



**GEOSCIENCE
INFORMATION
SOCIETY**

newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by
Patricia B. Yocum

For the last decade, whenever I've spoken to library studies students, I've volunteered that this is the best time to be a librarian. The innovation, the opportunities, the excitement—I can't remember a more exhilarating period! Lately though a caveat has begun to attach itself quietly to the statement: "It's also a dangerous time". The thought hasn't yet escaped my lips but its presence—indeed its persistence—has begun to trouble me. What does "dangerous" mean? Where does the duality come from? Why now?

Although I'm far from having definitive answers, some strands in the conundrum are becoming visible. Foremost is the migration of scholarly publishing to the digital state. Like nearly everyone I know, I love digital. The technology and resources it has made available are superb. Days aren't long enough to exploit opportunities. Increasingly though I find news of unsettling "applications" clouding the picture. I refer not to computer applications but rather to the use of technology to make and often justify decisions which, in their application, can be counter to the goals of research. The closure of research libraries, the wholesale withdrawals of print material from academic libraries, the homogenization and shrinking breadth of our research collections and the centralization of decision-making are but a few of the phenomena triggering profound changes in the research infrastructure.

Discovery in science has thrived in an open environment where liberal access to information has been the norm. Undergirding the system has been the distributed nature of libraries, the redundancy of their

collections, and their commitment to sharing access. An earthquake in California, a flood in Texas or a fire in New York may affect access to information locally but not universally. The digital world works differently. Here we do see global interruptions in service. Some are planned and announced in advance, others are unexpected. Some are brief, others are not. Their significance lies not in their frequency or duration but in the centralization of control they represent. And therein lies a danger.

Information is power and concentrating it, as history has shown, can lead to disastrous results. It is critical at this juncture in the transformation of the research environment that the scientific community demand safeguards that are not just "good enough" but are commensurate with the infrastructure being supplanted. Examples of safeguards include expectations for redundant, distributed digital archives; specifications for disaster recovery; standards for digital conversion of information "born analog"; guidelines for the mass withdrawal and disposal of print collections; and policies assuring broad user access. Surely there are others as well.

Identifying which safeguards are fundamental, which ones presently exist, and which ones need to be developed or refined is a major challenge. It is also a critically important one, made urgent by the rapid pace of change. It is a challenge which scientific and professional societies such as GSIS would do well to address in tandem. The window of opportunity to do so proactively will not remain open indefinitely although the loss of the scientific record could easily last forever.

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GSIS members are encouraged to contribute materials for publication. Material for the August, 2007 issue should be received no later than July 27, 2007. Please send materials by e-mail to cjm@thurston.com

VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by
Suzanne T. Larsen

Planning for our annual meeting in Denver October 28-31 is in progress but will need to be completed shortly. As you know, I'm scheduling the meeting times and spaces and Claudette Cloutier is putting together the oral and poster technical sessions. The technical sessions are not given a time until later in the process and we don't have a lot of control over when they are scheduled.

I have contacted committee chairs to see if they need a meeting time or space. If you have not heard from me and need time for a session let me know ASAP. I've been

in contact with Richard Huffine, National Library Coordinator for the USGS and he will be giving us an update on the future of library services at the USGS. I will be scheduling a specific session for this.

Since we are meeting in Denver every three years now, we won't be scheduling a fieldtrip this year. Don't worry, the Denver area isn't running out of interesting geology, we just thought we would give it a rest this year. It will make for a more interesting trip the next time we meet in Denver.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS - GSIS COORDINATED GSA TOPICAL SESSION "GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION: MAKING THE EARTH SCIENCES ACCESSIBLE FOR EVERYONE"

by
Claudette Cloutier

Submission deadline: July 10, 2007

Technical program development is ongoing for the Geological Society of America's 119th Annual Meeting to be held in Denver, Colorado October 28-31, 2007.

As we look at the ambitious research projects for International Year of Planet Earth and International Polar Year this is a good time for geoscience librarians to consider how they interact with information through its creation and dissemination.

