

newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Suzanne T. Larsen

A new model for open access journals: SCOAP³

Those of you who also serve the physics community, as I do, are probably aware of the Sponsoring Consortium for Open Access Publishing in Particle Physics (SCOAP³) initiative for open access to a small number of high energy physics journals. I think this is an important concept for all of us and if it succeeds, could be a major breakthrough in providing freely available open access journals.

I attended a conference in Berkeley, CA on February 29, 2008 where the proposal was presented to a large number of librarians, faculty, consortia representatives, and publisher representatives. The plan, sponsored primarily by CERN, is to develop a model which would turn six of the primary peer reviewed journals in high energy physics (HEP) into

open access journals available freely to all. The journals are: Physical Review D (published by the American Physical Society (APS)), Physics Letters B and Nuclear Physics B (Elsevier), Journal of High Energy Physics (SISSA/Institute of Physics) and the European Physical Journal C (Springer) and Physical Review Letters (APS). The model, if successful will be open to other high quality

The concept is for libraries to redirect the subscription cost from the publisher of the journal to the Consortium. In the case of package purchases, the publishers would decrease their packages accordingly, so libraries wouldn't pay twice for the same content. The Consortium would support a peer review system. CERN would act as the publication manager for the Consortium.

journals with HEP content in the future.

Interested entities, such as libraries, consortia, and research labs, are currently signing "expressions of

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GSIS members are encouraged to contribute materials for publication. Material for the August, 2008 issue should be received no later than July 28, 2008. Please send materials by e-mail to afleming@unlnotes.unl.edu

interest" for the financial backing of the Consortium. CERN estimates that they will need about \$16 million for this proposal to be successful. Once a significant percentage of the estimate cost has been pledged, an offer will be made to the publishers. Provided that the funding partners are prepared to engage in long-term commitments, it is hoped that the publishers will enter into negotiations. SCOAP³ now counts 24 partners in the United States in addition to partners representing 12 European countries and an international laboratory.

Some back ground on High Energy Physics and CERN might be useful. CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, is one of the world's largest and most respected centers for scientific research. Located in Switzerland, it is the world largest particle physic laboratory and is an international resource. CERN facilities, which would be difficult or impossible for individual nations to build, include advanced particle accelerators, such as the Large Hadron Collider and facilities for the production of exotic forms of matter, including antimatter.

According to Dr. Salvadore Mele of CERN, High Energy Physics (HEP) aims to understand how our Universe works by discovering what the constituents of matter and energy are, prove their interactions, and explore the basic nature of space and time. Experimental HEP, which is half the community, produces 20% of the literature and theoretical HEP is the other half of the community but produces 80% of the literature. HEP is a relatively small, well connected community with a small number of primary

journals. Open Access (OA) publishing is second nature to them, posting on arX-iv before even submitting to a journal is common practice. ArXiv is an open access resource that began as an archive of preprints in physics at Los Alamos National Laboratory in 1991and has grown to include e-prints in astronomy, mathematics, computer science, quantitative biology and statistics. It is now based at Cornell. About 83% of HEP articles are published in the 6 journals to be included in SCOAP³ and between 77% and 100% of the articles in these six journals are in arXiv.

According to Mele, while physicists, especially in HEP, tend to use arXiv as their primary information resource, peer reviewed scholarly journals are still needed because of the evaluation of scientists by institutes and universities. The main role of these journals is to assure high quality peer review. HEP needs these high quality journals as an interface with the academic establishment. The researchers will still read arXiv first but arXiv does not serve the purpose of peer reviewed resources.

Will SCOAP³ succeed? It is hard to tell at this point but it is an interesting concept and CERN certainly provides a lot of credibility and clout. A lot of questions come to mind. What if it does move forward and an early subscriber wishes to cancel their subscription, since they will have open access anyway.? Will there be any limits on cost increases? How will the peer review process work in this framework? Will the commercial publishers really go along with this?

