

newsletter

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IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Suzanne T. Larsen

This is the last President's column I will be writing. Wasn't that a great meeting in Houston? My congratulations go out to all those who made it so successful. All the folks involved with Geoscience 101 were fantastic, putting on another well received session. Rusty Kimball did a great job with event planning and Lisa Johnston's technical and poster sessions were both interesting and thought provoking. Thanks to the Exhibits Committee for a creative display in the exhibit booth and to all who worked in the booth during the meeting. The award committees once again found stellar recipients for our awards. Our Collection Development and E-Resource forums were well attended and informational. And of course all our generous sponsors should be extended yet another thank

you. For the last few years their contributions have done much to defray the costs of the annual meeting for the Society. Thanks to all of you who have faithfully served on committees and all the officers, both incoming, outgoing and continuing. An unusually large percentage of our membership is active in these ways. I know I have left someone out, but it takes so many to make a meeting like this happen, please forgive me if I have omitted you.

My next incarnation will be that of Past President. I think that the three year commitment: Vice President, President and past president, gives great stability and continuity to the organization. Just as I was mentored by Patricia Yocum during my Vice presidency, I did the same for Rusty Kimball as he planned the GSIS meeting for Houston. He will certainly serve in that capacity for Jan Heagy as she plans for Portland, Oregon in 2009. Claudette

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

Cloutier was our first topical session convener in Denver in 2007 and she advised Lisa Johnston, who had that position for our Houston meeting. Jody Bates shadowed Lisa during the Houston meeting in preparation for taking over in that capacity for the Portland meeting in 2009. All of the cities and venues are different but the processes are much the same and usually not completely clear without insight from one who has done it before. I know I would have faltered without Patricia's help.

One of my primary roles as
Past President is to find our next Vice
President as Chair of the Elections
Committee. As you can see, it is not a
sink or swim endeavor, whoever agrees
to serve will get mentoring and help at
every turn. Please consider volunteering
or agreeing to stand for the position
if contacted. I found it to be a very
rewarding experience.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Rusty Kimball

Well, this is my first column in my new role as GSIS President. I'd like to thank this organization for giving this opportunity to such a relatively new member like myself!! Thanks to everyone for being so supportive this past year and at our Annual Meeting. And what a meeting it was! Although the special combined GSA Meeting caused us some disruption to our usual overall schedule, there were several advantages as well. For example, our scheduling of the field trip on Monday allowed for strong participation and a less pressured excursion, making for a very successful field trip indeed.

Additionally, some of our own new plans introduced some changes to our "usual" meeting schedule. The decision to have the Awards as part of the Reception and Silent Auction event proved to be quite successful, from all accounts. And, the inclusion of a speaker at the Luncheon was another new component of our meeting. So, next year at our Annual Meeting at GSA in Portland, Oregon we can expect a repeat of this year's successful new lineup, along with perhaps a few more variations in the schedule.

Also in connection with our recent Annual Meeting in Houston, thanks are not too numerous to mention I hope, so here goes. Many thanks to our new Vice President, Jan Heagy for coordinating and arranging such a great field trip to the Houston Museum of Natural Science! Thanks to Past President Suzanne Larsen for all her guidance and advice this past year. Thanks so much to the University of Houston and those at UH's Anderson Library who so graciously hosted our Geoscience Librarianship 101 and providing lunch for the event. Thanks to our sponsors this year: the Gemological Institute of America, the Geological Society of London, ESRI, Knovel, CSA/ProQuest, and Wiley/Blackwell. Once again we are thankful to Mary B. Ansari for supporting the Distinguished Service and Best Reference Work awards. Thanks to Andrea Twiss-Brooks for coordinating another successful Geoscience Librarianship 101 and for providing additional help with our sponsorships. Thanks to the Executive Board (Suzanne Larsen, Patricia Yocum, Andrea Twiss-Brooks, Renee Davis, Adonna Fleming, and Elaine Clement) for their valuable input and advice on arrangements for the Annual Meeting. Thanks to Lisa Johnston for organizing such a great technical session. Finally, thanks to so many of you for volunteering to serve on our committees this coming year. I have already begun work on making the committee assignments for 2009. New members of the Executive Board are Jan Heagy, Vice President/ President elect and Elaine B. Adams, Secretary.

