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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Lura Joseph

**GSIS Committees:** GSIS members responded well to requests for committee participation. Most critical positions have been filled. There is still an opening for a Publicity Officer, and the chair of the GeoRef User Group Steering committee is currently vacant. Two other committees are inactive due to lack of chairs: Digital Data and Guidebook Standards. If chairs are not found for these committees in the coming year, they will likely be dissolved. If the Guidebooks Standards Committee is dissolved, we will need to remove mention of the associated award in a variety of places. The Executive Board is still waiting for the mission statements, goals, and time lines that are necessary before the Core List working group and the Pre-1900 working group can be formed. Thanks to all of you who serve the society as chairs and committee members!

### Reminder to Committee Chairs and Representatives:

Your mid-year reports are due **April 30**. Also, please send me any proposed routine changes to your committee charges or procedures. I will be sending clarified procedures to the various chairs of committees that present awards.

**GSA Associated and Allied Societies Meeting:** Each year, Geological Society of America holds an Associated and Allied Societies meeting in February at GSA headquarters in Boulder, Colorado. This year, the meeting was held on February 28 and 29, and I attended as representative of GSIS. The heads of GSA divisions meet simultaneously in another room. William Thomas, GSA vice-president, chaired the meeting. Jack Hess, GSA Executive Director, gave a short update on GSA. The Seattle meeting was the second largest

on record (~6600 attended), and was the largest technical program (over 3800 sessions). As of the meeting, the GSA membership numbers were 400 above last year at the same time, and the budget was ahead of last year. In regard to membership categories, undergraduates are down, as are recent graduates, not a good trend.

After Jack's comments, we went around the table and introduced ourselves, gave a short description of our societies, and briefly mentioned areas of concern to our societies. Throughout the meeting, it was clear that a major concern of GSA and most of the associated and allied societies is the trend toward an aging and declining membership. There were also concerns of societies that publish journals related to print versus electronic publishing, and the economics of publishing. Other concerns related to the lack of earth science curricula standards, lack of field work in universities, global issues, and overlap and duplication of effort between societies.

Howard Harper gave an update on *GeoScience World*, the aggregated electronic journal, which is moving ahead on schedule. The vendor has been chosen, but the contract had not yet been signed. The projected launch dates are: Fall trial period; January 1, 2005, paid subscriptions. (For more information, see <http://www.geoscienceworld.org/>) Several other issues related to publications were discussed: Libraries are reluctant to give up a last print copy of a journal unless a consortium can be formed and one library can maintain a print copy. Paper is sacred to non-institution members. It is a challenge to keep both libraries and individual paper-subscription members happy without losing revenue. There is repetition among journals and subscribers are paying twice because of overlap of information in journals.

Alex Speer, the representative for The Global Working Group presented three issues: First, he talked about duplication of effort with AGI's International Working Group (next meeting, April 13th, 2004 at the AAPG Dallas meeting). Second, he mentioned travel support and the need to know more about what the different societies are doing in this area. I mentioned GSIS's international initiatives program. Third, there was an interesting discussion of restrictions on free exchange of information with embargoed countries. (I have a copy of a handout from Association of American

(continued, p. 3)

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The GSIS Newsletter is published bi-monthly in February, April, June, August, October, and December by the Geoscience Information Society. Subscription is free to GSIS members. The annual non-member subscription rate is \$40 to the U.S. and Canada, and \$45 (by airmail) to other countries. All correspondence regarding dues, membership status, and address changes should be directed to the GSIS secretary.

GSIS members are encouraged to contribute materials for publication. Material for the June, 2004 issue should be received no later than May 21, 2004. If possible, please send materials by e-mail to [cjm@thurston.com](mailto:cjm@thurston.com)

*(continued from p. 1)*

Publishers, Inc., if anyone would like to see it.) The conclusion of the handout is: "The OFAC interpretative rulings - and the specific OFAC regulations on which they are based - constitute a serious threat to the U.S. publishing community in general and to scholarly and scientific publishers in particular." AGI, GSA, and AGU are aware of the problem, are discussing it, and may seek a license, grant of exemption, or clarification of law. The American Association of Publishers (AAP) is prepared to take this issue to court, if necessary.

Mary Gillam gave a status report for the Public Outreach Working Group. Many societies have already developed programs related to their technical interests and member needs. These resources could be identified, better publicized, and enhanced for use by the public, especially students. More should be done in the area of mentoring by the societies. The societies could coordinate through GSA. Other ideas included financial support for GeoCorps and creation of educational CDs.