I encourage you to submit an abstract for either an oral and/or a poster presentation to the GSIS sponsored Topical Session and Poster Session titled "Geoscience

Information: Making the Earth Sciences Accessible for Everyone". We are ALL involved in exciting initiatives that are promoting the flow of information.

Abstracts can be submitted online at <http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2007AM/index.epl>. The cost is \$30 for professionals and \$18 for students. The deadline is 10 July 2007. 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.

2007 GSA CONFERENCE DATES

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Abstract Submission | July 10 |
| Early registration through | September 23 |
| Standard registration | September 24 |
| Conference dates | October 28-31 |
| Geoscience Librarianship | Saturday October 27 |

For details see the GSA conference webpage: <http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2007/index.htm>

GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY 2007 Budget
Approved by Executive Board 5/24/2007

| | Income Budgeted | Income Actual | Expense Budgeted | Expense Actual |
|--|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| EXECUTIVE BOARD | | | | |
| President | | | \$450.00 | |
| Vice-President | | | \$425.00 | |
| Past-President | | | \$25.00 | |
| Secretary | | | \$125.00 | |
| Treasurer | | | \$125.00 | |
| Subtotal | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,150.00 | \$0.00 |
| MEETINGS | | | | |
| 2007 Meeting (rooms and AV) | \$250.00 | | \$1,500.00 | |
| 2007 Business Meeting refreshments | \$500.00 | | \$700.00 | |
| 2007 Meeting Reception | \$2,500.00 | | \$2,000.00 | |
| 2007 Meeting Exhibit Booth (furniture & drape) | \$0.00 | | \$550.00 | |
| 2007 Awardees lunch | | | \$250.00 | |
| 2007 Speaker Honorarium / Gift | | | \$600.00 | |
| 2007 Meeting: fieldtrip | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 | |
| Subtotal | \$3,250.00 | \$0.00 | \$5,600.00 | \$0.00 |
| DUES | | | | |
| Institutional | \$900.00 | | | |
| Personal | \$4,500.00 | | | |
| Sustaining | \$270.00 | | | |
| Retired | \$200.00 | | | |
| Student | \$60.00 | | | |
| Pooled Sponsorship | \$250.00 | | \$60.00 | |
| Subtotal | \$6,180.00 | \$0.00 | \$60.00 | \$0.00 |
| PUBLICATIONS | | | | |
| Publications Manager | | | \$500.00 | |
| Directory of Geoscience Libraries | \$0.00 | | | |
| Mailing labels | \$300.00 | | | |
| Newsletter: printing | | | \$2,000.00 | |
| Newsletter: mailing | | | \$500.00 | |
| Newsletter: subscriptions | \$250.00 | | | |
| Newsletter: back issues | \$0.00 | | | |
| Newsletter: cancellation refunds | | | \$0.00 | |
| Proceedings, v. 37 (2006) | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 | |
| Proceedings, v.36 (2005) | \$1,000.00 | | \$2,000.00 | |
| Proceedings, v.35 (2004) | \$180.00 | | | |
| Proceedings, v.34 (2003) | \$135.00 | | | |
| Proceedings, v.33 (2002) | \$45.00 | | | |
| Proceedings, prior volumes | \$45.00 | | | |
| Index | \$0.00 | | | |
| Reprints | | | | |
| Royalties | | | | |
| Subtotal | \$1,955.00 | \$0.00 | \$5,000.00 | \$0.00 |