Have a wonderful holiday season!!

Meeting Highlights Awards

Mary B. Ansari Distinguished Service Award

By Shaun Hardy

Geology librarian Connie J. Manson of Olympia, Washington was honored by GSIS on October 7 for her service to the profession.



Patricia B. Yocum, at left, presents the 2008 Mary B. Ansari Distinguished Service Award to Connie J. Manson in Houston. (Photo by Shaun Hardy)

At a ceremony held at the Geological Society of America's annual meeting in Houston, Manson was presented with the GSIS Mary B. Ansari Distinguished Service Award.

For many years
Manson served as
Geology Librarian at the
Washington Division of
Natural Resources, where
she published more than
one hundred bibliographies
on the geology, mineral
resources, urban planning,
and natural hazards of the
state. She also compiled
several volumes of Index to
Geologic and Geophysical

Mapping of Washington. "Improving access to geoscience information from government agencies has been a hallmark of Connie's career," according to Patricia B. Yocum (University of Michigan), chair of the selection committee. "Connecting information with people is a core value which Connie exemplifies in her approach to her work." Prior to her work in Washington Manson worked at the Wyoming Department of Economic Planning and Development, where she published several books.

Manson served as editor of the *GSIS Newsletter* from 1986 to 2007, taking only one respite while serving as the Society's vice-president/president/past-president in 1997-1999. While in office she edited *The Costs and Values of*



Connie Manson accepting her award at the GSIS Luncheon on October 7. (Photo by Shaun Hardy)

Geoscience Information, co-edited Accreting the Continent's Collections, and participated in organizing the Sixth International Conference on Geoscience Information, held in Washington, D.C. in 1998. She subsequently edited the conference proceedings, Science Editing and Information Management, published in 1999. In the 1990s she compiled two editions of the Society's widely-used Directory of Geoscience Libraries, United States and Canada. She served as the GSIS representative to the Geological Society of America's Publications Committee, among other appointments.

Commenting on Manson's award, longtime colleague Jim O'Donnell (Caltech) summarized: "Connie has always been willing to mentor and encourage new members to the profession. She is noted for the extraordinary efforts she will make to help a patron or a fellow librarian find the information they're seeking. She's been an enthusiastic and productive member of both GSIS and the profession."

Manson is currently working with the American Geological Institute on special bibliographic projects for GeoRef, the world's leading database of geoscience literature.

Connie J. Mason Recepient of the 2008 Mary B. Ansair Distinguished Service Award

In 2003, in recognition of my 25th anniversary as Senior Librarian at the Washington state geological survey library, a lot of people made a big fuss. Some of my buddies at the survey conspired about me. They arranged to get plaques of appreciation from the USGS and from a group of

local researchers praising the help I'd given them over the years. (Heck, Lee Walkling even arranged to get me a congratulatory note from the current librarian at the Ballard Branch Public Library, where I started as a page in 1967.) It was all very gratifying.

But their
plotting hadn't
stopped there. At the
January meeting
of the Northwest



Conie J. Manson, recepient of the GSIS 2008 Mary B. Anasari Award for Distingished Service, addresses audience at the award cereomy in Houston. (Photo by Shaun Hardy)

Geological Society, the chair of the University of Washington's Department of Earth and Space Sciences, presented me with an honorary degree! I was flabbergasted, but just kept saying, "I accept! I accept!"

But that "honorary degree" is a total fake.

You see, there was one teeny, tiny, little problem: Historically, the University of Washington did not bestow honorary degrees. From 1894 to 2002, the UW bestowed exactly 1 honorary degree (to a WWI general). Then in 2002, the state legislature had a change of heart and decided the UW should give honorary degrees. So, the UW does now, but only to very very accomplished and important people. In 2002, the

UW gave honorary degrees to Desmond Tutu and to Madeleine Albright. In 2008, they gave one to the Dalai Lama-You get the picture.

As I later learned, for my honorary degree, the chair of the Dept of Earth and Space Sciences had to get special permission from the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. And my honorary degree is not a Bachelors, Masters, nor PhD. It is simply an "honorary degree in geology" and it's signed only by the chair of the Dept of Earth and Space Sciences.

But on the drive home, I was just bouncing-They gave me an honorary degree! They gave me an honorary degree!

