



**GEOSCIENCE  
INFORMATION  
SOCIETY**

# newsletter

Number 224, February 2007

ISSN 0046-5801

**Special Features**

USGS Library Update, by Mike McDermott.....	3
USGS News: New National Library Coordinator.....	4
A Note from the 2006 GIS Best Website Award Winner.....	8
2007 GIS Appointees, Representatives, and Committees.....	8
GIS Annual Meeting reports: Electronic Resources Forum; GIS-GSA Topical Session.....	9

**Departments**

President's Column.....	1
Vice-President's Column .....	3
Treasurer's 2006 Year End Report.....	4
GIS Annual Conference Financial Report.....	7
Job Announcements.....	11

**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

by Patricia Yocum

The GeoScience Information Society may be small in size but is very large in scope and ambitions, reflecting the professional interests of its members. One need only look at the GIS committee structure and appointive positions to see the breadth of society activities. Equally significant is the willingness of so many GIS members to serve on committees, in appointed positions and as representatives to related geoscience groups. This willingness is key to our ambitions and our ability to pool our efforts for mutual benefit. I am thus delighted to report that most new appointments to GIS committees, committee chairs, appointed positions and representatives have now been made. Letters have been sent to members starting new terms of appointment. My thanks and congratulations to them and to all the appointees continuing in their positions. It is truly remarkable that so many people commit to "making time" for GIS.

Complete rosters of all positions appear elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter as well as on the GIS website. A few positions are still vacant. If you are interested in one of them please contact me. Committee work is of course an especially effective way for people new to our specialization to become involved with their colleagues. For everyone it is an excellent way to foster professional development. I speak from experience! For twenty-one years GIS has greatly added to my knowledge of geoscience librarianship and fostered my professional growth. I wish the same— and more— for our many colleagues.

Several changes in GIS appointments are especially significant. After eight years as GIS Publications Manager and *ex officio* member of Executive Board, Elizabeth Wallace, with regret, is relinquishing this role. As Publications

Manager, Elizabeth has been responsible for getting our *Proceedings* volumes printed, shipped and invoiced to subscribers. She did the same for our hard-copy Membership Directory (since retired) and occasional publications. Our sincere thanks to Elizabeth for her many years of service. GIS is currently seeking one of our members to assume the duties of Publications Manager. If you are interested, Elizabeth can provide details on what the position entails.

In another significant change and on an experimental basis, Claudette Cloutier has assumed the duties of Topical Session Convener. In this new role, Claudette will oversee the oral and poster sessions which GIS organizes at the GSA annual conference. The work, previously done by the GIS Vice President, has many components. These include proposing a session theme and rationale, encouraging submission of abstracts, serving on the GSA Joint Topical Session Planning Committee (JTSPC), reviewing, selecting and sequencing abstracts for oral presentations and posters, chairing the oral session, and editing the subsequent *GIS Proceedings*. By definition the appointment is a two-year term. We will be reviewing the feasibility of this position regularly. Expect communication from Claudette regarding the Denver meeting this October and do feel free to contact her at the Gallagher Library of Geology & Geophysics, University of Calgary: [ccloutie@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ccloutie@ucalgary.ca).

We also welcome news of the appointment of Richard Huffine as the new National Library Coordinator for the U.S. Geological Survey. With an MLIS from UNC-Greensboro, Richard has worked most recently with GSA's First-Gov program and earlier at the US EPA. The full announcement of his appointment appears elsewhere in this issue. In Philadelphia, GIS members heard an update from Mike McDermott, National Coordinator, Natural Science Network USGS on the restructuring of USGS including its library services. Mike describes these changes in an article in this issue of the Newsletter. USGS and its library services have always been an integral component of the geosciences in the U.S. and of our geoscience library community. With a new structure and library leadership now in place at the USGS, GIS looks forward to refreshing our association with the agency and to continuing a traditionally strong and fruitful relationship.

With these events to start the year, 2007 is shaping up to be eventful as well as exciting. I hope you will join me as we continue our work through the next ten months.

**GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY**  
**2007 Officers**

**President**

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

**Vice-President (President-Elect)**

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

**Immediate Past President**

Adonna Fleming  
207A Love Library  
University of Nebraska  
Lincoln, NE 68588-4100  
phone: 402/472-3920  
e-mail: afleming@unlnotes.unl.edu

**Secretary**

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

**Treasurer**

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

**Homepage: <http://www.geoinfo.org>**

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

**Listserv: <https://lists.purdue.edu/mailman/listinfo/geonet>**

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

**Newsletter Editor**

Connie J. Manson  
2525 Sleater Kinney Road N.E.  
Olympia, WA 98506  
phone: 360/459-1668; fax 413/280-2755  
e-mail: cjm@thurston.com

**Publications Manager**

Elizabeth Wallace  
Science and Technology Libraries  
Syracuse University Library  
Syracuse, New York 13244-2010  
phone: 315/443-9770; fax: 315/443-5549  
e-mail: elwallac@syr.edu

**Publicity Officer**

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

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 April, 2007 issue should be received no later than March 23, 2007. Please send materials by e-mail to [cjm@thurston.com](mailto:cjm@thurston.com)

## VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Suzanne T. Larsen

This will be a year of change and discovery for GSIS in the planning for our annual meeting. For the first time we have a Topical Session Convener, Claudette Cloutier. Please see her message in this issue of the Newsletter regarding the theme of our session, "Geoscience Information: Making the Earth Sciences Accessible for Everyone". It is a topic that will lead to some very interesting presentations. As Vice President I will be organizing all other GSIS sessions and making the logistical plans with GSA for our meeting.

