newer material, but there are many field trip guidebooks that are missing from both databases.

Not many people have volunteered to help add the missing information. Many publishers and societies are not interested in contributing information, for example, SEPM. Lura has been trying to contact individual leaders to get copies of guidebooks.

According to Lura, the geologic community should consider a central repository for guidebooks. At the very least, one copy of every guidebook should be in at least one University Library, and another copy in a USGS library. Even with these precautions, guidebook collections are vulnerable. For rare copies of guidebooks, the catalog record should include a note, and the item should be stamped with “Possibly the only copy in existence; Do not discard!” Efforts should be made to include guidebooks in electronic format. Efforts should continue toward making guidebooks findable and available. The catalogs and GeoRef should include joint publication notes. Articles about the importance of guidebooks, and the problems, could be written for geologic publications such as Geotimes, Explorer, and GSA Today. Lura is considering a sabbatical to work on the guidebook problems. The inclusion of field trip guidebooks in GeoRef contributes to its uniqueness.

**Engineering Village (presented by Dennis Trombatore):**
AGI is considering an offer to load GeoRef on Engineering Village. Dennis Trombatore demonstrated Engineering Village. Various related considerations were discussed.

**Updates:**

**Survey Publications:**
GeoRef is continuing to add state publications that Connie identified, and Connie is updating several states that she previously studied. USGS publications have been examined thoroughly since
discovery that the automated notification system was informing GeoRef of only about two-thirds of all new publications. Since 2004, about 600 publications had not been reported, and GeoRef is now back to searching the USGS Publications Warehouse to confirm complete coverage. The USGS Publications Warehouse was only displaying a limited number of publications and repeated searches resulted in varying lists, however some of those problems appear to be corrected. GeoRef is catching up with large USGS series. There are still problems with gaps in state survey publications that were found by Connie; some surveys and authors do not want some titles to appear in GeoRef.

**Open-Access Publications:**
GeoRef continues to add to the list of Open Access publications. GeoRef is being found due to the Open Access list, and publishers have made requests to be added. In order to be included on the Open Access list, a publication needs to be freely available for three years, and must include the current issue.

**International Polar Year Publications Database:**
This database was launched in 2007 with the beginning of the IPY. It is being jointly developed by the Arctic Institute of North America, the Scott Polar Research Institute, and others. Access is freely available: <http://bibliolinel.nisc.com/scripts/login.dll> Records are being added to GeoRef. There is also a link from the Cold Regions Bibliography at the AGI website. (Note: In order to get a full list of publications, click “search” without filling in any of the fields).

**GeoScience World:**
The collaboration between GeoRef and GSW is continuing. GeoRef provides data to GSW for all new journals (four more are being added this year), and GeoRef receives metadata for many of the publications. Participation does cost GeoRef in staff time. The contract between GeoRef and GSW is up for renewal at the end of this year.

**Vendors:**
There was an update of the status of various vendors and publishers.

**Coverage Issues:**
Updating of Canadian theses in GeoRef is finished. Connie is working on theses and dissertations from Europe. Laws and copyright for German and French dissertations differ and contribute to difficulties in obtaining copies. Many indexes of dissertations and theses are now free on the web, but obtaining a particular European dissertation can be very difficult and expensive. There was a discussion regarding what might be the next focus for GeoRef. Suggestions include South Africa, India, South America, China, and older material not already covered.

**Open discussion included the following topics:**
- The Geology Library at University of Illinois, Urbana: The Geology Library will probably “go virtual” in the next couple of years.
Will this become a trend? What are the implications?

• Document Delivery Service from GeoRef: DDS needs to be closely monitored, and there should be a contingency exit plan. There is a need for delivery of PDF documents.

• Geographic based searching: GeoRef is considering MetaCarta and other map-based search-tool options such as Google Earth. Search choices should include both subject and geographic terms. Subset databases such as the Cold Regions Bibliography or AusGeoRef could be used as trials of geographic search tools. Integrating Google Scholar-type and Google Earth-type searching could be powerful.

• GeoRef has ceased including *Micropaleontology Bibliography* due to pricing considerations.

• DOI inclusion policy: DOIs are now included in GeoRef if the publisher provides them, and those not previously included are being added retroactively as they are found.

• Regarding the mention on the Geonet discussion list that usage appears to be declining at some universities: Although statistics indicate an over-all increase in usage of GeoRef, we still need to determine factors that impact use. We need to determine how to get feedback from users that we do not see, especially graduate students and faculty. The annual GSA meeting might be a good place to solicit input from users. In regard to currency of information, we need to educate users, as well as librarians, that the Preview database is available and free. Vendors should be “encouraged” to update more frequently.