Jack Hess reported on congressional visits and the Congressional Science Fellow for the GSA Public Affairs Working Group, and mentioned that seven society presidents had signed an appeal to move creationist books out the science section of the Grand Canyon book store. The concept of a New Research Concepts Workshop was introduced in which diverse communities of scientists, including geologists, would meet to brainstorm new, interdisciplinary areas for research. A white paper report could be generated. I suggested that librarians be included in such discussions due to our expertise with information, and our experience in interdisciplinary areas. There was an update on Virtual Student Expo. Various suggestions included expanding the service to section meetings, and creating a website where students could post resumes, Powerpoint presentations of research, and 3-minute video clips.

After a break, there was discussion and feedback related to the Seattle meeting. One person suggested locating like-topical sessions closer together. Another person suggested starting and closing the Exhibits later so that there would be more time to see the exhibits after the topical sessions each day. One person had difficulties arranging rooms via the hotels, and would prefer dealing with GSA. (I had no difficulties arranging for rooms with the hotel.) Under New Business, a commemoration of the San Francisco Earthquake in April, 2006 was mentioned, with a suggestion that GSA put together a compendium of field guides at all levels.

Under New Business, Ed Rogers brought up one item of New Business: He stated that recipients of gift collections often had no clue as to their value, and that these collections are often sold far below value, or even just put in the trash. He gave an example of one collection that was destined to be pulped (for which there would be considerable expense), which instead sold for \$20,000. As another example, the family of a deceased geologist in California sold a collection for a minimal amount. The books were later valued at approximately \$500,000.

Saturday evening there was a reception with GSA Divisions and GSA Directors at Jack Hess' home.

The rest of Sunday morning was spent brain-storming about strategic planning. Much of the discussion related to declining membership, the state of geology as a profession, and what sorts of interventions might be possible. Most comments and discussion fell into three categories:

**1. The need to create new jobs in the geosciences:**

GSA should think about how to create jobs in the geosciences, and how to market geoscience. Geoscience is relevant to many other disciplines, e.g. environmental science. The world needs adults who can approach problems with scientific thinking. We need to change the reputation of geology as an "easy" major. GSA needs to instigate the teaching of earth science at the high school level and recommend standards for the teachers. We need increasing public awareness and knowledge of the value of earth science. Rice recruits from high schools. We need national requirements and standards for geology at the high school level, but we need to interact at the state level. We need to recruit more high school teachers to GSA. Geoscience is not regularly taught in community colleges and that needs to change. The expansion of courses in geology at the high school level would increase the demand for geology teachers at both the high school and the college levels.

Jobs drive everything. There needs to be better communication between industry and academia in order to predict the major employers in five to ten years. Because long term predictions could be far off target, there needs to be a broad geoscience curriculum that could be applied to new opportunities.

**2. The need to restructure college curricula:**

There is a need to adapt college geoscience curricula to fit present and future job trends. GSA should recommend core curriculum. GSA should make recommendations for content standards. I mentioned that information literacy needs to be a part of any geoscience curriculum.

We must integrate classical curriculum into new systems, for example, integrate geophysics into "solid earth" systems. It would help if GSA would endorse such approaches. There is a trend toward larger classes with fewer teachers. Young faculty members are expected to do more with less. (Librarians: Sound familiar?) Young faculty members have more teaching responsibilities, which leaves less time for research. Students are required to take more general education, which leaves less time for field courses. GSA needs to consider and recommend what is required for geology courses at all levels. State budgets continue to be cut; the growth areas consist of research and development, and the overhead generated. There should be more research in the area of geoscience education. Students should also be taught the value of society memberships.

**3. The need to help young faculty and students**

Regarding NSF white papers and National Academy Reports, GSA could help disseminate such information to young researchers via the Web and sessions at GSA. In this

way, young faculty could be aware of potential new areas of research. One person commented that it is critical to keep up with the times and make evolutionary rather than revolutionary changes to the profession. It is difficult, but necessary to determine what research is important now, and to predict important new areas of research.

GSA should attempt to convince NSF to spread research funds more evenly across disciplines, i.e. to include more geoscience projects.

#### **4. The need for lobbying:**

GSA sections could be effective when dealing with local and state issues. We need to develop general ideas and then recruit local members to carry the message locally.

After a break, the discussion shifted to constraints on societies, including digital publishing, decreasing membership (and therefore revenue), and recruitment of young members into societies. Societies are having to rethink the publishing business model, and need guidance/assistance from GSA on the most efficient ways to deal with electronic publishing and business models. Perhaps sessions or workshops are needed at meetings on this subject. Perhaps experts could be brought in from printing houses and nonaligned consultants. Other topics introduced included on-demand printing, and whether publications should be online-only. The question of map data was introduced.