In early March, I will attend the GSA Associated & Allied Societies Meeting. Since the meeting is held at GSA headquarters in Boulder, I have attended the last two years at the request of the GSIS Presidents. It is an interesting meeting because of the diversity represented by the various societies. As you can imagine the issue of the changing model of publishing is always a topic, since many of the groups have society publications. If there are particular aspects of publishing, collection management or the society library interface you would like me to bring to their attention please let me know.

### USGS LIBRARY UPDATE

Mike McDermott, Natural Science Network National Coordinator, USGS— Based on presentation made during GSIS 2006 Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA

#### Introduction

Changes in the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) over the last few years have had a direct impact on the USGS Library. This article will briefly describe where, within USGS, the Library is currently located, and provide an update on the National Library Coordinator position, digital library issues, and the map-on-demand transition.

#### Organizational Location

The USGS Library is currently part of the Geospatial Information Office (GIO) which can be seen in relationship to other major components of the USGS by going to: [http://www.usgs.gov/aboutusgs/organized/org\\_chart.asp](http://www.usgs.gov/aboutusgs/organized/org_chart.asp).

For a recent discussion of the GIO strategic plans including a discussion on the libraries, see the "USGS Information Technology Strategic Plan: FY2007 – 2011" at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/2006/1304/>. The library discussion starts on page 7 of the report under "Strategic Goal 2: Create the Information Management and Services Component of the Integrated Information Environment."

Within the GIO, there are three major elements:

- 1) *Information Technology and Security Office* (ITSO) which handles the bureau's information technology infrastructure and security requirements;
- 2) *National Geospatial Program Office* (NGPO) which includes major coordination activities such as the Federal Geographic Data Committee and Geospatial One-Stop; and
- 3) *Science Information and Education Office* (SIEO) which

includes publishing, education, enterprise web, and the Natural Science Network (NSN).

The NSN, formed in January 2005, brought together the USGS Library, the Earth Science Information Center (ESIC) and the Denver distribution activities. Organizationally, the NSN has three parts: 1) Science Information and Library Services (SILS), 2) Knowledge Management, and 3) Information Delivery. For a two-page description of the Natural Science Network background, elements and vision, send an email to [mmcdermo@usg.gov](mailto:mmcdermo@usg.gov) with "NSN Two-Page Overview" in the subject line.

The NSN/SILS brings together the USGS Library and what was known as ESIC, now referred to as Information Services. The combination of these two groups is expected to enhance inquiry handling and provide support for the continued development of digital library capabilities. There are four USGS Library facilities, located in Reston, VA; Denver, CO; Menlo Park, CA; and Flagstaff, AZ. While science center-based libraries are not directly linked to the USGS Library, they work together in partnership. There are five Information Services offices of which two are co-located with the Library—Reston and Menlo Park. The other three Information Service offices are in Rolla, MO, Anchorage, AK, and in Denver, CO (not co-located with the Library in Denver).

#### National Library Coordinator

The USGS is pleased to announce that Richard L. Hufine is the new National Library Coordinator (NLC). See elsewhere in this *GSIS Newsletter* for a complete announcement. The NLC position will be responsible for providing national level leadership for the USGS libraries which operate in a headquarters/region-based matrix. All library staff report to one of three regional management structures— Eastern, Central, and Western— but operate as parts of the USGS Library system.

#### Digital Library

While the USGS Library has a wide range of electronic services already available including electronic journals, databases, and e-books, it does not have a comprehensive digital library plan. The NLC will be directly involved in development of this plan. Issues currently being handled include: the continual negotiations and management of electronic subscriptions; development of a bureau approach to the significantly large scanning needs inherent in the "world's largest earth science collection"; development of partnerships to address concerns like subscriptions and scanning; creation of a union catalog to include science-center libraries; and development of other requirements as needed. The vision is to provide desktop access to all USGS materials for researchers in the field.

#### Map-on-Demand Transition

The USGS is beginning to transition from the lithographic printing currently done through the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to a map-on-demand (MoD) ap-

proach. Given the general trend of shifting to digital databases, especially among Federal agencies, this change has become inevitable. A key reason for the change is to enable our users to have the most current data available. On average, the content in current printed USGS topographic maps is more than 20 years old. Digital data should enable faster updates. Because the transition is expected to take about two to three years, the USGS will continue to print high-demand products lithographically through FAA. Both new maps and reprints, including those for the Forest Service Single Edition quadrangles, will be distributed.

There are many issues regarding this fundamental shift to digital assets including both technical and distribution-related concerns. Recognizing that most organizations do

not have high-quality plotters readily available is clearly one of them. We are considering this as part of the distribution-related aspect in the shift to MoD, looking at alternatives including working through Business Partners that have plotters.

### **Conclusion**

While change is the only constant, the USGS Library looks forward to continuing its long standing relationship with the professional library community. The new National Library Coordinator, Richard Huffine, will ensure that the USGS works in partnership with that community as the bureau continues to work through the many changes both underway and planned for the future.