| | Income Budgeted | | Income Actual | | Expense Budgeted | | Expense Actual |
|---|----------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| REPRESENTATIVES/APPOINTEES | | | | | | | |
| AGI Member Council rep | | | | | \$25.00 | | |
| AGI Gov't Affairs Program rep | | | | | \$25.00 | | |
| Congressional Science Fellow | | | | | \$100.00 | | |
| CUAC (2 reps @ \$200 each) | | | | | \$400.00 | | |
| Publicity Officer | | | | | \$50.00 | | |
| Auditor | | | | | \$25.00 | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Subtotal | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 | | \$625.00 | | \$0.00 |
| | | | | | | | |
| COMMITTEES & SERVICE POSITIONS | | | | | | | |
| Archivist | | | | | \$150.00 | | |
| Best Paper | | | | | \$25.00 | | |
| Best Reference Work | | | | | \$25.00 | | |
| Collection Development | | | | | \$25.00 | | |
| Distinguished Service Award | | | | | \$100.00 | | |
| Exhibits | | | | | \$85.00 | | |
| New display case/Repairs | | | | | \$0.00 | | |
| GeoRef Users Group/E-Resources | | | | | \$25.00 | | |
| Guidebooks | | | | | \$50.00 | | |
| International Initiatives | \$600.00 | | | | \$25.00 | | |
| Membership | | | | | \$50.00 | | |
| Membership brochure | | | | | \$30.00 | | |
| Photographer | | | | | \$25.00 | | |
| Nominating | | | | | \$75.00 | | |
| Preservation | | | | | \$25.00 | | |
| Website Advisory | | | | | \$135.00 | | \$134.91 |
| Subtotal | \$600.00 | | \$0.00 | | \$850.00 | | \$134.91 |
| | | | | | | | |
| MISCELLANEOUS | | | | | | | |
| AGI member society dues | | | | | \$240.00 | | \$240.00 |
| GAP contribution | | | | | \$400.00 | | |
| GIS International Fellow | | | | | \$0.00 | | |
| Ansari Best Reference Award | | | | | \$500.00 | | |
| Ansari Distinguished Service Award | | | | | \$400.00 | | |
| Geoscience Librarianship 101 | \$600.00 | | | | \$800.00 | | |
| Gifts (unrestricted) | \$300.00 | | | | \$100.00 | | |
| Gifts- Professional Develop Fund | \$250.00 | | | | \$200.00 | | |
| Bank / Visa card charges | | | | | \$50.00 | | |
| Interest | \$1,000.00 | | | | | | |
| Subtotal | \$2,150.00 | | \$0.00 | | \$2,690.00 | | \$240.00 |
| | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | \$14,135.00 | | \$0.00 | | \$15,975.00 | | \$374.91 |

GSIS MID-YEAR REPORTS

Mary B. Ansari Best Reference Work Award Committee

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 (October, 2007). The committee is currently compiling the title nomination list and evaluations will begin in May.

This year's committee includes the following members: Angelique Jenks-Brown (Binghamton University, NY), Renee Davis (University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, VA), Linda Newman, (University of Nevada, Reno), Thomas Zogg (University of Minnesota, Duluth) and Janice Norris, Chair (Penn State University, DuBois).

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Norris, Chair

Archives Committee 2007 Midyear Report

The only GSIS materials sent recently are copies of the GSIS Newsletter and a file from the Membership Committee. Committee chairs and representatives, please remember to submit materials suitable for the archives. Please consult the guidelines below:

GSIS ARCHIVAL GUIDELINES, Revised 1/2003

The Geoscience Information Society Archives are housed in the University of Illinois University Archives. The GSIS Archives Committee has prepared these guidelines to aid officers, committee chairs, and representatives in preparing and submitting materials to the Archives Committee.

Submission of Materials

All GSIS officers, representatives, and committee chairs must submit materials related to the business of the Society to the Archives. Because it may be convenient to have your predecessor's papers, the recommended time to submit materials varies.

Preparation of Materials

Weed from your papers duplicates and items that are only understandable to you. Put papers in the order you would use them, or in order chronologically from most recent to oldest.

Files should be packed so that items will not slide out of folders while shipping.

For details on what to send to the Archives and when to send it, consult p. 34 of the GSIS President's Handbook which can be found online at:

<http://www.geoinfo.org/officers.html#comms>

GSIS Awards Best Paper Award

A Call for Nominations for the Best Paper Award was published in the April GSIS Newsletter and sent out on the Geonet listserv on March 20. The Committee has received several nominations and identified further candidates for the award. We have now begun our review of the GSIS Proceedings Volume 36 to identify additional candidate papers. The nominations stage of our work will be completed by the first week in May and the rating of nominated papers will follow, with the announcement of the winner anticipated to be made in late May.