In conclusion, I found the discussions intriguing, and valued the opportunity to represent GSIS and to network with folks from the other societies. I distributed GSIS membership brochures to everyone and asked them to pass them along to librarians at their institutions. It is nice to be able to place GSA folks in context when I call them. Attending the meeting at GSA headquarters is definitely a nice perk related to the GSIS Presidency.

#### **VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN: Annual Meeting News** by Linda R. Musser

The preliminary GSA meeting schedule has just been released and I'd like to alert everyone to aspects that may affect travel plans. Technical sessions run **all day Sunday**, November 7, followed immediately by the Welcoming Party and Exhibit Hall Opening from 5:30-7:30. The Presidential Address is on Saturday, November 6. Monday night is Alumni Party night. Technical sessions end on Wednesday, November 10. A field trip is being planned for Thursday, November 11. Get lots of rest prior to the meeting!

The topical session proposal was approved (see below) and will be held assuming enough relevant abstracts are submitted by July 13. I tried to craft a theme broad enough to encompass many of the members' interests and I hope the themes of international issues and services to users will spark some ideas for presentations by GSIS members. Keep in mind we also have our discipline session and poster session so there is a place for just about any kind of topic or presentation you'd like to make. Share your thoughts, successes,

failures or ideas with your colleagues. Not only is the annual meeting a great opportunity to network with colleagues, it is a great place to update us on what's happening in your organization. Please give some thought to sharing your perspectives at the annual meeting in Denver.

Field Trip Quiz – We have several field trip options this year and I'm feeling indecisive – see cool rocks or see cool libraries? see a cool rock library? go behind the scenes at a prestigious museum? stay indoors or go outdoors? HELP!! Please help me plan by letting me know what you'd prefer for our Thursday trip. My email is Lrm4@psu.edu.

#### **Session T111: Geoscience Information and Librarianship in a Global Context.**

Abstract submission deadline: *July 13, 2004*

As geoscience becomes more global in scope, the tools librarians provide must also adapt. How well have traditional tools and processes changed to meet these new demands? What changes still need to be made?

Rationale: Geoscientists have a long history of looking beyond local borders in the pursuit of knowledge. This is even more the case today as technological advances have simplified travel and eased the process of long distance collaboration. New disciplines, such as Earth system science, demand a global perspective as do the curricular requirements for new geoscience students. With faculty doing field work in Tanzania, students completing course projects in Greenland, and classes being taught synchronously across oceans, the need for libraries and geoscience information tools to support global research is stronger than ever. While the Internet has made many research tools more accessible, have the tools themselves become more global in scope? Are geoscience librarians collecting, acquiring, and organizing relevant materials from around the globe? How much of an impact has the prevalence of English-language materials had on the dissemination of geoscience knowledge? How do we deliver services to researchers in the field when the field is the Ross Ice Shelf? How do we support students across continents and colleagues around the globe? This session offers a venue for discussion of the challenges faced by geoscience librarians, educators, and researchers around the world and the solutions that have been developed to meet these challenges.

#### **Is Your Website Linked from the GSIS Website?**

Your editor just checked and only 23 member websites are linked from the GSIS website (at <http://www.geoinfo.org/membershomepages.html>).

Add to your fame! Brag about your successes! Make the rest of us jealous (and proud). Add your website by contacting our fearless Webmaster, Jim O'Donnell, at [jimodo@caltech.edu](mailto:jimodo@caltech.edu)

**GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY Budget 2004**

	<u>Income Budgeted</u>	<u>Income Actual</u>	<u>Expense Budgeted</u>	<u>Expense Actual</u>
<b>EXECUTIVE BOARD</b>				
President			150.00	
Vice-President			100.00	
Past-President			25.00	
Secretary			200.00	
Treasurer			100.00	
Teleconferences			0.00	
Subtotal			575.00	
<b>MEETINGS</b>				
2004 Meeting	\$0.00		3,500.00	
2004 Exhibit	\$0.00		500.00	
2004 Meeting Fieldtrip	\$800.00		800.00	
2003 Meeting	\$1,000.00		500.00	
2003 Meeting: fieldtrip	\$0.00		0.00	
Subtotal	\$1,800.00		5,300.00	
<b>DUES</b>				
Institutional	\$1,800.00			
Personal	\$5,600.00			
Sustaining	\$30.00			
Retired	\$200.00			
Student	\$150.00			
Pooled Sponsorship	\$300.00		300.00	
Subtotal	\$8,080.00			
<b>PUBLICATIONS</b>				
Publications Manager			800.00	
Directory of Geoscience Libraries	\$80.00			
Mailing labels	\$200.00			
Membership directory				
Newsletter: printing			3,000.00	
Newsletter: mailing			900.00	
Newsletter: subscriptions	\$600.00			
Newsletter: back issues				
Newsletter: cancellation refunds			80.00	
Proceedings, v.34 (2003)	\$1,400.00		1,650.00	
Proceedings, v.33 (2002)	\$300.00			
Proceedings, v.32 (2001)	\$300.00			
Proceedings, v.31 (2000)	\$180.00			
Proceedings, v.30 (1999)	\$90.00			
Proceedings, prior volumes	\$90.00			

Index	\$15.00		
GEOINFO V Proceedings	\$0.00		
GEOINFO VI Proceedings	\$0.00		
Reprints			
Royalties			
Subtotal	\$3,255.00	6,430.00	
<b>REPRESENTATIVES/APPOINTEES</b>			
AGI Member Council rep		25.00	
AGI Gov't Affairs Program rep		25.00	
CUAC (2 reps @ \$200 each)		400.00	
Publicity Officer		50.00	
Auditor		25.00	
Subtotal		525.00	
<b>COMMITTEES</b>			
Archives		50.00	
Best Paper		25.00	
Best Reference Work		25.00	
Best Guidebook		25.00	
Collection Development		25.00	
Digital Data		25.00	
GeoRef Users Group		25.00	
Guidebook Standards		50.00	
International Initiatives		100.00	
Membership		100.00	
Membership brochure			
Nominating		200.00	
Preservation		100.00	
Union List of Field Trip Guidebooks		25.00	
Website Advisory		25.00	
Subtotal		800.00	
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>			
AGI member society dues		425.00	
GAP contribution		400.00	
GIS International Fellow	\$600.00	0.00	
Ansari Award		500.00	
Gifts (unrestricted)	\$250.00		
Gifts- Professional Develop Fund	\$200.00	200.00	
Bank charges		50.00	
Interest	\$200.00		
Souvenirs			
Refunds			
Subtotal	\$1,250.00	1,575.00	\$0.00

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$14,385.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>15,205.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Checking</b>				
<b>Union Bank of California</b>				
<b>Savings</b>				
<b>Union Bank of California</b>				
<b>National City Bank: Ansari CD</b>				
<b>National City Bank: Ansari CD</b>				
<b>Bank of America: Ansari Savings</b>				
<b>National City Bank: CD</b>				
<b>National City Bank: CD</b>				

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### **Mary B. Ansari Best Reference Work Award Committee: Midyear Report**

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 (November, 2004). Please take an active role in the Ansari award selection by nominating titles for evaluation by the committee. Nominations should be sent to Janice Norris at [jgn2@psu.edu](mailto:jgn2@psu.edu). Please note that this is a new e-mail address. This year's committee includes the following members:

Lisa Fish, Columbia University (2002-2004)  
 John Hunter, Rice University, Houston (2004-2005)  
 Ed Lener, Virginia Tech (2004-2005)  
 April Love, University of California, Irvine  
 Linda Newman, University of Nevada, Reno (2001-2005)  
 Michael Noga, MIT (2004-2005)  
 Sally Scott, University of Wyoming (1998-2004)  
 Charles "Wil" Weston, University of New Orleans (2000-2005)  
 Thomas Zogg, University of Minnesota, Duluth (2003-2005)  
 Janice Norris, Chair, Penn State, DuBois (1998-2004)  
 Respectfully submitted,  
 Janice Norris, Chair

### **Best Paper Award: Call for Nominations**

The Geoscience Information Society's Best Paper Award Committee is beginning its work. We welcome nominations from the GSIS membership for the society's annual award for the best paper in geoscience information.

Papers published during 2003 (or published later, but with a 2003 imprint date) will be considered based upon the following criteria: significance, originality, scholarship, effectiveness of communication, and demonstration of professional knowledge.