### **USGS NEWS: Richard Huffine Named New National Library Coordinator for USGS**

Richard Huffine has been selected as the new National Library Coordinator for the U.S. Geological Survey. Richard comes to USGS from the General Service Administration (GSA)'s FirstGov program where he has served as their Web Analytics Manager since November 2005. Prior to joining GSA, Richard served for 5 years as the National Library Network Manager for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. His work at EPA included the 2004 "Business Case for Information Services" and the implementation of the EPA Desktop Library. In addition to his work as the National Library Network Manager, Richard served on the EPA's Information Access Team and was responsible for the Agency's Browse Topics application as well as aspects of the EPA's service to citizens including comments processing and library catalog applications.

Richard holds a Masters Degree in Library and Information Science from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration from Appalachian State University. Prior to entering the field of librarianship, Richard managed a bookstore in Asheville, North Carolina. Richard is a "born digital" librarian and is excited to be joining USGS at a time when access to digital collections is becoming a key component to the future of USGS Information and Library Services. His background and experience with performance measures and

assessment will provide the USGS staff with important tools to demonstrate the value they add to the Survey's activities.

As National Library Coordinator at USGS, Richard will be responsible for strategic planning and implementation of initiatives across the Survey that have an impact on information and library services. He will coordinate activities across the USGS Regional Libraries as well as USGS Science Center Libraries. He will be actively looking to develop partnerships and strategic alliances with institutions that provide information and library services in the natural sciences.

Richard is an active member of both the American Library Association and the Special Libraries Association. He is the founding Chair of SLA's Government Information Division and is active in the DC Chapter of SLA as well. Richard has also served in the past on the Federal Libraries and Information Centers Committee of the Library of Congress and the Federal Records Council of the National Archives and Records Administration. Richard is also President of the Federation of Friends of the DC Public Library and sits Ex-Officio on the DC Public Library Board of Trustees.

For additional information or questions contact: Mike McDermott, National Coordinator, Natural Science Network, U.S. Geological Survey, at [mmcdermo@usgs.gov](mailto:mmcdermo@usgs.gov) or 703-648-5771.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT, 2006 YEAR END**

The tables below show the final tally of GIS income and expenses for the year 2006. Actual income of \$14,384.27 exceeded actual expenses of \$11,075.98, for a net actual income of \$3308.29.

The balance in the bank accounts increased from \$42,829.98 to \$46,766.69, for a net increase in the bank accounts of \$4063.29.

The increase in the bank balance differs from the increase in actual income by \$755. This difference is a result of some early dues payments for 2007. The \$755 was

already in the checking account in 2006, but will not appear on the income spreadsheets until 2007.

Appearing elsewhere in the newsletter is a separate accounting of all the expenses and income (except for the extraordinary expenses for the 40th Anniversary) associated with the GIS Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. The report was prepared by Patricia Yocum and myself. That report agrees in all respects with the conference expenses and income shown in this Treasurer's Report.

<b>GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY 2006 Year End Report (by Renee Davis 1/22/07)</b>				
	<b>Income Budgeted</b>	<b>Income Actual</b>	<b>Expense Budgeted</b>	<b>Expense Actual</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE BOARD</b>				
President			\$150.00	\$0.00
Vice-President			\$100.00	\$0.00
Past-President			\$25.00	\$25.00
Secretary			\$200.00	\$0.00
Treasurer			\$100.00	\$121.15
Teleconferences			\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$575.00</b>	<b>\$146.15</b>
<b>MEETINGS</b>				
2006 Meeting (rooms and AV)	\$1,000.00	\$250.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,333.30
2006 Meeting (meeting break/coffee/snack)		\$1,114.25		\$1,272.93
2006 Meeting Reception		\$2,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$2,285.52
2006 Meeting Exhibit Booth rental		\$496.16		\$496.16
2006 Awardees lunch			\$175.00	\$258.00
2006 40th anniversary			\$150.00	\$465.84
2006 Speaker Honorarium / Gift			\$300.00	\$100.00
2006 Meeting: fieldtrip	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$600.00	\$0.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$1,600.00</b>	<b>\$4,360.41</b>	<b>\$3,725.00</b>	<b>\$6,211.75</b>
<b>DUES</b>				
Institutional	\$1,800.00	\$565.00		
Personal	\$5,600.00	\$4,955.00		
Sustaining	\$30.00	\$310.00		
Retired	\$200.00	\$200.00		
Student	\$150.00	\$0.00		
Pooled Sponsorship	\$300.00	\$187.50	\$300.00	\$40.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$8,080.00</b>	<b>\$6,217.50</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>
<b>PUBLICATIONS</b>				
Publications Manager			\$500.00	\$0.00
Directory of Geoscience Libraries	\$80.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
Mailing labels	\$200.00	\$100.00		\$0.00
Newsletter: printing			\$1,500.00	\$1,917.90
Newsletter: mailing			\$500.00	\$85.01
Newsletter: subscriptions	\$600.00	\$250.00		
Newsletter: back issues				
Newsletter: cancellation refunds			\$80.00	\$0.00
Proceedings, v.35 (2004)	\$1,400.00	\$945.00	\$1,650.00	\$248.10
Proceedings, v.34 (2003)	\$300.00	\$180.00		