Respectfully submitted,
Rusty Kimball, Chair

Best Guidebook - Nominations

The Awards Subcommittee of the Geologic Field Trip Guidebooks Committee of GSIS invites your nominations for the GSIS Best Guidebook Award to be given this year. Last year's award covered 2003 and 2004, while this year's award will cover guidebooks published in 2005 and 2006. In 2006 the award was given to *Geology of the National Capital Region: field trip guidebook*, edited by Scott Southworth and William Burton, U.S. Geological Survey circular 1264. Reston, Va: U.S. Dept. of the Interior, USGS, 2004.

Send citations for the geologic guidebooks that you have found most helpful or most deserving of the honor and that best meet the criteria for geologic guidebooks prepared by GSIS and found online at <http://www.geoinfo.org/GuidebookGuidelines.pdf>. Please take the opportunity to highlight this important source of geological information. Forward your nominations by June 1 to Dorothy McGarry: dmcgarry@library.ucla.edu

Electronic Resources Committee

At the electronic resources forum, last year, we heard talks about GeoRef and the new electronic Glossary of Geology, the AAPG Datapages, geographic information systems, the National Geologic Map Database, and had an open discussion on digitization projects.

Elaine Adams wrote a more complete report on the forum which was published in the February 2007 GSIS Newsletter. The committee is just starting to work on plans for this year. We hope to include more time for discussion of digitization projects, but will also include reports on GeoRef and other electronic resources.

Cartographic Users' Advisory Council

The annual Cartographic Users' Advisory Council (CUAC) meeting will be held April 26-27, 2007 at the U.S. Geological Survey in Reston, Virginia. We will be hearing reports from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Government Printing Office, U.S. Forest Service,

Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Geographic Data Committee, U.S. Board of Geographic Names, U.S. Census Bureau, National Archives and the U.S.G.S. GSIS members were asked to send questions/issues that they would like to have addressed at the meeting to Clara and Linda.

During the year, CUAC has responded to several issues, including changes in the libraries at the Environmental Protection Agency and the Bureau of Transportation Statistics. We will submit reports on what we learn at the meeting later this year.

Submitted by Linda Zellmer and Clara McLeod

International Initiatives Committee

The International Initiatives Committee is in the process of identifying specific, short term (2007) projects.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Heagy, Chair

Membership Committee

Serving on the Membership Committee for 2007 are Karen Sue Bolm, Lisa Fish, Wendie Helms, Sarah Ziegler Hodkinson, John Hunter, Miriam Kennard (Chair), and Connie Manson. We will focus on recruiting new

members from academic, company, and government institutions in North America. We also will encourage student membership by promoting GSIS to library and information science students. So far in 2007, eight new members have joined GSIS from Washington DC, Pennsylvania, Idaho, Michigan, North Carolina, Minnesota, and Colorado (2).

Each GSIS member is an ambassador to help recruit new members. We encourage you to contact a committee member if you have ideas about recruiting potential new members and to make personal contacts yourself to encourage membership.

Respectfully submitted,
Miriam L. Kennard, Chair

Preservation Committee

The Preservation Committee has compiled a list of suppliers of preservation materials and will continue to publish a series of reports on the preservation/digitization activities of GSIS members in each issue of the GSIS Newsletter. The committee is discussing whether to organize a Preservation Forum or other activity at the annual meeting. Feedback and suggestions are welcome.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Musser, chair

TRANSITIONS

by
Patricia Yocum

The GeoScience Information Society has had the good fortune to benefit from the talent and commitment of Elizabeth Wallace, GSIS Publications Manager, and Connie Manson, Newsletter Editor. Both have energetically and faithfully filled very big roles in the publications sphere for us. By virtue of their positions each also has been a member of the GSIS Executive Board. Elizabeth (last Fall) and Connie (last month) have indicated that 'tis time for a respite. We well understand their need to pause and are grateful for the valuable contributions each has so consistently made.

As Publications Manager since 1999 Elizabeth has handled subscription and order fulfillment for the annual *GSIS Proceedings*, the *Directory of Geoscience Libraries*, and various other titles. Her work has included discussions with editors, negotiating with printers, overseeing mailings, maintaining our back stock, issuing invoices and receiving payments. We are fortunate that Elaine Clement, Harvard University Library, has volunteered to be our new Publications Manager. She and Elizabeth are developing a transition plan whose details will be announced shortly.