Committee members will begin evaluation of papers in late April. Please submit nominations to Renee Davis, Chair, GSIS Best Paper Award Committee, Perry Library, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA 23529. You may also submit your nomination(s) by e-mail to [rdavis@odu.edu](mailto:rdavis@odu.edu), or by fax to (757) 683-5767, Attn: Renee Davis.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Renee Davis, Chair

### **Best Website Award for 2004**

Nominations for the Best Website Award are being solicited. Please consider emailing your faculty to ask for nominations. Criteria are listed at: <http://www.geoinfo.org/websitecriteria.html> Please contact one of the following committee members with the suggested nominations:

Carolyn Laffoon, [carolyn@purdue.edu](mailto:carolyn@purdue.edu);  
 Jim O'Donnell, [jimodo@caltech.edu](mailto:jimodo@caltech.edu);  
 Shaun Hardy, [hardy@dtm.ciw.edu](mailto:hardy@dtm.ciw.edu);  
 Janice Sorensen, [sorensen@kgs.ukans.edu](mailto:sorensen@kgs.ukans.edu).  
 Respectfully submitted,  
 Carolyn Laffoon, Chair

## NEWS FROM THE USGS LIBRARIES

By Nancy Blair, Chief Librarian

### **USGS Homepage**

The USGS brought up a new homepage on January 15, 2004 as one more step to bring better organization to USGS web information. Additional improvements are planned in the next few months. Clicking on Publications at the top of the page links to the USGS Store for online purchasing of publications from Denver and to the long awaited Publications Warehouse. The Warehouse is not complete, but many more records will be added in the next few months with the aim of finally providing a comprehensive database of USGS publications. The records will continue to be enhanced in an ongoing effort to provide added information such as superseded and edition information, more links to digital copies and library holdings, and better subject indexing.

### **Revised USGS Series**

The increased emphasis on an interdisciplinary approach to research has led the U.S. Geological Survey to revise its scientific publication series. The series resulting from this change are designed to accommodate a broad range of research topics in biology, geology, geography, and hydrology.

The resulting series are Circular, Data Series, Fact Sheet, General Information Product, Professional Paper, Open-File Report, Scientific Investigations Map, Scientific Investigations Report, and Techniques and Methods.

The following titles will be discontinued and absorbed into the revised series: Biological Science Report; Bulletin; Digital Data Series; Geologic Investigations Series (I-maps); Hydrologic Investigations Atlas (HA-maps); Information and Technology Report; Miscellaneous Field Studies Map (MF-maps); Techniques of Water Resources Investigations (TWRI); Topographic Instructions; and Water Resources Investigations (WRI).

The list below outlines the scope of the revised series and their relationship with the discontinued titles.

#### Circular

Scope: General science and public policy topics related to the mission of the USGS

Numbering: No change

Example: Circular 2345

#### Data Series

Scope: Release of basic data sets, databases, computer programs, etc.

Incorporates: Digital Data Series; Information and Technology Report

Numbering: Continues the numbering of Digital Data Series, without the DDS prefix

Example: Data Series 55

#### Fact Sheet

Scope: Brief descriptions of USGS science and products

Numbering: Uses year-number; numbers start with 3001+  
Example: Fact Sheet 2004-3001

#### General Information Product

Scope: Topics of general interest in a variety of formats (pamphlets, postcards, posters, bookmarks, teacher kits, etc.)

Numbering: Sequential

Example: General Information Product 1

#### Professional Paper

Scope: Premier series of the USGS containing comprehensive scientific reports

Incorporates: Biological Science Report

Numbering: No change

Example: Professional Paper 3456

#### Open-File Report

Scope: Interpretive information that must be released immediately, preliminary information, or information that does not warrant release in one of the other USGS series

Numbering: Uses year-number; numbers start with 1001+

Example: Open-File Report 2004-1001

#### Scientific Investigations Map

Scope: Scientific results of studies presented as maps, charts, stratigraphic sections, or other large illustrations

Incorporates: Geologic Investigations Series (I-maps);

Hydrologic Investigations Atlases (HA-maps);

Miscellaneous Field Studies Maps (MF-maps); Water

Resources Investigations Report (WRI) maps

Numbering: Continues the numbering of I-maps, without the I- prefix

Example: Scientific Investigations Map 2456

#### Scientific Investigations Report

Scope: Significant data and interpretations of lasting scientific interest but generally narrower in scope than Professional Papers

Incorporates: Biological Science Report; Bulletin; Information and Technology Report; Water Resources Investigations Report (WRI)

Numbering: Uses year-number; numbers start with 5001+

Example: Scientific Investigations Report 2004-5001

#### Techniques and Methods

Scope: Descriptions of procedures for collection, analysis, or interpretation of scientific data

Incorporates: Information and Technology Report; Techniques of Water Resources Investigations (TWRI);