Proceedings, v.33 (2002)	\$180.00	\$135.00		
Proceedings, prior volumes	\$0.00	\$45.00		
Index	\$15.00	\$0.00		
Reprints				
Royalties				
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$2,775.00</b>	<b>\$1,655.00</b>	<b>\$4,230.00</b>	<b>\$2,251.01</b>
<b>GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY 2006 Year End Report cont'd (by Renee Davis/22/07)</b>				
	<b>Income Budgeted</b>	<b>Income Actual</b>	<b>Expense Budgeted</b>	<b>Expense Actual</b>
<b>REPRESENTATIVES/APPOINTEES</b>				
AGI Member Council rep			\$25.00	\$0.00
AGI Gov't Affairs Program rep			\$25.00	\$0.00
Congressional Science Fellow			\$100.00	\$0.00
CUAC (2 reps @ \$200 each)			\$400.00	\$0.00
Publicity Officer			\$50.00	\$0.00
Auditor			\$25.00	\$0.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$625.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>COMMITTEES &amp; SERVICE POSITIONS</b>				
Archivist			\$50.00	\$0.00
Best Paper			\$25.00	\$0.00
Best Reference Work			\$25.00	\$6.42
Collection Development			\$25.00	\$0.00
Distinguished Service Award			\$75.00	\$89.49
Exhibits			\$85.00	\$61.46
New display case			\$200.00	\$375.23
GeoRef Users Group			\$25.00	\$0.00
Guidebooks			\$85.00	\$19.48
International Initiatives		\$645.50	\$25.00	\$0.00
Membership			\$100.00	\$0.00
Membership brochure				\$21.40
Photographer			\$25.00	\$0.00
Nominating			\$100.00	\$59.87
Preservation			\$25.00	\$0.00
Website Advisory			\$25.00	\$0.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$645.50</b>	<b>\$895.00</b>	<b>\$633.35</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>				
AGI member society dues			\$300.00	\$242.00
GAP contribution			\$300.00	\$400.00
GIS International Fellow	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ansari Best Reference Award			\$500.00	\$500.00
Ansari Distinguished Service Award			\$400.00	\$400.00
Geoscience 101			\$100.00	\$0.00

Gifts (unrestricted)	\$250.00	\$95.00	\$100.00	\$50.00
Gifts- Professional Develop Fund	\$200.00	\$272.50	\$200.00	\$0.00
Bank / Visa card charges			\$50.00	\$201.72
Interest	\$200.00	\$1,138.36		
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$1,250.00</b>	<b>\$1,505.86</b>	<b>\$1,950.00</b>	<b>\$1,793.72</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$13,705.00</b>	<b>\$14,384.27</b>	<b>\$12,300.00</b>	<b>\$11,075.98</b>

<b>BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES:</b>	<b>2/02/06 "Beginning Balances"</b>	<b>4/30/06</b>	<b>6/30/06</b>	<b>9/30/06</b>	<b>12/29/06</b>
Wachovia Money Market Fund	\$41,329.12	\$41,674.75	\$19,531.20	\$19,581.13	19,629.77
Wachovia Checking	\$1,437.57	\$5,994.30	\$6,039.88	\$6,503.50	4,362.50
Wachovia CD--GSIS General Funds			\$12,294.00	\$12,465.91	12,627.81
Wachovia CD--Ansari Best Ref Wk Award			\$6,096.00	\$6,181.24	6,261.53
Wachovia CD--Ansari Dist. Service Award			\$3,844.00	\$3,897.75	3,948.37
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$42,766.69</b>	<b>\$47,669.05</b>	<b>\$47,805.08</b>	<b>\$48,629.53</b>	<b>\$46,829.98</b>

#### GSIS ANNUAL CONFERENCE FINANCIAL REPORT

Conference expenses and income are incorporated into the Treasurer's reports as transactions occur throughout the year. For a comprehensive view of conference finances we have compiled this report for the 2006 GSIS meeting. We hope the report aids understanding of conference activities and helps in planning and budgeting for future conferences.

– Patricia Yocum & Renee Davis

<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Geoscience Librarianship 101		\$0.00
Geoscience Librarianship 101 refreshments		\$614.25
Exhibit Booth rental		\$496.16
Marriott Meeting Rooms for Events	\$1,000.00	\$595.00
Mariott AV for CD Forum		\$398.04
Mariott AV for E-Resources Forum		\$340.26
Marriott AV for Envisioning Future		\$658.68
Marriott Business mtg refreshments		\$2,285.52
Marriott reception	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
ISI Fieldtrip	\$600.00	\$0.00
Awardee Luncheon tickets	\$175.00	\$258.00
Speaker Appreciation	\$300.00	\$100.00
Total	\$3,575.00	\$5,745.91
<b>Income (Sponsorships, Payment)</b>		
Sponsors	\$1,000.00	
Springer (Geosci Librarianship 101 refreshments)		\$614.25
GIA (Exhibit Booth rental)		\$496.16
ESRI (AV support)		\$250.00
CSA (Reception)		\$1,000.00
Elsevier (Reception)		\$1,500.00
GIA (Business meeting refreshments)		\$500.00
ISI Fieldtrip	\$600.00	\$0.00
Total	\$1,600.00	\$4,360.41
* sponsor paid vendor directly		
<b>Pro Bono</b>		
University of Pennsylvania Library	Geoscience Librarianship 101 seminar space	
University of Michigan Library	Laptop & projector for 3 conference sessions	

*Our thanks again to our generous sponsors and supporters.*

## A NOTE FROM THE 2006 GIS BEST WEBSITE AWARD WINNER

Tom Gidwitz won the 2006 GIS Best Website Award for The Hero of Vesuvius ([http://www.vesuvius.tomgidwitz.com/html/the\\_hero\\_of\\_venusius.html](http://www.vesuvius.tomgidwitz.com/html/the_hero_of_venusius.html)). Following our 2006 conference he sent this email to Carolyn Laffoon who chaired the selection committee. Reprinted with permission.