Also, librarians need to continue to educate users regarding the unique provisions of A&I services such as GeoRef.

• Off site indexers: The replacement of indexer vacancies needs to be considered, along with salaries. Diversification of sources needs to be considered; USGS cannot be depended upon as in the past.

A list of action items was compiled.

The next committee meeting will be at the GSA annual meeting in Denver, October, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,
Lura E. Joseph
GSIS GeoRef Representative

**Call for Nominations**

As GSIS Past President I am honored to chair the 2008 Nominating Committee. The 2008 election will fill two offices, President-Elect and Secretary. The President-Elect involves a three-year commitment to GSIS while the Secretary has a two year term. Members elected will take office at the conclusion of our annual meeting in Houston, October 5-9, 2008. Descriptions of officer duties can be found in the Bylaws on the GSIS website, [http://www.geoinfo.org/](http://www.geoinfo.org/). If you are interested in either position, are considering how you might next serve GSIS, would like to nominate someone, or would like further information please contact me at pyocum@umich.edu or call 734/936-3079. Looking forward to a full slate!

Patricia Yocum
GSIS Collection Development Forum Report

Moderated by Chestalene Pintozzi, Collection Development Issues Committee Chair

The Forum held on Sunday, Oct. 28, 2007 from 2-5 pm was well attended. The agenda included: 1) Michael Noga’s serials pricing update; 2) a presentation by Neal Marriott, Director of Publishing, Geological Society of London; 3) a presentation by Cynthia Cleto, Global Manager of Springer eBooks; and 4) a panel discussion on implementation of e-books in member libraries.

To begin the session Michael Noga, Collection Manager for the MIT Science Library, presented his most recent analysis of geoscience journal prices. He distributed a list of prices and percentage increases for 229 print editions of geosciences journals. The average price change per title for 2008 is 9% and the average overall price change is 7%. In addition, Michael distributed a comparison of the average number of citations between Nature Materials and Nature Genetics articles and articles on similar topics in Nature Magazine. The Geoscience Journal Prices information will be published in the Newsletter.

Neal Marriott’s presentation focused on the Lyell Collection. He presented an overview of new developments and a series of responses to questions that have been raised and summarized library subscription options. Neal noted that some books will be added, that there are a few gaps in runs of serials at this point, and that more content will be added in 2009. The option to phase out print will be made available then. He encouraged members to set up trials and noted that the collection doesn’t require a license as they are supporting the SERU (Shared E-Resource Understanding) initiative developed by NISO. Neal’s presentation will be posted on the GSIS website and more information about the collection is available at http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/gsl/publications/lyellcollection. Neal may be contacted at neal.marriott@geolsoc.org.uk.

Cynthia Cleto presented an overview of the Springer e-book collection. She noted that all Springer e-books are available on SpringerLink directly and through agents and also available title by title through third party vendors. However, series and textbooks are not available through third party vendors. Theirs is an ownership model with libraries buying a copy of an e-book in the same way as they would buy a print volume. Springer also offers 13 subject collections with discounts available for purchase of annual packages. Geoscience books are included in the Earth and Environmental Sciences collection. Additional information about the e-book collections is available on the Springer website at http://www.springer.com/west/home/e-content/ebooks?SGWID=4-40791-0-0-0&SHORTCUT=www.springer.com/ebooks under the “For Librarians” link. Cynthia noted that pricing is tiered and based on two variables: size (FTE) of the institution and research intensity. She also reported that Springer believes the problem with time lag between print and
electronic editions has been resolved and that there will be no time lag in 2008. She also noted that they are contracting with OCLC to provide MARC records with a lag time of only one month. Cynthia may be contacted at cynthia.cleto@springer.com.

John Hunter, Rice University; Mary Scott, Ohio State University; Nancy Sprague, University of Idaho; and Andrea Twiss-Brooks, University of Chicago participated in a panel discussion of their experiences implementing e-books. John reported that Rice’s experience had both positive and less than positive aspects noting that many MARC records didn’t match the titles. He also noted that pricing issues continue to be problematic. Their users want materials at the desktop but encounter downloading limits and requirements to print materials page by page. He noted that Rice continues to monitor quality of their e-books.

