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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Lisa Dunn

In the past, the month of May has been the time for myself and many academic librarians to kick back a little, to reflect on what we've done over the academic year and what we need to do for the Fall. This year I feel that my "reflection" time lasted about 45 minutes, during one of the coldest outdoor commencement ceremonies I have ever endured. Now it's time to get busy.

We have a full inventory of the book collections scheduled for this summer in our Library. Despite budget problems we will be reviewing our e-resources and trying to get a little more for our bucks. I am in the final stages of editing a reference book on the mining districts of Colorado, which has applications for present-day land use, environmental issues, and genealogy as well in the history of mining in the State. We are continuing to experiment with digitization of archival materials and wrestling with the structure of our internal databases for specialized and gray literature (who-ee, discussions over MARC and Dublin Core!). The entire staff went on a retreat to discuss "the library of the future" and how it would translate into space needs.

On the GISIS front, I have received most of the papers that I was expecting for the proceedings of last year's meeting. It's looking good. Some committee chairs have reviewed their committee charges and submitted changes for the Executive Board's approval. I expect that the process of reviewing committee charges will continue on into next year to provide sufficient opportunities for feedback. Membership participation in our committees has been pretty good, but I would like to see some more new names so that we can get to know you—especially those of you who have joined GISIS in the last several years.

I am working on organizing the agenda for the next GISIS Business Meeting at GSA. My plan is to maximize the amount of information that is distributed beforehand to increase participation of those who cannot attend the meeting and to allow time for feedback prior to the Meeting and discussion during it. If you have comments or suggestions on the Business Meeting, please contact me.

Finally, I would like to encourage you *to submit an abstract* for the GISIS-sponsored sessions being organized by Lura Joseph for the upcoming GSA Annual Meeting this fall. Giving a paper or poster at GSA is a great way to communicate with the GISIS membership; it is also a way to reach a potentially large and diverse audience of geoscientists. Over the years we have had many excellent presentations by newcomers in the geoscience information field as well as those well-established names. We rely on you to make these sessions informative and thought-provoking. Please contact Lura if you have ideas or questions.

VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Lura Joseph

Last Call for Abstract Submissions for the GSA, Seattle Meeting, 2003!

The deadline for abstract submissions is July 15. Papers are published in the Geoscience Information Society Proceedings, and therefore should not have been published elsewhere. The electronic abstracts submission form is available at GSA's Web site <www.geosociety.org>, or go directly to <<http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2003AM/index.epl>>. The GISIS topical session is "T48". Although the emphasis of the session is on collections and use of collections, the rationale is broad enough to include most topics of interest to GISIS members. So far, only three individuals have notified me that they are interested in submitting an abstract. There must be at least 12 speakers for a session, or the session will be cancelled. Please notify me as soon as possible if you plan to submit an abstract (luraj@uiuc.edu).

The GISIS topic for 2003:

Theme: Geoscience Information Horizons: Challenges, Choices, & Decisions

(continued, p. 3)

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GSIS members are encouraged to contribute materials for publication. Material for the August, 2003 issue should be received no later than July 25, 2003. If possible, please send materials by e-mail.

(continued from p. 1)

Summary: Geoscience information professionals are confronted with challenges and opportunities in all areas including collections and use of collections. New technologies present a variety of choices, and the decisions made will effect geology collections and information users now, and far into the future.

Rationale: Geoscience Information Professionals are confronted with challenges and opportunities in all areas. New technologies present a variety of choices, and the decisions made will effect geology collections and information users now, and far into the future. Opportunities and challenges exist in the areas of collections and use of collections including materials selection, preservation, archiving, shelving of materials, budgetary considerations, user education/information literacy, current awareness, and managing exponentially increasing geological information.

Choices include a variety of formats, technologies, and methods. Decisions regarding participation in journal packages and consortia can have a major impact on collection development by restricting cancellation options. Budgetary constraints force decisions between journals and monographs. Management of large numbers of electronic journals leads to decisions related to cataloging, and whether to create in-house management systems or subscribe to journal management systems. The bewildering assortment of information databases available to patrons is leading to creation and implementation of portal technology, and to new in-

structional programs. Preservation continues to be a concern as print collections age and deteriorate, and other geological information collections such as samples and cores are endangered. Archiving of digital geological information is also a concern. There is an increasing need for metadata and citations for non-standard geological material. Open archives initiatives are being supported to enhance access to information. Academic and survey libraries are threatened by budget cuts.

