



**GEOSCIENCE
INFORMATION
SOCIETY**

newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Adonna Fleming

Happy New Year to all our members!

I wish you success with your New Year's resolutions, especially if becoming active in GSIS was one of them!

Things have been moving a bit slow in filling committee chairs, so once again I urge members to step forward and get involved. As to you new members out there, don't be shy, you are welcome to apply for any open committee chair. It is a wonderful learning experience and if you are an academic librarian it is a great way to get points for service on your vitae. In fact, the person, Connie Manson, who recruited me to join GSIS asked me to chair the Digital Data Committee all in the same phone call! I agreed, organized the Digital Forum for years, and now here I am— President! So get in touch!

We have openings for the following committees: Best Paper Award, Collection Development Issues, Exhibits, Membership, Nominating, Preservation, and Best Website. Committee charges may be found on our website, <http://www.geoinfo.org/>.

In addition, the GeoRef User's group will be part of a new committee. This committee will be responsible for planning how to present information about electronic resources at the annual meeting. For example: they may offer a Digital Forum, co-sponsor one of the other Forums, or plan a workshop. We are looking for a chair and members for this group.

We are also looking for an archivist. And we have two new task forces: Librarianship 101, and the 40th anniversary celebration. Librarianship 101 will develop a program for the Philadelphia meeting, and possibly a workshop at

ACRL. This is GSIS' 40th year! Celebration at the annual meeting is a must, so you party animals get in touch and help out!

Finally, I would like to announce two committee chairs: Louise Zipp will continue her chairmanship of the Guidebook Committee, and Jan Heagy is the new chair of the International Initiatives Committee. Thanks to you both for your commitment to service.

And hopefully, I'll be hearing from the rest of you soon.

VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Patricia Yocum

Philadelphia, here we come! Proposals for topical sessions for the GSA meeting were due January 11, 2006. As the program planner I am happy to report that we made the deadline with time to spare. I've listed the GSIS submission in full below.

As usual our theme is broad and open to a wide variety of perspectives. Examples include describing the relationship between scientific discovery and access to information, examining developments during a time of great transformation, and discussing the great value libraries offer to science. There are of course many more perspectives! Abstracts are due in early July so there is plenty of time to think about **your** perspective.

Theme: Geoscience Information: Keys To Discovery

Description: Discovery in science depends on information made publicly available. This session provides opportunity for the geoscience community to discuss scientific information—how it is created, distributed, organized, accessed and used.

Rationale: The digital environment has had a major impact on the flow of geoscience information even while conventional modes of information transfer remain active. This interdisciplinary session focuses on the efforts of individuals (librarians, archivists, faculty, students) and institutions (libraries, universities, government agencies, professional and trade organizations) to promote the flow of information in the interest of advancing discovery in the geosciences. Examples of efforts include the digitization of journals, books, and maps; creation of digital libraries, archives, databases and webpages; and use of digital sources in research and learning.

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GSIS members are encouraged to contribute materials for publication. Material for the April, 2006 issue should be received no later than March 24, 2006. Please send materials by e-mail to cjm@thurston.com

(continued from p. 1)

We have proposed both oral and poster sessions. Submissions may be made for either or both. If you would like more information feel free to email me at pyocum@umich.edu. Looking forward to a very rich program.

MY HIGHLY OPINIONATED NOTE ABOUT ISSN

by Judy C. Holoviak, American Geophysical Union

Editor's note: In submitting this item, the author commented, "You know me to be opinionated, but this ISSN thing has bugged me for 15 years or more. I was even once told that my correspondence to LoC on this topic was in a file folder labelled 'Handle with asbestos gloves'. The person who told me that was a bit of a kidder, but she had read the correspondence and knew I was steamed."

The December issue of the GSIS Newsletter said, "AGU changed the ISSN on JGR more than once. This causes SFX problems." Well, I just couldn't let that statement stand without comment.

When the ISSN was first introduced in the 1970's, it seemed to be an excellent way of keeping track of a journal even through multiple changes in names or owners. The web site of ISSN International Centre in Paris (URL: www.issn.org) states, "The ISSN is the standardized international code which allows the identification of any serial publication independently of its country of publication, of its language or alphabet, of its frequency, medium, etc." I naively thought one might be correct to add to this definition "over time." Not so.