Topographic Instructions

Numbering: Continues the numbering of Techniques of Water Resources Investigations (TWRI)

Example: Techniques and Methods Book 8, Chapter A, Part 3



## SALVAGING THE AUSTRALIAN EARTH SCIENCE INFORMATION SYSTEM

by

Grant Jacquier

Computers in Geology, Parkside, South Australia

(reprinted with permission from *The Australian Geologist*, no. 129, Dec. 30, 2003, p. 64)

For nearly twenty years, the Australian Mineral Foundation (AMF) provided an index of articles written by Australian geologists and other technologists working in the mining industry. This included journals, academic theses, government records and internal company reports. The index was known as the Australian Earth Science Information System or AESIS and along with the other more obvious assets fell into the hands of receivers when the AMF was closed in 2001. Unfortunately, the receivers found it far easier to dispose of physical assets and never bothered to settle what was an important item recording Australia's mining heritage. The former employees of the AMF recognised this and notified the local branch of the Australian Geoscience Information Association who were then determined that AESIS fall into competent hands. This article follows on the recent AESIS Edition of the Australian Geoscience Information Association (AGIA) newsletter 'The Great Australian Byte' which gave an historical perspective.

AESIS is technically a bibliographic database, an electronic index of articles giving the author, the publishing and availability details as well as key words and an abstract. The key words were chosen from a thesaurus also provided by the AMF. It was set up in the days when records of the geological surveys were not available in digital form and AESIS was intended as a central index that could be searched by workers in a single place without having to physically travel to each state and use the card indexes at each geology office. The index was supplied to all geological surveys, most Australian universities and anyone that paid the AMF subscription, including the majority of the Australian mining industry. The AESIS was always compiled on a computer database, but originally subscribers received a printed book, then there was a mainframe subscription service using teleprinters, later still CD-ROMs and an internet service. The AMF, also supported by the mineral industry, was the ideal independent body to compile such an index, being on good terms with the universities, surveys and the companies; the AESIS

complemented the other services of inter-library loans, training courses, bookshop and library.

After the demise of the AMF, Geoscience Australia, AGIA, and the RMIT University (formerly the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology) separately approached the liquidators to at least settle if AESIS could continue to be used by the industry, but there was nothing forthcoming. Eventually, the building and other assets as a lot were bought by Maptek Pty Ltd and the managing director, Dr Bob Johnson, then offered the AESIS to AGIA at a discounted price, so that it would continue to be in general use. AGIA accepted the offer and the data servers, printed and reference materials were then gathered up and left with Kerry O'Sullivan at Data Metallogenica, to be later placed in secure storage at the Primary Industry and Resources - SA core library, courtesy of Domenic Calandro and Brian Logan.

In August at the occasion of the Asia Pacific Special Librarians conference a workshop was held by AGIA for all its members and anyone else who was interested to put forward ideas for a self-sustaining business case to resurrect AESIS. Initially, there was some doubt whether the concept of AESIS was still relevant but anecdotal evidence brought to the workshop, and the fact that Geoscience Australia is proceeding with their own partial replacement, showed this not to be the case. From the ideas put forward by the twenty people who attended, a questionnaire was drawn up and circulated to all members to get their views on the outcome for AESIS.

The results from that survey have yet to come in but it is hoped that there will be a clear indication of the way members wish to proceed and with the assistance of the other member societies of the Australian Geoscience Council this can be put into action and at least the data from AESIS be available for further use.

For further discussion refer to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/geology-issues/>, the website of the Specialist Group in Computing of the Geological Society of Australia.

### JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **Earth Sciences Librarian and Bibliographer, Branner Earth Sciences Library and Map Collections, Stanford University, Stanford, CA**

The Stanford University Libraries seek an energetic, intellectually engaged subject specialist with graduate training in an Earth Sciences discipline to develop and manage collections supporting the following academic areas: Earth

Sciences, Geophysics, Petroleum Engineering, and Earth Systems. The Librarian works closely with faculty and advanced students to facilitate research and encourages the use of Stanford's rich holdings of subject materials through collection development activities, advanced reference help, and bibliographic instruction.

The Librarian is a member of the Science and Engineer-

ing Resource Group and participates actively in the Group's programs. The Librarian reports to the Head of Branner Earth Sciences Library and Map Collections, but also maintains effective working connections with many other units. The ability to work flexibly and personably with a wide range of colleagues and to negotiate skillfully a complex academic environment is indispensable.

The position requires demonstrated subject expertise; experience in research libraries; and a masters degree from an ALA-accredited library and information science school or the equivalent in training and experience.