For more reading about this in-

novative idea check out the following websites:

www.scoap3.org
http://public.web.cern.ch/Public/Welcome.html
http://arxiv.org/
http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/arl-br-257scoap3.pdf - an ARL Scholarly Communication: THE AUDACITY OF SCOAP3
by Ivy Anderson, Director of Collections, California Digital Library

VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN by Rusty Kimball

Things are shaping up for our Annual Meeting at GSA in Houston, Texas this October. As you will recall, this year's GSA meeting will celebrate the International Year of Planet Earth, and will be a special joint meeting between The Geological Society of America (GSA), Soil Science Society of America (SSSA), American Society of Agronomy (ASA), Crop Science Society of America (CSSA), and the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies with the Gulf Coast Section of SEPM (GCAGS), hosted by the Houston Geological Society (HGS) (https://www. acsmeetings.org/). The number of these organizations appear to be making for a more complicated and challenging situation for the GSA organizers in terms of rooms, both in the George R. Brown Convention Center, and the Hotel. As I just learned from Lisa Johnston, the dates for our Technical Session and Poster Session have been affected. These two sessions have both been scheduled by GSA for the

afternoon of Wednesday, October 8 (Convention Center) as follows:

Technical Session 1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Poster Session 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause! The overlap was unavoidable as well, so we'll each need to plan accordingly. Another significant change in our schedule this year is that I have decided to schedule the Field Trip on Monday, October 6, instead of the last day of the meeting (Thursday, October 9) to make it more convenient for more of our members to participate. This will leave Thursday open for those that wish to travel that day, as things are shaping up now. Our reservations with GSA for rooms in the hotel have been made, including a larger room for this year's new combined Reception, Awards, and Silent Auction Event. I am presently looking for a speaker for the GSIS Luncheon as I continue to solicit and collect sponsorships for our various events. Jan Heagy of ExxonMobil in Houston has come up with a fair number of exciting ideas for our Field Trip. (More on this as it develops...) Anyway, I expect to have the final schedule for our next issue, so stay tuned!!

COMMITTEE MID-YEAR REPORTS

GSIS Archives

Only a small amount of material has been received. The University of Illinois Archives prefers that material submissions be limited to several times a

year. Therefore, the recent material is being held to submit later.

Anne M. Huber, Chair

Best Paper Committee

The request for nominations for the GSIS 2007 Best paper award was posted on Geonet on March 17 and also sent to the editor of the GSIS Newsletter. The members of the committee also searched databases for prospective nominations. The Committee has finished deliberations and will announce the willer soon.

Carol La Russa, Chair

Mary B. Ansari Best Reference Work Award Committee

The Mary B. Ansari Best Reference Work Award Committee compiles a list of notable geoscience reference works published within three years prior to the GSIS Annual meeting. These works are evaluated based on a list of criteria and an award winner is chosen. The award is then presented to the winner at the Annual Meeting. The Committee is currently compiling nominations and evaluating them for the Awards ceremony in October 2008.

Members of the committee are Angelique Jenks-Brown (Binghamton University, NY), Edward Lener (Virginia Tech), Linda Newman (University of Nevada, Reno), and Dennis Trombatore (University of Texas at Austin).

The committee would like to thank Janet Norris for her years of contribution.

Angelique Jenks-Brown, Chair

Collection Development Issues Committee

The Committee will soon begin planning for the Collection Development Forum which is tentatively scheduled for 2 to 5 pm, Sunday, October 5, 2008 at the Annual Meeting in Houston.

Input from members will be sought regarding topics/issues to include in the Forum. This information will help shape the agenda.

Chestalene Pintozzi, Chair

Mary B. Ansari Distinguished Service Award Committee

The Mary B. Ansari Distinguished Service Award Selection Committee has invited nominations from the membership and has received several. The committee hopes to make a selection in time for the announcement to be included in the GSA publicity regarding awards.