These are only a few of the issues faced by geoscience information professionals. Current decisions will have far-reaching implications for the future of geoscience information therefore discussion of these issues is imperative. This session provides an opportunity for speakers to present their research and projects in these areas.

GSIS Forums at Seattle:

I have submitted a tentative schedule to GSA for the GSIS forums, and we have paid for the rooms. Expenses have increased again this year. Please remember that the GSIS board meeting is currently planned for Sunday afternoon. The meetings will run through Wednesday, and the field trip is planned for Thursday. Connie Manson and Steve Hiller are planning the field trip, and it should be great! As soon as I have a firm schedule from GSA, I will post a message to the GeoNet list. I hope to see everyone in Seattle!

FROM THE SECRETARY

As of Friday, May 30, 2003, we have 162 paid members. I am anticipating the renewal of another 40 or so, 10 of whom have told me (in the last week) that the check was in the mail. Among the paid members are these new members:

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ANNUAL REPORTS

Digital Data Committee

The committee has been busy reviewing our charge and preparing for the Annual Meeting. We will be presenting a combined forum with the GeoRef group this year in Seattle.

In reviewing our charge, the committee would like to suggest expanding the function of the Digital Forum. Presently, the Digital Forum is a "show and tell" type presentation of electronic resources such as: electronic journals, GIS, databases, web pages etc. We would like to suggest that it expand to include issues and evaluation of digital resources and that it rotate/and or combine with the other forums during the Annual Meeting. For example, one year it could be a "show and tell" presentation, another year, a panel discussion of issues having to do with preservation, co-presented with the Preservation Forum. Another year, it could be co-presented with the Collection Development Forum on issues concerning the cost of e-journals, etc.

The purpose for doing this is twofold. First, it has become increasingly hard to find new vendors to present on an annual basis. Second, combining with the other forums will free up some time at the conference for other events, and help lower the cost of equipment rental. In addition, the evaluation of database vendors or the development of standards for web pages could be something that committee members who don't attend the conference could become involved in. These results could be presented in the Newsletter as well as at the conference.

Respectfully submitted,
Adonna Fleming, Chair

International Initiatives Committee

The International Initiatives Committee (IIC) is planning its second silent auction to be held at the GISIS meeting in Seattle. More details will follow in future issues of the GISIS Newsletter and on GeoNet. We hope all members will participate in the auction by donating and purchasing items.

The GISIS Fellowship is on hold until funds can be secured. Proceeds from the silent auction will be used for the Fellowship as will any donations.

IIC Member Shaun Hardy is going to work with the Membership Committee to establish guidelines for sponsored members.

The next GEOINFO meeting is being considered by potential host nations. We hope that details of the 7th GEOINFO will be determined later this year.

Respectfully submitted,
Claren Kidd, Chair

Preservation Committee

The Preservation Committee is continuing to get organized for this year's work. Current committee members are

Kristi Jensen (co-chair), Mary Scott (co-chair), Diane Bacclawski, Pauline MacDonald, Susan Skinner, and Thelma Thompson. Possible initiatives for the upcoming year include: providing information about recent preservation literature via the GISIS newsletter, revising, updating, and re-launching the Preservation Committee web site, and finally, determining the content/subject of the preservation forum at the Annual Meeting in Seattle.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristi Jensen, co-chair

REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

AGI Member Society Council

The Spring, 2003 AGI Member Society Council met May 12 in Salt Lake City. As usual, this was a busy meeting, filled with many issues. Among those of perhaps the most interest to the GISIS community were:

Education issues: AGI is partnering with the Los Angeles public schools and Chevron/Texaco for the "It's About Time" program. Funded by a \$360k grant from Chevron/Texaco, this would provide teaching training in the geosciences and provide discounts for books and materials. In another development, we heard that many states now require standardized tests to ensure that students meet minimum requirements for graduation. It has become apparent, however, that many teachers focus only on the materials in those tests. So, a good way to get geoscience into the school curriculum would be to have it included on those exams. The Texas Earth Science Task Force is working on that now for their state.

Earth Science Week: Cindy Martinez, AGI's new Earth Science Week coordinator, reported that the 2002 effort was quite a success. They're hoping to do even better in 2003. The theme will be "Eyes on Planet Earth--Monitoring Our Changing World", so mark your calendars for Oct. 12-18, 2003.