Preference will be given applications received by April 16, 2004.

Full position description, including detailed responsibilities, qualifications, compensation and benefits, as well as the electronic procedures to apply are available at: [http://jobs.stanford.edu/openings/display.cgi?Job\\_Req=004924&JFam=NIL&JOBCODE=1592](http://jobs.stanford.edu/openings/display.cgi?Job_Req=004924&JFam=NIL&JOBCODE=1592)

Applications through the regular mail are also welcome and can be sent to: Carol Olsen, Director of Human Resources, Stanford University Libraries, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305-3090

#### **Science Librarian, The Ohio State University Libraries, Columbus, OH**

Position Available: Immediately

Responsibilities: Under the supervision of the Head of the Science and Engineering Library, the position is responsible for the collection development and academic liaison, reference service, and bibliographic instruction for civil engineering, computer science, geodetic science, mathematics, and statistics. In cooperation with other Ohio State University librarians, the incumbent participates in digital initiatives, database design, and Web design. Shares responsibility for communicating policies, procedures, changes, and new services to users and to staff. Evaluates the potential utility of new services and technologies and takes responsibility for implementation consistent with library system goals and policies. Participates in defining and setting goals and objectives for the Science and Engineering Library and serves on Library and University committees. This position has faculty status with accompanying university expectations and requirements for tenure and promotion, including teaching, service, and research and publication.

The Science and Engineering Library (SEL) staff consists of six librarians, eleven Classified Civil Service staff, and student workers. The collection of nearly half-a-million bound volumes, subscriptions to over 3,000 print journals, and a growing number of online journals and indexes supports the research and instructional needs for the College of Engineering and the College of Mathematical and Physical Sciences. More information about SEL is available at <http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu/phyweb/> and at <http://telr.osu.edu/digitalunion/index.html>.

#### **Image Metadata Librarian-Temporary (UCAI Project), University of California, San Diego**

Preferred appointment level: Temporary Assistant Librarian-Librarian, with an approximate salary range of \$37,920-\$70,500 depending on experience and qualifications. Full-time temporary position available from June 2004 through June 2005 with the possibility of extension.

The Libraries of the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) invite applications from innovative professionals interested in moving the profession forward in the challenging area of image metadata and databases. We are looking for someone with substantial metadata, data analysis, and system design skills to participate in a research and development effort on behalf of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. This individual will collaborate with other members of the project team to develop a production-level system of a union catalog of metadata for art images.

Project Description: The Union Catalog of Art Images (UCAI) Project is a research and development effort that is funded for eighteen months (1/1/04-6/30/05). During the first phase of the project, the Project Team developed a prototype database for a union catalog of metadata for art images. During this phase of the project, the Project Team will move the prototype to a production-level system. The database will be built from very diverse image datasets from six contributors, and will total close to one million image metadata records. In addition to preparing image metadata for a shared cataloging environment, the project will develop tools for clustering, merging, and displaying records. The UCAI Web site may be found at <http://gort.ucsd.edu/ucai/>

Responsibilities of the Position: Reporting to the Project Coordinator, and in collaboration with other members of the Project Team, the incumbent will determine the functional specifications for the union catalog; participate in data analysis and data modeling for the metadata from the contributing libraries; determine metadata mapping between various record structures; provide feedback and analysis on the continuous iterations of database design; provide guidance on usability and display issues; determine relationships between work and surrogate records; explore data standardization issues between records; determine record clustering algorithms and evaluate results; deliver updates and presentations about the project to the larger cultural heritage community; maintain awareness of advances in image cataloging, metadata standards, and database technology.

Qualifications:

- Professional degree from a library school or other appropriate degree or equivalent experience in one or more fields relevant to library services
- Experience with creating and manipulating records in at least one metadata standard (Dublin Core, TEI, VRA Core, MARC21, etc.)
- Understanding of descriptive practices for visual resources
- Knowledge of developments in metadata standards and digital libraries

- Experience with system and workflow analysis in cataloging contexts
- Strong foundation of theoretical knowledge of bibliographic relationships
- Experience in analyzing record structures to identify content
- Experience with the specification of functional requirements for online system design
- Broad knowledge of database design principles and strong grasp of the current state of info tech
- Prefer experience cataloging art images and experience with metadata mapping

Application: Application consideration begins April 1, 2004 and will continue until the position is filled. Send cover letter, resume, and list of 3 references to [libraryjobs@ucsd.edu](mailto:libraryjobs@ucsd.edu) or to UCSD, Debra Ambrose-Library Human Resources, 9500 Gilman Drive Dept 0175H, La Jolla, CA 92093-0175. Ref Code 2. For more information, go to: <http://orpheus.ucsd.edu/fac/UCAllibrarian.htm>

UCSD is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer committed to excellence through diversity.