Mary noted that Ohio State is part of OhioLink so decisions were out of their hands. She reported that they currently have a number of e-book collections including Safari for computer science, Oxford University Press, ebrary, and that they had NetLibrary although they had problems with maintaining accurate catalog records. They found that they have to keep a file of Springer books and check timeframe for electronic editions. Andrea talked about the University of Chicago collections where they have centralized their science libraries and have tried every type of model for selecting and obtaining e-books. They prefer direct orders for discounts. Some of the problems they have encountered include licensing, restrictions on use, building internal agreement among bibliographers to cancel pricing. She reported that a major issue is how to integrate e-books into the user search and discovery process. They have two records – one for print and one for electronic and are considering collapsing them into one. Nancy talked about the University of Idaho experience in terms of the library being a small institution with a limited budget. They have a high interest in online resources because of the scattered locations of their users. They added NetLibrary, Books 24/7 and ebrary and are now at a point where they plan to stop and look at usage. She said that they are assessing how well science e-books are being used and noted that it is not easy to compare usage statistics across packages. They are trying to break down their data by subject in order to have an LC breakdown correlated with use. Some discussion followed with the issue of discipline emerging as a key concern for many.

By Chestalene Pintozzi

Notes from the 2008 GSIS – GSA Topical Session Convener
by Lisa Johnston

Congratulations to all GSIS members who worked so diligently at this past year’s Geological Society of America meeting in Denver. The Technical and Posters sessions were well-attended and excellently coordinated thanks to Claudette Cloutier, the 2007 GSIS topical session convener.

Technical program planning is already underway for the GSA’s 120th Annual Meeting to be held in Houston, Texas October 5-9, 2008. As we
celebrate the International Year of Planet Earth (https://www.acsmeetings.org/2008/) geoscience librarians must consider how their role as information gathers, preservers, and disseminators, is changing and adapting to our ever-increasingly digital planet.

Abstracts for the 2008 topical sessions for both the oral and posters sessions are open for submission on January 21st, 2008 at the joint GSA meeting website (www.acsmeetings.org). Building on past themes and welcome suggests from fellow members, I developed two technical sessions that are broad and open to a range of perspectives.

Oral Session Theme:


Description: Information retrieval is rapidly changing how scientific discoveries are made. This session provides an opportunity to explore topics of changing practices within geoscience communities and how information professionals are using new technologies to adapt to these trends. It will discuss how these changes affect the way in which geoscience information is created, disseminated, organized, accessed, used and archived.

Posters Session Theme:

“Moving Mountains: Data Mining and Digital Repositories in the Geosciences”

Description: As researchers in the geosciences are continuously uncovering new and important discoveries in their quest toward understand our planet, librarians and information specialists are grappling with the difficult, often overwhelming, task of preserving and organizing these valuable advancements. This session will address the issues, problems, and solutions toward storing and providing access to the vast amount of geoscience research from the past, present, and future. This session will be co-Sponsored by the GSA Geophysics Division.

GEOSCIENCE JOURNAL PRICES

Compiled by Michael Mark Noga
GSIS Collection Development Issues Committee

The following price list contains most of the data that was presented at the Denver GSA Meeting. I left out some earlier years to save space. Prices come from invoices, serial vendor databases, publisher’s Web sites, and journal issues. Prices vary depending on the subscription sources and payment date, especially for journals which are not priced in US dollars. Each journal price history comes from a consistent source as much as possible.

Prices generally refer to print subscriptions. Some prices include electronic access with no separate charge for print.

Journals were included in this list if they meet two criteria: 1) the subject fits broadly in the geosciences; and 2)
sufficient price data were available. The latest title of each journal was used.

The 2008 subscription price and the % price change for 234 journals are included in the table. The pool price change (7%) represents the increase in funds needed to retain this particular set of journals. The declining value of the US dollar relative to the euro and other currencies is having an effect on geoscience journal prices this year.

Prices for several noncommercial journals will be published in succeeding Newsletters. The size of the library and its license terms has made price comparisons harder to standardize.