Let's take a look at JGR as an example. It was not AGU who changed the ISSN of JGR. The publisher is totally at the mercy of its national ISSN center when it comes to the assignment of this wonderful identifier. For the U.S., the ISSN program is under the auspices of the Library of Congress. I fought vigorously with the LoC to avoid a change in the ISSN but lost.

You may ask, "Why did our ISSN center feel compelled to change the number that had originally been assigned by them to JGR?" I certainly did. The answer was tied to the fact that AGU changed the cover design when the trim size of AGU journals was increased from roughly 6 x 10 to today's size in order to cut costs. With the additional real estate we decided to add what we thought—and still think—was a design element: the big block letters J G R. We did not change the title of the journal. (We had been sensitized by our colleagues in the library community about the problems created by title changes.) The LoC told us otherwise. Because the design element contains letters and was the largest thing on the cover, they, not AGU, changed the name of the *Journal of Geophysical Research* to *JGR Journal of Geophysical Research* and a change in the "key title" triggered a change in the ISSN.

I figured that it would be possible to convince LoC that this was just a design element and that the name of the journal was unaltered. I figured AGU should be the authority on the name of the journals we publish. After all, aren't parents the authorities on the names of their children? Why didn't we just change the cover design? To do so would have been

construed by LoC authorities as yet another title change, which in turn would trigger a change in the ISSN and it wasn't clear whether they would reissue the original number.

But it got worse, because the U.S. Postal Service had assigned different postal identifiers to the different sections of JGR, LoC insisted that JGR was three separate journals. Arguments about the continuous pagination and the fact that the disciplinary sections were not permanent divisions didn't seem to get me anywhere. I appealed to Chemical Abstract Services for some help; they had assigned a single CODEN to the journal. But, I gave up when the LoC told me that they would change their position only if the U.S. Postal Service changed its position. What a disillusionment—the Library of Congress turning to the U.S. Postal Service as a bibliographic authority. Ultimately, a postal inspector decided that JGR was a single journal. I imagine this triggered yet another change in ISSN. Throughout this entire years-long fiasco, AGU steadfastly printed the original ISSN on the cover and in all promotional literature. In that entire time we were only asked once why the number differed from what one would find in the LoC records and that came from a worker at the printing plant.

In fairness to the ISSN centers of the world, it must be pointed out that they maintain a registry of the lineage of the changes in ISSNs for a serial along with the changes in what they call the key title. You can see an example of a "family tree" of a serial publication by checking out the FAQs on the ISSN International Centre web site. Again, my naivety comes to the fore, "If all of this work is being done to trace a serial, wouldn't it be possible to retain a common identifier for it?" Then perhaps the problems being experienced by SFX with changes in ISSN's would go away.

But then maybe they won't. After all, different ISSNs are assigned to different physical formats such as print, CD-ROM, online, etc. but not microform. (See www.loc.gov/issn/issnbro.html) Perhaps someday I'll understand the claim on this LoC site that says, "The ISSN results in accurate citing of serials by scholars, researchers, abstracters, and librarians." How can this be if the ISSN is not constant by content but rather by format? How does an abstracting service like GeoRef decide which ISSN to assign to a periodical if it is issued in multiple formats?

STATUS REPORT OF KATRINA'S IMPACT ON THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS

by

Wil Weston, University of New Orleans

Well, the University of New Orleans library sustained very little damage and most of the collection is okay. The 3rd floor social sciences collection had a small mold outbreak and that has been quickly cleaned up. The carpeting on the 1st floor had to be taken up due to the wild dogs that inhabited the library briefly. There was a little trash inside the front lobby and the vending machines and soft drink machines were broken into by refugees looking for food. None of the computers or any of the library property was stolen by the people seeking shelter. Overall, I think that everyone agrees that we were very fortunate.

The campus fared reasonably well during the flood. Only two buildings, that I'm aware of, got any water into the building. One was the Engineering Building and the other was a dormitory. The real problem is mold, getting electricity, plumbing, and internet services running in the buildings. Currently, only the Library and the Education Building (Bi-centennial Hall) are open on the Main Campus. The satellite campuses fared much better and have been running since September when we restarted the Academic year. We created about 3,000 online course offerings and about 1,000 in class offerings at the satellites and retained about 10,000 of the 17,000 students that we'd enrolled this semester through these course offerings, most at a reduced course load. Again, I think that the campus generally views this as a success.