Hi, Carolyn -

*We made it home just fine, after an additional day of knocking around Philadelphia. The award luncheon- in*

*fact, the entire experience of winning your prize- has been such a rewarding experience for me. I really feel that my work has been validated in a way it never was before, despite my having been a professional writer for longer than I want to remember. It was great fun to sit with you at our table and share so many heartfelt laughs. . . .*

*Thanks again for everything.*

*Best, Tom [mailto:tgidwitz@comcast.net]*

## 2007 GIS APPOINTEES, REPRESENTATIVES, AND COMMITTEES

### Appointments

Auditor: Charlotte Derksen 2006-2007  
Geonet Moderator: Carolyn Laffoon 2007-2008  
GISIS Newsletter Editor: Connie Manson 2006-2007  
GISIS Newsletter Reviews Editor: *vacant*  
Publications Manager: *vacant*  
Publicity Officer: Shaun Hardy 2007-2008  
Webmaster : Jim O'Donnell 2007-2008  
GSA Topical Session Convener - Denver: Claudette Cloutier 2007-2008

### Committees

#### Archives

*Purpose: Collect and preserve the history of the Society.*

Lura Joseph, Chair 2006-2007  
Lisa Fish 2006-2007  
Anne Huber -- 2007-2008

#### Best Paper Award

*Purpose: Select the winner of Best Paper Award.*

Rusty Kimball, Chair 2006-2007  
Renee Davis 2006-2007  
Carol LaRussa 2006-2007  
Judie Triplehorn 2006-2007

#### Best Reference Work Award

*Purpose: Select the winner of the Mary B. Ansari Best Reference Work Award.*

Janice Norris, Chair 2007-2008  
Renee Davis 2006-2007  
Linda Newman 2006-2007  
Thomas Zogg 2006-2007  
Angelique Jenks-Brown 2007-2008

#### Collection Development Issues

*Purpose: Collect, analyze, disseminate and publish data on geoscience literature costs; investigate, respond to issues; report on cooperative collection development issues.*

Chestalene Pintozzi, Chair 2006-2007  
John Hunter 2006-2007  
Michael Noga 2006-2007  
Shirley Rais 2006-2007  
Thomas Zogg 2006-2007  
Cynthia Prosser 2007-2008

#### Distinguished Service Award

*Purpose: Select the winner of the Mary B. Ansari Distinguished Service Award.*

Claren Kidd, Chair 2007  
Michael Noga 2005-2007  
Janice Sorensen 2007-2008

#### Electronic Resources

*Purpose: Keep the Society informed on the current trends and issues concerning digital data; includes the former GeoRef Users' Group.*

Linda Zellmer, Chair 2006-2007  
Elaine Adams 2006-2007  
Ann Hubble 2006-2007  
*vacant*  
*vacant*

#### Exhibits

*Purpose: Plan, design and arrange for GISIS exhibits and maintain booth materials.*

Darin Buri, Chair 2007-2008  
April Love 2006-2007  
Sally Scott 2006-2007  
Dona Dirlam 2007-2008

#### Guidebooks

*Purpose: Update and maintain the Union List of Field Trip Guidebooks database*

Louise Zipp, Chair 2006-2007  
Renee Davis 2006-2007  
Elaine Adams 2007-2008  
Barbara Haner 2007-2008  
Lura Joseph\* 2007-2008  
Dorothy McGarry\* 2007-2008  
Carl Olson 2007-2008

\* members, Guidebooks Standards Subcommittee

#### International Initiatives

*Purpose: Investigate, report on, and recommend internationally-focused activities for GISIS.*

Jan Heagy, Chair 2006-2007  
Judie Triplehorn 2006-2007  
Dorothy McGarry --2007-2008  
Sharon Tahirkheli --2007-2008



## Membership

*Purpose: Promote membership in the Society. Review/revise brochure; solicit new members; contact members who have not renewed and welcome back members who renewed late.*

Miriam Kennard, Chair 2006-2007  
Karen Sue Bolm 2006-2007  
Lisa Fish 2006-2007  
Wendie Helms 2006-2007  
John Hunter 2006-2007  
Connie Manson 2006-2007  
Sarah Ziegler 2006-2007

## Nominating

*Purpose: Nominate candidates for elective offices; prepare, mail, and count ballots and report results.*

Adonna Fleming, Chair 2007  
Rich Keen 2006-2007  
Clara McLeod 2007-2008

## Website

*Purpose: Advise on the content and organization of the GSIS Website; determine winner of the Outstanding Website Award.*

Beth Roberts, Chair 2007-2008  
Diane Thompson 2006-2007

## Preservation

*Purpose: Recommend GSIS's role in preservation activities and develop preservation guidelines for the geoscience*

*community.*

Linda Musser, Chair 2006-2007  
Anne Graham 2006-2007  
John Hunter 2006-2007  
Thelma Thompson 2007-2008  
Carolyn Laffoon 2007-2008  
Sam Teplitzky 2007-2008