Patricia Yocum, Chair

Electronic Resources Committee

At the electronic resources forum, last year, we heard talks about OneMine.org, a digital project of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration, Springers E-Books and E-Reference works, the American Geophysical Union's and Geological Society of America's digitization plans, and a report on GeoRef. Librarians also gave brief descriptions of their digitization projects and plans. The committee is just starting to work on plans for this year. If you want to talk about your digitization program or hear about digital resources from a particular publisher,

please contact one of the members of the Electronic Resources Committee: Linda Zellmer, Chair (LR-Zellmer@ wiu.edu), Patty Gaspari-Bridges (pattygb@Princeton.edu), Angelique Jenks-Brown (ajbrown@binghamton.edu), Leo Clougherty (leo-clougherty@uiowa.edu) or Linda Musser (lrm4@psu.edu)

Linda Zellmer, Chair

International Initiatives Committee

The International Initiatives Committee prepared a proposal for a GSIS sponsored stipend to encourage the participation of first-time GSIS meeting attendees from countries other than the United States or Canada. The stipend covers the GSA registration fee, GSIS event fees (such as the luncheon), GSIS membership fee (for the following year membership if the awardee is already a GSIS member), and a guaranteed place in Geoscience 101. Annually, this amounts to around \$500.00 which is equivalent to our average Silent Auction proceeds. The Board accepted the proposal. The committee is now working on stipend advertising.

Jan Heagy, Chair

GSIS Membership Committee

Serving on the Membership Committee for 2008 are Shaun Hardy, Sarah Hodkinson (Chair), John Hunter, Miriam Kennard, and Margy Walsh. This year we are focusing on recruiting new members from academic, company, and state survey libraries in the US and Canada. We also plan to encourage student membership and participation in this year's "Geoscience Librarianship 101" by promoting GSIS to Library and Information Science students.

Each of the committee members is responsible for recruiting members in certain geographical regions or populations. Shaun is working on pacific and mountain states; Sarah is working on Atlantic states, state survey librarians, and library school students; John will do south central states; Miriam will take central states and non-renewals; and Margy will contact potential members in Canadian provinces and special librarians.

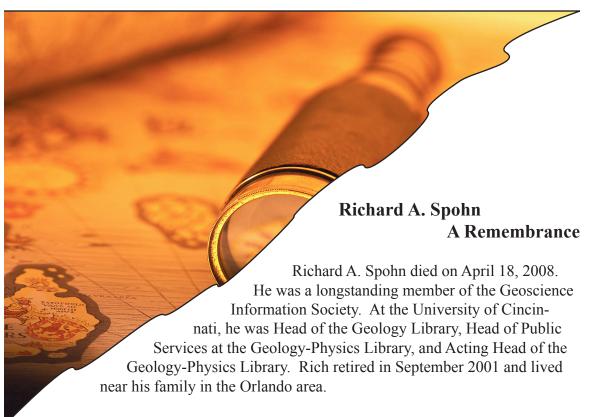
All members of GSIS are ambassadors to help recruit new members. We welcome you to make personal contacts to encourage membership, and to contact a membership committee member if you have ideas about recruiting potential new members.

Sarah Z. Hodkinson, Chair

Nominating Committee

The GSIS Nominating Committee has invited nominations for two offices, Vice President/President Elect and Secretary. Members interested in considering either office have also been encouraged to apply. The cominmttee is aiming for a late spring/early summer election due to the early conference date this year. Those elected will assume their duties after the close of the 2008 GSIS meeting.

Patricia Yocum, Chair



I first met Rich twenty years ago at a GSA Annual Meeting. We both had done graduate work in geography at the University of Cincinnati. I think that his interest in geography is reflected in all the road trips that he made. He was an avid collector of counties. He would devise trips that would take him and usually a friend to counties that he had never visited. His goal was to at least drive through every county in the United States. His county map showed that he had covered much of the United States. You may remember that he often added road trips to the GSA conferences that he attended. I was lucky to go on one throughout Utah after a Salt Lake City meeting. We visited some of the national parks and even ran into a GSA field trip at Panguitch.