However, the surrounding area is very bad. Some 80%

of the city was flooded. The Gentilly, Elysian Fields, and Lakeshore areas around campus are wrecked. Driving to work through these areas saddens me so much. Prior to the storm these areas were a beehive of activity just like the French Quarter, you'd see lots of people walking the streets or driving as late as 4:00am. Now, even at lunch time the streets seem abandoned except for the people gutting the houses dressed in biohazard protective wear and gas masks. The trees that ran along Elysian Fields, large live oaks, pecans, and tall palms, are mostly gone or leafless and tortured looking. The heavy breeze off the Pontchartrain, now unobstructed, rips through the campus and into the city. Piles of garbage still accumulate in areas. Flooded out vehicles have been placed under the interstate overpasses out of sight.

When I first drove back to campus there was a spray-painted epitaph on the I-610 saying that someone had died there – it has since been scrubbed away. Despite it being removed, when I drive by, my eyes are still drawn there. I think that best describes how I feel about everything – moving, working, cleaning – but I can't seem to forget the destruction that was there. I've returned to where my home was in Pass Christian, MS only twice. In some ways, I'm much more fortunate than many of my co-workers who lived in New Orleans. They still have their things there, just ruined – mine were all washed out to sea.

Best Regards, Wil

GSIS NEWS

New GSIS Proceedings Volume is Available

Volume 35 of the Geoscience Information Society Proceedings, *Geoinformatics*, edited by Linda R. Musser, is now available. Copies have been being mailed to members, and are also available for \$45 (see this issue, p. 7 for ordering information).

– Elizabeth Wallace, GSIS Publications Manager

GSIS Officer Nominations

The GSIS Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for Vice President and Secretary. The Vice President elected this year will be a member of the Executive Board and plan the 2007 GSIS meeting, which will be in Denver from October 28-31. They will serve as President of the GSIS from Nov. 2007-October 2008, presiding over the annual business meeting in Chicago in 2008. The Secretary is also a member of the Executive Board and is responsible for maintaining membership records and soliciting renewals. In addition, the Secretary takes minutes at the annual business meeting and annual executive board meeting. Those elected will take office at the 2006 GSIS annual meeting. Please send your nominations to Linda Musser, Chair of the Nominating Committee (Lrm4@psu.edu) before March 1.

– Linda R. Musser, Chair, Nominating Committee

Editor's Mea Culpa

On page 9 of the December, 2005 issue, the first caption should have read, 'Charlotte Derksen (Stanford University, emerita), received the **Mary B. Ansari** GSIS Distinguished Service Award, presented by Claren Kidd (University of Oklahoma), chair of the Distinguished Service Award Committee.

We regret the error.

GSIS Awards Reported

The 2005 GSIS awards have hit the news! The awards to Charlotte Derksen (for the Mary B. Ansari GSIS Distinguished Service Award) and to Michael Noga (for the GSIS Best Paper Award) were reported in:

- *American Libraries* (vol. 37, no. 1, p. 70, January 2006);
- *College & Research Libraries News* (vol.67, no. 1, p. 41);
- *Stanford Report* (vol. 38, no. 9, p. 3, December 7, 2005);
- an MIT press release at <http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/2005/aandh-1214.html>

Thanks to GSIS Publicity Officer, Shaun Hardy, for getting the word out.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

Geographical Information Systems Specialist, Purdue University Libraries, West Lafayette/Lafayette, IN

Purdue University Libraries seek a creative, enthusiastic librarian to help shape its Geographical Information Systems (GIS) program. Purdue has many groups active in GIS related instruction and research across the campus, comprising topics as diverse as political science, history, business and economics, homeland security, climate change, engineering, agriculture, and geology. Purdue also has a strong GIS program attached to the Envision Center, an interdisciplinary, high-performance visualization showcase facility on campus

The Libraries and the University: the Purdue University Libraries have embarked upon a dynamic new role within the University, emphasizing a closer integration of the Libraries into the academic mission of Purdue; see <http://www.lib.purdue.edu>. In support of this goal, the GIS Specialist, working within the Earth and Atmospheric Sciences (EAS) Library, will create a close working relationship between the Libraries and students and faculty within the Colleges of Science, Agriculture, Engineering, Liberal Arts and Management. The EAS Library contains a print map collection with over 200,000 maps and 140,000 aerial photographs. Purdue has a site license to the ESRI suite of GIS software. The EAS Library is part of the Engineering, Physical Sciences and Technology Division of the Purdue University Libraries.