## Representatives -- Three-year appointments

AGI Environmental Geoscience Advisory Committee:  
*vacant* --

AGI, GeoRef Advisory Committee:  
Lura Joseph 2006-2008

AGI Government Affairs Program:  
Marie Dvorak 2007-2009

AGI Member Society Council: Lisa Dunn 2006-2008  
ALA: John Hunter 2006-2008

Atmospheric Sciences Librarians International (ASLI):  
Judie Triplehorn 2005-2007

Cartographic Users Advisory Council (CUAC):  
Clara McLeod 2006-2008; Linda Zellmer 2007-2009

GSA Publications Committee: Michael Noga 2005-2007

National Science Digital Library: Ed Lener 2006-2008  
North East Map Organization (NEMO):

Anne Graham 2005-2007

SLA: *vacant*

Western Association of Map Libraries (WAML):  
Wendie Helms 2005-2007

## GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY 2006 ANNUAL MEETING NOTES: Electronic Resources Forum

Monday, October 23 from 9:00 – 11:00 AM in the Marriott Grad Ballroom Salon C, Summary by Elaine B. Adams

The Geoscience Information Society's Electronic Resources Forum was held October 23, 2006. Four speakers presented talks on electronic resources and publishing at their respective organizations.

**Sharon Tahirkheli** from the **American Geological Institute** reported on GeoRef and provided an overview of *Glossary of Geology* Online. GeoRef covers publications in 40 languages from 90 countries in various publication formats: serials, books, maps, theses, government reports, and conference proceedings. The database covers materials published in North America since 1785 and outside North America since 1933. The oldest reference in the database is 1669. GeoRef added 90,000 new records this year bringing the total references in the database to 2.5 million. GeoRef obtains publication information from the USGS Library system, the AGI Library, a distributed indexer network, publisher data, and international partnerships to cover foreign publications. AGI has five partnerships in China and four in Moscow.

During the last year, GeoRef staff conducted a study of serials issues comparing data from 2000, 2003, and 2006. Sharon noted that items received from the USGS Library had declined about 10% since 2000, but the number of items obtained directly by AGI almost doubled as did the amount of metadata received electronically from publishers. Contributions from international partners account for

almost 30% of issues obtained in 2006. Publications from these partners are increasingly unavailable in US libraries. Another significant finding was that AGI obtains 55% of its materials from the web. Sharon posed the question, "What are the implications of this for specific segments of the literature that are going missing? Gray Literature? Conference Proceedings?"

Completing her presentation on GeoRef, Sharon noted that 2005 was the last print edition of the *Bibliography and Index of Geology*. AGI received only one complaint when the print edition ceased. Web based access is available through six vendors. The product is still available on CD-ROM and online as a "pay as you go" service through STN and Dialog. GeoRef also provides a document delivery service for hard to get items.

Turning to the *Glossary of Geology*, Sharon announced that the glossary is being released as an online product in October, 2006. The online version is based on the print fifth edition published in 2005. Features available in the online edition include hyperlinked synonyms/related entries, the option to search or browse by category, display and/or search for Spanish translations of many terms, and clickable images for rocks, minerals, landforms, etc. The product is available under an annual licensing agreement. The site license is custom priced based on the number of users. For more information about the Glossary or to arrange for a 30

day free trial contact [ir@agiweb.org](mailto:ir@agiweb.org).

For more information see Sharon's PowerPoint presentations on GeoRef and the Glossary of Geology available at <http://www.geoinfo.org/2006mtg/GSISE-Forum2006.pdf>

**Ron Hart** from AAPG/Datapages discussed the AAPG Datapages, the AAPG electronic publishing program. The *AAPG Bulletin* online monthly is a members-only publication and now includes GIS files and audio podcasts. Another online AAPG/Datapages journal is *Search & Discovery*. Available at <http://www.searchanddiscovery.net>, this "lightly" peer reviewed journal is publicly available without fee. The content focuses on upstream energy and the exploration and development of various energy sources. In addition to original papers, *Search & Discovery* also includes all AAPG meeting paper abstracts.

The primary product of AAPG digital publishing is the Combined Publications Archive. Content of the archive is driven by exploration and production considerations. Content includes lots of grey literature including local & regional publications, and field trip guidebooks. The archive is available through a pay per view model, i.e. search the data-base for free, but pay for each article you wish to download. University subscriptions to the archive are also available. The AAPG Foundation Endowment Subscription Program works with universities and donors to provide perpetual access to the entire publications database for a one time fee.

AAPG also considers GIS data as publications. In addition to book and journal products, AAPG/Datapages works with data georeferenced to latitude and longitude and maps. AAPG is working with corporate sponsors to develop GIS-UDRIL (GIS Upstream Digital Reference Information Library). GIS UDRIL will contain GIS-linked databases and atlas-es of georeferenced maps and other images and the digitized publications affiliated societies and sections. The product will become available during 2006-2009 to non-sponsoring companies, university subscriptions and as single products available under a five year plan. AAPG is also moving forward with new projects such as the GIS Initiative and spatial searching.

For more information on AAPG/Datapages, see Ron's PowerPoint presentation linked from <http://www.geoinfo.org/2006mtg/GSISE-Forum2006.pdf>

**Angela Lee** from ESRI (Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc.) spoke about ESRI products and services for education. ESRI is a GIS and mapping software firm that provides consulting, training and educational support services in addition to specialized software and ready to use datasets. Angela gave an overview of GIS, geographic information systems, citing its ability to capture, manage, analyze and display all forms of geographically reference information. Examples of geographic data include maps, aerial photographs, GPS data, and textual information with geographic references. GIS answers questions such as "where is it", "what else is nearby", and where is the highest concentration of xyz". Who uses such data? Government agencies, business and education. <http://gos2.geodata.gov/> is a publicly available portal to geospatial information. We see the trend to GIS data all

around us with virtual globes and digital earth projects such as Google Earth, which allow one to make a focused application without having to learn the full GIS software.