Another manifestation of Rich's interest in geography was his service as member and Chair of the Cartographic User's Advisory Council. He was proud to have affected some decisions regarding USGS and the maps program. After retirement, he served as President of the Western Association of Map Libraries. I think his interest in WAML only strengthened his longstanding love of the West.

Rich built a strong collection at the University of Cincinnati. He was truly a collector, both at work and home. He was particularly interested in field trip guidebooks. He developed one of the best collections, and I think that he even had an endowed fund to purchase them. He was a member of the GIS guidebook committees and Co-Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Union List of Geological Field Trip Guidebooks, 6th edition.

Perhaps Rich Spohn's work with guidebooks was his greatest contribution to geoscience librarianship. He was also very proud of his keynote paper on geoscience societies at the GIS 25th Anniversary Meeting in 1990.

Rich was a very strong contributor to public services at the University of Cincinnati. I saw some of his excellent supervision of student assistants. Some students became longtime friends. He liked teaching and was particularly proud of the internet courses he presented throughout the libraries. He was often the on-call reference librarian at the main library, though he had branch responsibilities. Rich was very conscientious about his branch libraries. At the cusp of his retirement, he was putting in a tremendous amount of extra time to resolve projects and leave the Geology-Physics Library in good shape.

Finally, Rich was an excellent host and event organizer. A good example is the GSA 1992 Annual Meeting in Cincinnati. Rich was a member of the conference organizing committee. He developed the GIS field trip with Professor Paul Potter, and he was the coauthor of the guidebook. Two highlights of the trip were the ferry across the Ohio River and the visit to a fossil bed.

Rich organized wonderful dinners for GIS attendees at Leonhardt's (an Austrian-Hungarian restaurant) and the Golden Lamb (a 200-year old inn). The meeting was also memorable for the lunch at the Rookwood Pottery, which resulted in the Rookwood Accord, a document-sharing agreement between several California geoscience libraries. Rich's hospitality truly contributed to an excellent GIS annual meeting.

A personal example of Rich Spohn's hospitality occurred at the end of a Special Libraries Association conference in Philadephia. Rich was dropping me off at the airport and then going to spend the next day in Montgomery County, his original home. I couldn't catch a plane because thunderstorms closed the airport. Rich offered to spend the next day showing me around all the areas of his youth. It was an interesting experience to see the homes, schools, and landmarks in a beautiful rural area that helped shape him.

Last November, Rich sent me regrets that he was not able to make the GSA and WAML meetings in Denver. He really wanted to see the many friends that he had made at GSIS and WAML meetings. I think that I can say that his many friends in these organizations will also miss him.

Michael M. Noga MIT Science Library

Conference News

GSIS/GSA, Houston, October 5-9, 2008

Website: https://www.acsmeetings.org/

Early registration and housing now open!

33rd International Geological Congress, Oslo, August 6-14, 2008

Website: http://www.33igc.org/

15 July: End of intermediately priced registration (€610/460)

After 15 July: Registration fee €660/510

July: Abstracts available on the website

August: Programme (hard copy) and Abstracts (CD) for all participants

Note: these sessions of the Geoscience Information portion of the Information, Education, Ethics, History Symposium are listed as cancelled; abstracts redistributed:

IEI-08 - What should we call that rock? – the critical role of thesauri, vocabularies, ontologies and dictionaries in digital systems

IEI-10 – Looking after the ground truth – the problems and opportunities in managing physical collections (paper records, core and fossils, etc.)

IEI-18 – How much more space and speed will we need? – issues relating to the current and future provision of digital storage and network performance

IEI-21 – The application of high performance computing, GRID and simulation technology in geoscience

This and That

Chestalene Pintozzi has accepted the newly created position as director of project management at the University of Arizona Libraries. She will continue to chair the GSIS Collection Development Committee through the Houston meeting and is looking forward to seeing GSIS members in Houston before she moves ono other professional societies.

Suzzane Larsen, President of GSIS, responded to this news, "Chestelene's participation is GSIS has been very much appreciated over the years and has really made a difference for the society.

We congratulate Chestelene on her new assignment, it sounds very interesting but we will be sorry to lose her from GSIS".