Purdue University is a national leader in the areas of agriculture, business, engineering, science, and technology. Purdue is experiencing unprecedented growth in research funding and, in addition, will be completing a \$1.5 billion capital campaign in 2007. Purdue has the third largest international student enrollment in the nation: West Lafayette/Lafayette is a growing, vibrant, historic community located about forty-five minutes from Indianapolis and less than two hours from Chicago: <http://www.lafayette-in.com/>

Responsibilities: Primary responsibility will be to develop and implement the Library's GIS program; serve as libraries-wide resource person for GIS-related questions; collaborate with faculty to integrate geospatial information literacy and knowledge management skills into curricula campus-wide, as an integral part of the Libraries' system-wide information literacy program; organize campus gateway to geospatial data, including locally produced data as well as commercial, government, and other institutional data; develop local digital collection of geospatial materials; coordinate digitization program of unique geospatial print resources held at Purdue; identify ongoing campus user needs for GIS and digital geospatial data; serve as a liaison with centers of geospatial work across campus; participate in interdisciplinary research initiatives; collaborate with Information Technology at Purdue (ITaP) in acquiring and planning for upgrades to hardware and software to support changing geospatial technologies. As a member of the Libraries faculty must meet Purdue requirements for promotion and tenure.

Requirements: ALA accredited Masters Degree in Library Science and/or advanced, terminal degree in another relevant subject discipline. Academic background or work experience with GIS software, digital geospatial data, and cartographic concepts.

Desired Qualifications: Two years recent experience providing GIS services to end users; vision and leadership to develop expanded geospatial information services; demonstrated interest in the applications of current and emerging technologies to meet the changing needs of users; strong service orientation and high degree of computer literacy; excellent communication and presentation skills and ability to work well with all levels of users and staff; demonstrated commitment to user instruction and to consultation with users on their information management needs; ability to organize and provide access to decentralized data repositories; and supervisory experience.

Salary: Commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Status and Benefits: Faculty status and responsibilities. Rank of Assistant Professor. Twelve-month appointment with annual vacation of 22 working days. Flexible benefit programs. TIAA-CREF retirement.

Reference Librarian, Hunter Library, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC

Hunter Library seeks an enthusiastic and knowledgeable reference librarian to join its collegial, service-oriented staff. This librarian will participate in the full range of reference and instructional activities and will provide the following services to students and faculty in the environmental and geosciences:

- specialized reference and instruction,
- collection development including the paper and digital map collections,
- assistance for students and faculty in mapping data elements using geographical information systems and other applicable software,
- maintaining and further developing Internet access to digital cartographic data.

This position reports to the Head of Reference and includes evening and weekend service. Hunter Library's size and culture allow for involvement in many areas, and the Library faculty are highly engaged in planning and policy-making.

Required: MLS from an ALA-accredited program; good oral and written communication skills; planning and organizational skills; and an ability to work effectively with teaching faculty, students, and library faculty and staff. At least one of the following qualifications is required, although preference will be given to candidates with strengths in more than one of these areas:

- Demonstrated knowledge of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and digital spatial data.
- Knowledge of maps in traditional formats and cartogra-

phic information in digital form.

– Academic coursework in geography, cartography or environmental sciences.

Preferred: Demonstrated knowledge of U.S. Federal Depository Cartographic materials and web site design and maintenance; reference experience in an academic map collection. Please submit letter of application, resume and names and telephone numbers of three references to: Chair, Reference Librarian/Environmental and GeoSciences Liaison Search Committee, Hunter Library, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC 28723

Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled.

Minimum salary is \$40,000. Salary and rank are commensurate with qualifications. This is a twelve-month, tenure-track position with a generous 24 days of vacation leave annually. Choice of retirement plans includes Fidelity, Lincoln, TIAA-CREF, VALIC, or the North Carolina State retirement system.