The Aggregate--"Geoscience World": The aggregate is progressing. The initial publishers include AGI, AAPG, GSA, SEG, SEPM, GSL, MSA and others. They hope to launch mid-2004 with about 30 journals covering diverse topics in the geosciences. The primary requirements are that the articles are peer-reviewed, of high quality, and published in a regularly issued journal. *Geoscience World* will be primarily marketed to institutions (=libraries). The full text articles will be available in both html and PDF, and will provide linking and searching, with free access to Tables of Contents. In time they hope to add non-journal materials including maps, maps, books, state survey publications, and digital data.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie J. Manson, GISIS Representative

NOTES ON NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES DIGITAL DATA MEETING

by

Irena Kavalek, USGS Library, Reston
(reprinted with the author's permission)

Here are my notes from the NAS meeting I just attended. The full agenda of this meeting is available at: <http://www7.nationalacademies.org/cosepup/E-pub%20agenda.html>

In attendance were for-profit and not-for-profit publishers, editors, librarians, and scientists/authors. Speakers were selected to reflect this mix.

1. Cost of Publication

Most publishers find that anticipated savings from dropping print and switching to electronic are not being realized. Online publishing brings with it new and sometimes higher costs caused by the addition of new features: STML, XML, hyperlinks, animation, email services, delivering content to indexing/abstracting services, IT staff, personnel training, systems maintenance & upgrades, customer support, metadata, subject classification to organize the information, and the cost of archiving (this was a recurring theme: who will archive and who will pay). Scanning, while initially costly, increases usage by 5-10%. The American Chemical Society found that costs are going up much more rapidly than if they stayed with print only; the causes are again the cost of technology (IT operations 21% increase in spending), new type of staff, many more articles published (53% increase in articles in 9 years). Online publishing now involves online authoring, peer review, and editing. ACS

maintains 186 editorial offices, all of them requiring technical support. Sales staff, which used to consist of a few subscription agents, now requires knowledgeable people who are able to negotiate individual license agreements. For commercial publishers, the move to online means a loss of advertising money. Since users are reluctant to give up print, often two parallel systems are being maintained.

2. Legal Issues

The digital infrastructure challenges existing copyright practices - "sailing into the future on a sinking ship". Copyright is shifting from protection of ideas to include protection of data and facts. The commercialization of information leads to a shift in ownership: most universities, which up till now did not enforce its right of ownership to works of its staff are now more alert because some academic works are worth money. Publishers demand complete assignment of copyright from authors, but this arrangement should be challenged. Instead of copyright transfer, the author should grant a license to the publisher to use and package the information.

3. Open Access

Scientists will insist on fast and open access to current literature. The open access movement is here and growing (see Public Library of Science, PubMed Central, Genbank).

4. Peer Review

With the advent of Open Access, the process of peer review will shift from pre-publication to post-publication. These online reviews and the level of use of the information will constitute peer review (here a comparison was made with rating eBay sellers or reviewing books on Amazon.com). In order to maintain quality in this free-for-all, new systems will be created (referred to as "reputation systems") to guard against gaming the system, herding, and lack of accountability. Journal websites could publish reviewer comments for accepted and rejected articles (even if anonymously) and reader comments. Credit for author's work (for tenure and promotions) would be based on reader feedback rather than the prestige of the publication. Reviewers will be given research credits for reviewing early, often, and well. To complement peer review, digital libraries can provide analytic tools to generate new metrics based on user behavior to replace citation rankings and impact factors. (ISI's Citation Index is not a reliable measure of influence, because it is not known why the work is cited; need something better).

5. Pre-Pub Archives

The increasing tendency to proprietize information makes open access important, and there are many universities that have taken on the role of maintaining pre-publication archives (MIT, DSpace - a pre-pub archive of 6 large research universities). All this generates powerful opposition from commercial publishers, but they are fighting a losing battle. The complexity of the copyright law is both a threat and a weapon here.