**Science Reference Librarian (two positions), Noble Science and Engineering Library, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ**

Arizona State University, Noble Science and Engineering Library is recruiting for two Science Reference Librarians (at the rank of Assistant or Associate). The Daniel E. Noble Science and Engineering Library is the largest branch of the University Libraries, serving the Colleges of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Nursing, and the Ira A. Fulton School of Engineering. The University Libraries, consisting of four libraries on the ASU main campus, maintains a collection of over three million volumes and is a member of ARL, CRL, OCLC, and RLIN. Arizona State University is a leading national and international research and teaching institution. Located in the greater Phoenix metropolitan area, with the main campus in Tempe, this rapidly growing multi-campus Research I university offers programs from the baccalaureate through the doctorate for approximately 55,400 full-time and part-time students. For additional information about the Libraries and ASU see: <http://www.asu.edu>, <http://www.asu.edu/lib/>, and <http://www.asu.edu/lib/noble/>.

General Summary: These two positions are full-time continuing status-track (academic professional) positions requiring professional development and service in addition to excellent job performance. Incumbents report to the Team Leader of Science Reference Services.

Essential Functions: Participates on a reference services team with a strong emphasis on electronic reference, including live chat, email, phone and in-person services. Provides high-level research assistance, instruction and collection development in assigned areas. Understands the information

needs of scientist and/or health professionals. Participates in collaborative university learning, teaching, and research initiatives and projects. Sets personal work goals and priorities within the context of the Libraries' strategic plan and initiatives. Participates as an active member of the Science Reference Team. Pursues professional development, contribution, and service activities in keeping with the criteria for promotion and continuing status.

Qualifications: Required: ALA Accredited MLS degree. Librarian (assistant or associate rank) dependent upon quality and level of professional preparation and experience. Academic preparation in or work experience with science, and/or health sciences, and/or engineering information resources. Preferred: Demonstrated effective communication skills. Subject expertise in the life sciences or health sciences, especially in one or more of the following areas: molecular or cell biology; biodesign or bioengineering; genomics or biomedicine; environmental or ecological sciences; kinesiology; or the allied health professions (nursing, or speech and hearing). Reference experience in an academic, special, or research library. Experience with instruction activities and/or information literacy programs and practices. Experience working in a team environment. Experience working with diverse (international or minority) clientele.

Salary and Benefits: Salary dependent upon quality and level of professional preparation and experience. ASU offers generous benefits to its eligible employees including vacation leave (22 days), paid holidays (10 days), sick leave (12 days), self and dependents-reduced tuition, choice of several retirement plans including TIAA/CREF, group life insurance, long-term disability coverage, medical insurance programs, flexible benefits plan and dental insurance plans.

Application Deadline: First review of applications will begin April 7, 2004, if not filled, applications will be reviewed the first of every month thereafter until the search is closed. Hiring is contingent upon eligibility to work in the United States.

Application Procedure: Applicants must include a letter of application and curriculum vitae addressing work history as it pertains to each qualification listed. Send letter, vitae, and names, addresses (include e-mail addresses if possible) and phone numbers of three recent references to Kurt R. Murphy, Assistant Dean for Personnel; University Libraries, Arizona State University, Box 871006, Tempe, AZ 85287-1006. Telephone: (480) 965-4914, Fax: (480) 965-9169. E-mail: [karie.pifer@asu.edu](mailto:karie.pifer@asu.edu) for more information. Full position description and criteria/rank will be furnished. Criteria and rank can also be found at <http://www.asu.edu/lib/library/lc/handbook/E2.html> and <http://www.asu.edu/lib/library/lc/handbook/D2.html>.

ASU is an EO/AA employer and actively seeks diversity among applicants and promotes a diverse work force.

## GSIS PUBLICATIONS LIST

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- v. 33, 2002 *New Heights in Geoscience Information: Access and Technology*, ed. by L. G. Dunn. (ISBN 0-934485-35-0)
- v. 32, 2001 *Geoscience Information: A Dynamic Odyssey*, ed. by M. M. Noga. (ISBN 0-934485-34-8)
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### **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

**GSIS Newsletter** (ISSN 0046-5801) published bi-monthly; calendar year subscriptions only. United States and Canada \$ 40.00; other countries (via airmail) \$ 45.00

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