ESRI is involved in a number of projects of interest to educational institutions:

- ArcWeb Services for Students and Educators is a free service that provides global mapping APIs to develop Web-enabled GIS for classroom work or research projects (see <http://www.esri.com/software/arcwebservices/students-educators.html>). A paid version includes additional services.
- ArcGIS Server, a comprehensive server-based GIS system that takes the GIS software from a desktop tool to browser-based access. The simple interface allows users to access the software from their PDA, tablet PC or even web accessible phone. <http://www.esri.com/software/arcgis/arcgisserver/>
- ESRI Education program which supports the use of GIS in teaching and research (see <http://www.esri.com/industries/university/index.html>) with case studies, newsletters and links to listserves and online fora.
- ESRI Library, a searchable online bibliography with over 43,000 entries covering the literature of geographic information systems, science and technology. Listings cover articles from conference proceedings, journals, books and reports. The website, <http://training.esri.com/campus/library/index.cfm>, also links to an online GIS Dictionary.

Free Podcasts and RSS feeds are available from ESRI to keep abreast of the latest news.

**Dave Soller**, Chief of the **National Geologic Map Database (NGMD) Project**, U.S. Geological Survey spoke about the NGMD. The Database is the result of the Geologic Mapping Act of 1992. It is a collaborative project between the USGS, state geological surveys and volunteers who contribute to the database. The first phase of the database plan is construction of a map catalog and supporting databases. The second phase is the development of standards and guides. The third phase is the development of an online database of digital geologic map information.

The home page for the National Geologic Map Database is located at <http://ngmdb.usgs.gov>. This is the entry point for searching the Geoscience Map Catalog, the Lexicon of U.S. Geologic names, and current mapping projects. There are four search options for within the Geoscience Map Catalog: place name search, statewide map, quick search, and comprehensive search. The listings in the database include latitude and longitude information. The Geologic Map Image Library, previously a separate file, is now part of the Map Catalog. The library has more than 6,700 maps. Maps were scanned into TIFF files at 300dpi resolution and compressed.

Where is the project getting the materials for the database? One source is the USGS Publications Warehouse. Another source is the EDMAP component, a program that matches federal dollars from the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program with university funding to support college or university students in mentored geologic mapping projects. The NGMD project is also interested in locating information about unpublished maps such as those found in masters theses. The principle goal is awareness that a map

for an area has been done and where to find it, so it is not necessary to get copyright and provide a copy of the map. Bibliographic information sufficient to produce a catalog record for the map is all that is required.

Another database available at the NGMDB site is the Lexicon of Geologic Names of the United States. The lexicon contains about 16,000 lithographic and geochronologic unit names. Records contain geologic age, unit name, type of unit, location and citation information.

Work on the standards and guides phase is progressing with various working groups. Areas for discussion of standards and guides include metadata, science terminology, map symbolization, publication policy and digital mapping

#### NOTES FROM THE GISIS-GSA TOPICAL SESSION, by Claudette Cloutier

I am pleased to assume the duties as the GISIS – GSA Topical Session Convener for the Denver Conference. As Patricia mentioned, I will be responsible for overseeing the oral and poster sessions which GISIS organizes at the GSA annual conference.

Proposals for topical sessions for the GSA meeting were due January 9, 2007. Building on themes from the past and the GSA's theme for 2007 "Earth Sciences for Society—Beginning of the International Year of Planet Earth", I developed a theme that is broad and open to a range of perspectives. As the GSA Topical Session Convener for GISIS, I would like to invite you to submit an abstract for either an oral or a poster session or both for this year's GSA Conference. Abstracts, along with a \$30.00 submission fee, can be submitted beginning April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007. The deadline for submission is July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

**Theme:** Geoscience Information: Making the Earth Sciences Accessible for Everyone

**Description:** Informed decision making for a sustainable earth depends on information being accessible to the public. Join us as we discuss how geoscience information is created, disseminated, organized, accessed, used and archived.

**Rationale:** 2007 marks the beginning of the

tech-niques. See <http://ngmdb.usgs.gov/Info/standards/> for more information.

Contact Dave either by email at [drsoller@usgs.gov](mailto:drsoller@usgs.gov), or through the Comments button on the <http://ngmdb.usgs.gov/> website.

**Open Discussion** centered on digitization projects - A number of members reported digitization projects at their institutions whether initiated as a local project or part of Google's digitization program. Soller asked if GISIS has a webpage to see who is scanning what to prevent duplication of effort. The idea of a clearinghouse page met with general approval but no specific recommendation or action plan was developed.

International Polar Year and the International Year of Planet Earth. There will be a lot of research generated from these two international events. How much of it will be retrievable in the future?

To help future generations realize a safer and more prosperous world, advances in the earth sciences will depend on information being accessible to the public. The digital environment has had a major impact on the flow of geoscience information even while conventional modes of information sharing remain active.