6. The Future

- * There will be a shift from publication as a product, to publication as a process (and try archiving that!)
- * Growing need for data curation: all research has become more data-intensive and we need better integration between literature and databases (some literature is free but associated data repositories may be by subscription only)
- * Growing need for metadata
- * Open access is inevitable, but publishing is not going away because it will continue to provide the value add-

- ed aspect (e-journals could serve as archival validators of science)
- * Improved efficiency of access to information will increase science efficiency
 - * Open access will shift costs away from user toward the producer
 - * Scholarly communication and publication are diverging: there is now communication outside of publishing

- * Who should be responsible for the long-term curation of online information?
- * Scientists need to be better educated about the cost of information

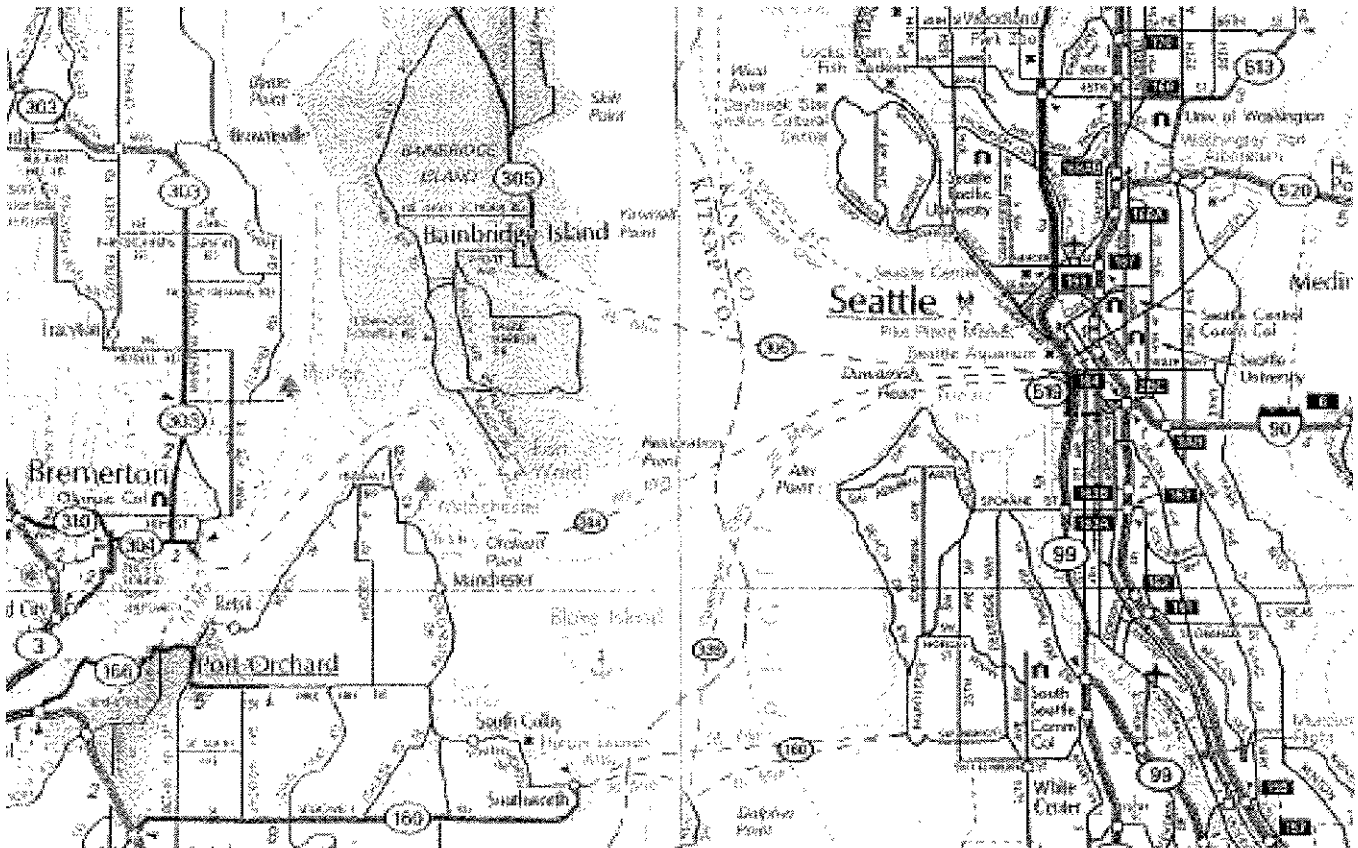
And this quote was offered as a theme of the meeting:
"Don't need to talk about the future; the present is terrifying enough."