Hunter Library shares an online catalog with two other university libraries that comprise the Western North Carolina Library Network. Western Carolina University (www.wcu.edu) is one of the 16 senior institutions of the University of North Carolina and is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer. Western is a fast growing, regional comprehensive university with approximately 8,700 students. The university is located in one of the major recreational areas in the Southeast, situated between the Great Smoky Mountains and the Blue Ridge Mountains. While in a rural setting, the university is only one hour from Asheville and three hours from Atlanta and Charlotte.

Librarian II or III, Technical Services, University of Hawai'i at Hilo, HI

Edwin H. Mookini Library, position number 73259, full-time, tenure-track, 11-month, general funds to begin approximately May 1, pending position clearance and availability of funds. This is a new position in response to enrollment growth. This position may be required to work evenings and weekends.

Duties: Reporting to the head of technical services (position number 83052), this position will be primarily responsible for a wide range of academic library technical services duties, including serials cataloging, especially non-print, linking and integrating electronic materials into the OPAC, utilizing AACR2, MARC, LCSH, and OCLC, and metadata; cataloging and managing the federal depository program and Hawaii State Data Center material, as well as organizing, maintaining, and cataloging the map collection. This position is also responsible for delivering reference services; working with faculty to improve library services; performing assigned collection development responsibilities; serving on library, university and UH System committees; and other duties as assigned.

Minimum Qualifications: At rank of Librarian II: ALA-accredited MLS or international equivalent. At rank of Librarian III: ALA-accredited MLS or international equivalent; 24 post-baccalaureate credits in addition to the MLS. Minimum qualifications for post-baccalaureate credit and years of appropriate experience for rank are non-negotiable.

Desirable Qualifications: 3 years of experience working in a technical services unit of an academic library. Experience providing both traditional and electronic reference in an academic library; knowledge of current best practices, and standards, as well as, technology trends in academic library technical services; familiarity with managing and cataloging a federal depository collection, including planning, evaluating and marketing the collection and services according to Federal Depository Library Program guidelines; demonstrated ability to work effectively with students, faculty, staff, and colleagues in a multicultural environment; proven ability to solve problems creatively; experience providing academic library instruction sessions; excellent oral and written communication skills; proven and successful ability to work effectively with colleagues in a team-based environment; knowledge of best practices and current trends in the provision of excellent library public services; experience using Microsoft Office Professional Suite; experience with Web page design tools; experience working effectively with patrons and resolving patron issues; knowledge of Hawaiian resources.

Pay range: Librarian II: \$35,316-\$51,264, Librarian III: \$41,304-\$62,364. Annual salary ranges are firm. To apply: Candidates must submit: A letter of application clearly addressing the candidate's ability to fulfill the responsibilities of the position and how he or she meets each minimum and desirable qualification, a current resume, official undergraduate and graduate transcripts, a concise example of writing related to the candidate's work as a professional librarian, 3 letters of recommendation from people able to address the candidate's professional qualifications and achievements, and 3 names of additional references with their contact information. Application address: Chair, Search Committee for Technical Services Librarian, Edwin H. Mookini Library, University of Hawaii at Hilo, 200 W. Kawili Street, Hilo, HI 96720-4091. Inquiries: Jenny Wakida, 808-974-7575; jwakida@hawaii.edu

Application deadline: Continuous recruitment. For full consideration, complete applications must be received by Monday, March 13 by noon HST. Review of applications will begin on Monday, March 27 and will continue until the position has been filled.* University of Hawaii at Hilo is an EEO/AA employer D/M/V/W. For more information on this position visit this website, <http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/uhh/hr/jobs.php>; for more information about UH Hilo visit <http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu>.

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 are available from: Out-of-print Books on Demand, University Microfilms, Inc., 300 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.)

- v. 35, 2004 *Geoinformatics*, ed. by L. R. Musser. (ISBN 0-934485-37-2)
- v. 34, 2003 *Geoscience Information Horizons: Challenges, Choices, and Decisions*, ed. by L. E. Joseph. (ISBN 0-934485-36-4)
- 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)
- 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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Payment must be made in U.S. dollars.

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