This interdisciplinary session focuses on the efforts of individuals (librarians, curators, archivists, faculty, students) and institutions (libraries, universities, museums, archives, government agencies, professional and trade associations) to promote the flow and preservation of information in the interest of making informed decisions for a sustainable Earth. Examples of efforts include the digitization of archives and journals, books, maps, the creation of digital libraries, databases and webpages and the use of digital sources in research and learning.

This is your opportunity to share your perspective with us and the broader geoscience community. If you would like more information feel to email me at [ccloutie@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ccloutie@ucalgary.ca).

See you in Denver October 28 – 31, 2007!

#### JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Mr. & Mrs. Laurence S. Youngblood Chair for Energy Librarian (Geology Librarian), University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK,**

**Duties and responsibilities:** The University of Oklahoma Libraries (<http://libraries.ou.edu>) seeks a Geology Librarian to manage operations of the L.S. Youngblood Energy (Geology) Library; duties include reviewing, developing and implementing library programs and services; hiring, training, supervising, and evaluating library staff and students; providing reference services and library instruction for undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff as well as professional practicing geologists and geophysicists; coordinating collection development; and overseeing the physical facilities of the Geology Library. The ideal candidate will provide leadership and vision to build and main-

tain the Youngblood Library as one of the premier earth sciences libraries.

**Qualifications:** Required: MLS from an ALA accredited program; experience in reference, collection development and library instruction; minimum two years of library experience; excellent interpersonal, teaching and communication skills; experience with traditional and electronic reference sources; managerial and supervisory experience.

Desirable: Experience working with the subject literature of, or having an undergraduate or advanced degree in, geosciences, earth sciences or a science discipline and/or related field; experience with maps in traditional and digital form; evidence of research or creative achievement.

For a complete listing of the duties and responsibilities for this position go to <http://libraries.ou.edu/>

about/employment/.

**Search will remain open until filled.**

**Salary:** Salary commensurate with experience.

**Employment:** Librarians have faculty status, privileges, responsibilities, the rank of assistant professor or above, and are eligible for tenure. This position is an endowed chair.

**Application:** Send letter of application with resume, a list of publications and the names of three references including current supervisor to: Rhonda Cannon, Director of Administrative Services, University Libraries, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK 73019

University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity/ affirmative action employer. We encourage women and minority applicants.

**Systems Librarian, U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, VA**

The U.S. Geological Survey seeks an experienced individual to manage its ILS (Horizon) and to design and maintain its library web pages. Please see the attached links for more details: <https://jobs1.quickhire.com/scripts/usgs.exe/runjobinfo>

Vacancy Ann.#: ER-2007-0103

Who May Apply: Public

Pay Plan: GS-1410-12/13

Appointment Term: Permanent

Job Status: Full-Time

Opening Date: 1/10/2007

Salary: From 66,767.00 to 103,220.00 USD per year

**GIS Analyst, Washington University Libraries, St. Louis, MO**

Washington University Libraries in St. Louis, MO seek a knowledgeable, creative and flexible individual for the position of GIS Analyst.

The GIS Analyst will provide training and technical assistance in support of GIS-based services throughout the Washington University Libraries. Housed in the Earth and Planetary Sciences Library (EPSc), the Analyst reports to the EPSc Librarian and works closely with users in that Library in addition to serving as a resource person for other library staff and users. The Analyst will provide expert GIS consultation services to users and staff; will be responsible for troubleshooting and maintaining the library's GIS soft-

ware and hardware in a networked environment, including coordinating maintenance for the plotting and scanning equipment. Will work with the EPSc Librarian on all aspects of the library's GIS program including outreach, data access and acquisition, instruction, evaluation of software/hardware, and future planning for GIS services. Will assist in the design, creation and delivery of GIS documentation and training to all library patrons and staff; maintain current awareness of GIS data availability; assist with providing general reference and information services to library users. Will be involved in all day-to-day operations of the EPSc library, including assisting with the supervision, training and evaluation of student assistants.

**Qualifications:** Bachelor's degree preferably with concentration in geography, earth or environmental sciences, information technology or equivalent experience required. Masters degree preferred. Knowledge and experience with GIS technology and methods and other cartographic materials. Demonstrated computer literacy (e.g. PC operating systems; Microsoft Office Suite; Adobe Photoshop). Experience with computer troubleshooting, networking, and/or information technology including web page development, printer maintenance and GIS software packages (ArcGIS). Work and/or experience with cartographic materials highly desirable. Knowledge of GIS technology and computer software and hardware related to mapping applications. Proven ability to communicate and work effectively with faculty, students, staff, and public. Strong service orientation required. Experience working as part of a team. Flexibility and adaptability to various work schedules and changing environment required. Strong written and oral communication skills, with interest in continuing education in geospatial technology. Physical stamina required.

For more information about the University and its libraries, visit [www.wustl.edu](http://www.wustl.edu) or [www.library.wustl.edu](http://www.library.wustl.edu). Excellent benefits package: 22 days vacation, TIAA-CREF, etc. to apply: visit [www.wustlcareers.com](http://www.wustlcareers.com) or [www.hr.wustl.edu](http://www.hr.wustl.edu). Attach a letter of application, resume, and the names of three references (including e-mail and telephone numbers). Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.

Employment eligibility verification required upon hire. Washington University is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer.



GEOSCIENCE  
INFORMATION  
SOCIETY

newsletter

Connie J. Manson  
2525 Sleater Kinney Road N.E.  
Olympia, WA 98506