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GSIS Newsletter, no. 229, December 2007  22
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| Journal of Quaternary Science | 1295 1400 1525 1680 1681 | 8% 9% 9% 1% |
| Journal of Sedimentary Research | 250 300 350 500 600 | 20% 17% 43% 20% |
| Journal of South American Earth Sciences | 914 962 1013 1066 1138 | 5% 5% 5% 7% |
| Journal of Systematic Palaeontology | 1449 1525 1605 1689 1803 | 5% 5% 5% 7% |
| Journal of the Atmosphere Sciences | 210 228 240 260 263 | 9% 5% 8% 1% |
| Journal of Geosci (Czech Geol Soc) | 615 665 730 800 810 | 8% 10% 10% 1% |
| Journal of the Geol Soc of London | 985 1089 1195 1322 1458 | 11% 4% 11% 10% |
| Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology | 2748 2892 3044 3204 3396 | 5% 5% 5% 6% |
| Journal of Volcanol &amp; Geotherm Res | 314 318 300 348 377 | 1% 6% 16% 8% |
| Landslides | 250 270 289 318 324 | 8% 7% 10% 2% |
| Lithos | 1417 1491 1569 2122 1762 | 5% 5% 35% -17% |
| Marine and Petroleum Geology | 1845 1942 2044 2151 2296 | 5% 5% 5% 7% |
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| Marine Micropaleontology | 1287 1355 1426 1501 1602 | 5% 5% 5% 7% |
| Marine Pollution Bulletin | 1149 1321 1390 1463 1562 | 15% 5% 5% 7% |
| Mathematical Geoscience Meteoritics and Planetary Science | 880 968 1038 1092 1185 | 10% 7% 5% 9% |
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| Mineralogical Record | 1369 1478 1558 1625 1757 | 8% 5% 4% 8% |
| Mineralogy and Petrology | 1109 1225 1325 1455 1556 | 10% 8% 10% 7% |
| Minerals Engineering | 1252 1318 1387 1460 1559 | 5% 5% 5% 7% |
| Mountain Geologist | 50 40 40 40 40 | -20% 0% 0% 0% |
| Natural Hazards | 909 1125 1188 1380 1470 | 24% 6% 16% 7% |
| Nature | 1280 1526 1755 2160 2764 | 19% 15% 23% 28% |
| Nautilus | 56 72 72 72 73 | 29% 0% 0% 1% |
| New Zealand J of Geol &amp; Geoph | 305 320 320 340 344 | 5% 0% 6% 1% |
| New Zealand J of Mar &amp; Freshwater Res | 305 320 320 340 344 | 5% 0% 6% 1% |
| Nonlinear Processes in Geophysics | 433 360 520 552 596 | -17% 44% 6% 8% |
| Northeastern Geol &amp; Envt Sci Oceanology of Russian Acad Science | 84 84 84 86 90 | 0% 0% 2% 5% |
| Oil &amp; Gas Journal | 1127 1240 1298 1398 1505 | 10% 5% 8% 8% |
| Oil-Industry History | 79 79 79 89 97 | 0% 0% 13% 9% |
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South African Journal of Geology  180  180  190  200  212  0%  6%  5%  6%
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Surveys in Geophysics  647  708  745  815  884  9%  5%  9%  8%
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Tectonics  550  620  650  650  684  13%  5%  0%  5%
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Terra Nova  770  865  900  1079  944  12%  4%  20% -13%
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Water Research  4537  4775  5026  5290  5528  5%  5%  5%  4%
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Zeit fur Deutsch Gesell fur Geowissen  208  224  215  249  347  8%  4%  16%  39%
Zeitschrift fur Geomorphologie  214  230  241  268  371  -7%  5%  11%  38%

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**Notes on Preservation**

Digital Data Preservation - Is it on your Institution’s Radar Screen? The good news is more organizations are beginning to grapple with issues surrounding digital records. At my institution, the records management policy was recently revised to include forms of digital communications beyond email, such as webpages and digital datasets. In conjunction with the new records management policy, another committee shared an informational report on ‘best practices’ for digital data preservation ([http://www.senate.psu.edu/agenda/2007-2008/oct23-07agn/appd.pdf](http://www.senate.psu.edu/agenda/2007-2008/oct23-07agn/appd.pdf)). The bad news is that it took
this long to get the records management policy revised, and the ‘best practices’ are largely baby steps towards preservation of digital data. Still, I’m happy that digital data preservation has appeared on the radar screen of those in our administrative offices and is being promoted as an organizational value. Hopefully, many of you can or will soon have similar experiences to report.

-- Linda Musser, GSIS Preservation Committee

This & That

Publications by members:


Welcome to our youngest member:

Nia A. Goodwin, born August 4th, 2007

Congratulations Angela!
Darin Buri, Chair of the Exhibits Committee, staffs the GSIS exhibit booth at the 2007 meeting in Denver. (photo by April Love)

Angelique Jenks-Brown, Sarah Hodkinson, and Miriam Kennard enjoy an outing to Rocky National Park during the GSIS 2007 meeting in Denver. (photo by Brendan Hodkinson)
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