Geoscience Literature

A brief, selected list of 2008 geoscience imprints:

by Linda Musser, Head, Earth & Mineral Sciences Library, Pennsylvania State University

- · A reef in time: the Great Barrier Reef from beginning to end
- · Along Wisconsin's Ice Age Trail
- · American mineral treasures
- Analysis and summary of water-table maps for the Delaware coastal plain
- · Atmospheric acoustic remote sensing
- · Big Bone Lick : the cradle of American paleontology
- · Clathrate hydrates of natural gases. 3rd ed.
- · Climate change and adaptation
- · Climate change and vulnerability
- · Coal river
- · Darkening peaks : glacier retreat, science, and society
- · Deep Geologic Repositories
- Deformation of earth materials : an introduction to the rheology of solid earth
- Earth: an introduction to physical geology 9th ed.
- Encyclopedia of hurricanes, typhoons, and cyclones New ed.
- · Fire and blood: rubies in myth, magic, and history
- · Fire and blood: rubies in myth, magic, and history
- Formation and Applications of the Sedimentary Record in Arc Collision Zones
- · Fossil ecosystems of North America : a guide to the sites and their extraordinary biotas
- Freedom from oil: how the next president can end the United States' oil addiction
- · From the Cincinnati Arch to the Illinois Basin: Geological Field Excursions along the Ohio River Valley

- · Fundamentals of fluvial geomorphology
- · Fundamentals of physical volcanology
- · Geologic Map of the Piedmont Hollow Quadrangle, Oregon County, Missouri, Scientific Investigations Map 2979, 2008
- · Glacial geology and geomorphology: the landscapes of Ireland
- · Grave secrets of dinosaurs : soft tissues and hard science
- · High resolution numerical modelling in the atmosphere and ocean
- · Humanity's footprint: momentum, impact, and our global environment
- · Hydrogeology field manual 2nd ed.
- · Hydrological modelling in arid and semi-arid areas
- · Kinetics of water-rock interaction
- Late Cenozoic Drainage History of the Southwestern Great Basin and Lower Colorado River Region: Geologic and Biotic Perspectives
- · Locating ground-water discharge areas in Rehoboth and Indian River Bays and Indian River, Delaware using Landsat 7 imagery
- Ophiolites, Arcs, and Batholiths: A Tribute to Cliff Hopson
- · Paleontology of the Upper Eocene Florissant Formation, Colorado
- · Quaternary fault and lineament map of Owens Valley, Inyo County, eastern California
- The Sedimentary Record of Meteorite Impacts
- · Marine natural resources and technological development : an economic analysis of the wealth from the oceans
- · Mineralogy and optical mineralogy
- · Missouri caves in history and legend
- · Oceans [Facts on File]
- · Ohio Oil and Gas
- · Petroleum related rock mechanics 2nd ed.
- · Protogaea
- The 23rd edition of the manual of mineral science : (after James D. Dana)
- The earth sciences in the Enlightenment : studies on the early development of geology
- The future of arid lands--revisited : a review of 50 years of drylands research
- The Indian Ocean nodule field: geology and resource potential
- The legacy of the Mastodon: the golden age of fossils in America
- The science of water : concepts and applications
- · Vertebrate microfossil assemblages : their role in paleoecology and paleobiogeography
- · Wadi hydrology
- Wetland and water resource modeling and assessment: a watershed perspective
- What bugged the dinosaurs? : insects, disease, and death in the Cretaceous

GSIS PUBLICATIONS LIST

Proceedings of the Annual GSIS Meetings (ISSN 0072-1409)

\$45.00 each; standing orders are \$45.00/year.

(Proceedings vols 1 through 25 are out of print and available

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

-v. 36, 2005, published 2007 Collaboration for the Dissemination of Geologic Information Among Colleagues, ed. by A. Fleming [ISBN 0-934485-38-0]
-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 Support-

Information Bridges in the Geosciences, ed. by Lois Heiser, (ISBNO-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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