Connie Manson has been GSIS Newsletter editor since 1986, taking a leave-of-absence for three years to serve as GSIS Vice President/President/Past President. As newsletter editor Connie solicits copy, formats text and illustrations, establishes deadlines, and collaborates with a printer to produce and mail six print issues a year. She led the conversion to a digital edition of the newsletter which is now emailed to GSIS members and subsequently posted on the GSIS webpage. Connie will continue as Newsletter editor until her successor is named and is happy to elaborate on what the position entails. She can be reached at cjm@thurston.com. If you are interested in volunteering for the position please contact Patricia Yocum at pyocum@umich.edu.

The GSIS publications program has been a conspicuous and far-reaching initiative whose impact has reached well beyond our society. All GSIS members join in thanking Elizabeth and Connie for their many years of steadfast, consistent contributions to GSIS, its publications program and to the community of geoscience librarians. We look forward to their continued involvement with us in other capacities.

**Greetings from Elaine "Ellie" Clement
New GSIS Publications Manager**

I was introduced to GSIS in 1990, when I accepted the position of Earth & Mineral Science Librarian at Penn State where I was able to learn a great deal about geological information. In 1995, I took the position of Physical Sciences Librarian at Kresge Physical Sciences Library at Dartmouth College; this library held the geological collections for Dartmouth. Presently, I am the Head of Reference and Research Instruction Liaison for the Sciences in Cabot Science Library at Harvard University. Cabot now includes the former Kummel Geological Library collection and I am once again directly meeting and serving the research and instruction needs of members of the geoscience information community. My BA is in Geography from UNH and my MS from Simmons College. I have been a member of

GSIS since 1990, serving on the GeoRef Users Group Steering Committee and the Preservation Committee, and now look forward to serving in the role of Publications Manager for the Society. How to reach me:

Elaine Clement
Head of Reference
and Research Instruction Liaison for the Sciences
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Godfrey Lowell Cabot Science Library
One Oxford Street
Cambridge, MA 02138 USA
Phone: 617/495-5353
Fax: 617/495-5324
Email: clement@fas.harvard.edu

CONGRATULATIONS!

Promotion: Lura Joseph, to Associate Professor, University of Illinois Library, Urbana-Champaign, IL

New Position: Renee Davis, Collection Development Librarian, University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, VA

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER!

Bonnie J. M. Swoger
State University of New York College at Geneseo
Instructional Support Associate
Milne Library
Geneseo, NY14454
swoger@geneseo.edu

Bonnie is interested in information literacy instruction and web design.

GSIS Position Announcement

The Geoscience Information Society seeks a talented, creative member to serve as GSIS Newsletter editor beginning in 2007. The editor is responsible for producing 6 issues of the Newsletter each year in both electronic and print formats. Published since 1966 and with 226 issues to its credit, the Newsletter serves a critical role in the community of geoscience professionals.

If you are interested in serving in this position or would like more information about it please contact Patricia Yocum, GSIS President, at 734-936-3079 or pyocum@umich.edu.

GSA 2007 Annual Meeting

Denver, Colorado

October 28-31

Earth Sciences for Society —
Beginning of the International Year of Planet Earth

FUTURE CONFERENCE SITES

| | |
|-----------------|------|
| Houston, TX | 2008 |
| Portland, OR | 2009 |
| Denver, CO | 2010 |
| Minneapolis, MN | 2011 |

GSIS PUBLICATIONS LIST

Proceedings of the Annual GSIS Meetings (ISSN 0072-1409) \$45.00 each; standing orders are \$45.00/year. (Proceedings volumes 1 through 25 are out of print and available from:
Out-of-print Books on Demand, University Microfilms, Inc., 300 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106)
-v. 35, 2004, published 2005 *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 AESEI CBEI 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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e-mail: clement@fas.harvard.edu

Payment must be made in U.S. dollars.



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