NEW PUBLICATION

The Geoscience, Minerals and Petroleum Thesaurus (GeMPeT) is now available. GeMPeT was purchased from the Administrators of the Australian Mineral Foundation by Charted Information Services in September 2002. Previously known as the *Australian Geoscience, Minerals and Petroleum Thesaurus*, it has been renamed and has undergone extensive revision with over 500 new terms, and enrichment of the existing taxonomy.

GeMPeT can be purchased from Charted Information for AUSS\$350 regardless of format, hardcopy or electronic. Further information is available at www.chartedinfo.com.au/thesaurus.html

Geoscience Information Society
 2003 Field Trip--Thursday, November 6, 2003
Seismic In Seattle!



The trip is in three parts so folks can participate in any part(s) they'd like and leave when they need to.

Part 1: "The Glacial Geology and Seismic Hazards of the Puget Lowland," led by geologist Tim Walsh (head of the Environmental Geology section of the Washington Division of Geology and Earth Resources). Take the Seattle to Bremerton ferry, over the Seattle fault, past Restoration Pt. (site of uplift from the 1100 ybp earthquake on the Seattle fault), past the glacially-deposited, landslide-prone shores of Puget Sound. 8:30 to 11:30; **fee \$15.**

Part 2: Lunch in historic Pioneer Square (on your own) 11:30 to 1:00

Part 3: The Seattle Underground Tour-Visit the spooky city that lies beneath Seattle's present street level. The subterranean walkways are dry, but the history is not. Learn about Seattle's colorful past; how the Founding Fathers' squabbling led to Seattle's complicated street system, and how the solutions to our unique plumbing problems affected the town's elevation. (This is one of Seattle's most popular attractions-- and A Real Hoot!) 1:30 to 3:30; **fee \$10.**

There is no limit to the number who can attend: the ferry holds quite a few people, there are plenty of restaurants in Pioneer Square, and the Underground Tour can accommodate just about any number. If we have at least 10 people, we can get a private tour and pick our own hour.

Sign Up Now!

Name: _____

e-mail address: _____

Ferry tour only: \$15
 Underground tour only: \$10
 Both: \$25

Please mail this form and your check to: Connie Manson, 2525 Sleater Kinney Road N.E., Olympia, WA 98506

GSIS PUBLICATIONS LIST

Proceedings of the Annual GSIS Meetings (ISSN 0072- 1409) \$45.00 each; standing orders are \$45.00/year. (Proceedings volumes 1 through 25 are out of print and available from: Out-of-print Books on Demand, University Microfilms, Inc., 300 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.)

--v. 32, 2001 *Geoscience Information: A Dynamic Odyssey*, ed. by M. M. Noga. (ISBN 0-934485-34-8)

--v. 31, 2000 *Electronic Information Summit: New Developments and their Impacts*, ed. by S. N. Tahirkheli. (ISBN 0-934485-33-X)

--v. 30, 2000, *Communication Divides: Perspectives on Supporting Information Bridges in the Geosciences*, ed. by Lois Heiser, (ISBN 0-934485-32-1)

--v. 29, 1999 *Accreting the Continent's Collections*, ed. by C. R. M. Derksen and C. J. Manson, (ISBN 0-934485-31-3)

--v. 28, 1998 *The Costs and Values of Geoscience Information*, ed. by C. J. Manson. (ISBN 0-934485- 29-1)

--v. 27, 1997 *Expanding Boundaries: Geoscience Information for Earth System Science*, ed. by B. J. DeFelice. (ISBN 0-934485- 23-2)

--v. 26, 1996 *Crossing the Bridge to the Future: Managing Geoscience Information in the Next Decade*, ed. by N. L. Blair. (ISBN 0-934485-26-7)

Proceedings of the International Geoscience Information Conferences

-- 6th, 1998 *Science Editing and Information Management*, Proceedings of the Second International AESE/CBE/EASE Joint Meeting, Sixth International Conference on Geoscience Information, and Thirty-second Annual Meeting, Association of Earth Science Editors, ed. by C. J. Manson. (ISBN 0-934485-30-5) \$ 25.00

-- 5th, 1994 *Geoinfo V, Proceedings of the 5th International Conference on Geoscience Information*, ed. by Jiri Hruska. (ISBN 0-934485-27-5) \$ 45.00 (2 vols.)

Directory of Geoscience Libraries, North America. 5th Edition, 1997. (ISBN 0-934485-25-9) Paper. \$ 35.00

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