The degree is a total fake. I've always known that, and I've never cared. It was given in good faith as an honor in appreciation of the work I'd done for all the folks in Washington over the years and I gladly accepted it as such.

It was the highest honor I thought I'd ever receive, that anyone ever could...

And then you folks go and play "Can You Top This? The Mary B. Ansari Distinguished Service Award recognizes and honors "significant contributions to the geoscience information profession"

The previous honorees are all giants in our profession - Charlotte Derksen, the legendary emeritus head of Stanford's Branner Library; Dedy Ward, a founding father of GSIS, and John Mulvihill, the guiding force behind GeoRef. I honestly don't believe I'm in their league. But if you think I am, I can't stop you. And so, I humbly and happily accept this award.

But, unlike my honorary "degree in geology", this one isn't a fake. But I'm not giving either one of them back!

And now, for all time Charlotte, Dedy, John, and I will always be "Ansarians."

Best Website Award

By Shaun Hardy

Encyclopedia of Earth (EoE), an open-access electronic resource with thousands of authoritative, objective articles on environment, climate, and general earth sciences, has been awarded the GSIS 2008 Best Website Award.

The *Encyclopedia* is a project of the Environmental Information Coalition of the National Council for Science and the Environment (NCSE), a non-profit organization based in Washington, D.C. NCSE's executive director, Peter Saundry, accepted the award at the Geological Society of America annual meeting

in Houston on October 7. Saundry stated that "our goal is to make the *Encyclopedia of Earth* the largest reliable information resource on the environment in history."

EoE consists of original contributions by individuals who are expert in their fields as evidenced by their research, teaching, publishing, and public outreach, and of content derived from



Peter Saundry (National Council for Science and the Environment), at left, accepts the Best Website Award for 2008 from GSIS webmaster Jim O'Donnell (Caltech) at the GSA annual meeting in Houston. (Photo by Shaun Hardy)

partner organizations and other open content sources. Articles are written in non-technical language and stress the interaction between society and the Earth's physical and biological systems. Quality is maintained through a strict editorial process.

The Best Website Award has been presented by GSIS annually since 2002 to a site which exemplifies outstanding standards of content, design, organization, and overall site effectiveness. In selecting *EoE*, the award committee noted the *Encyclopedia* "offers the educated lay person so much that they can miss by trying to wade through mountains of important but dry [and] confusing journal articles." They praised its design concept, which strikes a balance between predetermined editorial content

and a free-lance wikipedia style. *EoE* is accessible online at www.eoearth.org.

Geoscience Publication Awards

By Shaun Hardy

GSIS recognized three outstanding earth science publications at its October 7 awards ceremony, held at the Geological Society of America's annual meeting in Houston.

The Encyclopedia of the Solar System, second edition, edited by Lucy-Ann McFadden, Paul R. Weissman, and Torrence V. Johnson, received the

Mary B. Ansari Best Reference Work Award. Published by Elsevier/Academic Press in 2007, the *Encyclopedia* is "probably the definitive single-volume work on the solar system," according to Angelique Jenks-Brown, who chaired the selection committee. "The illustrations and overall quality are outstanding. With few books like this available, this text is essential to an academic collection." Torrence Johnson accepted the



Angelique Jenks-Brown (Binghamton, SUNY) presents the 2008 Mary B. Ansari Best Reference Work Award to Torrence Johnson (Jet Propulsion Laboratory). (Photo by Shaun Hardy)

prize on behalf of the 56 specialists who contributed to the *Encyclopedia*. The Ansari Award has been presented by GSIS annually since 1988 and honors an outstanding reference work in the field of geoscience information published during the previous three years.

Rifts, Diabase, and the Topographic "Fishhook": Terrain and Military Geology of the Battle of Gettysburg—July 1-2, 1863 (Pennsylvania Geological Survey Open-File Report 06-02) was awarded the prize for the best field trip guidebook. The work was revised

and expanded from a 2004 guidebook of the same title and authorship by Jon

D. Inners, Roger J. Cuffey, Robert C. Smith, II, John C. Neubaum, Richard C. Keen, Gary M. Fleeger, Lewis Butts, Helen L. Delano, Victor A. Newbaum, and Richard H. Howe. The guidebook examines the geology and geography of the Gettysburg region and the role they played in the military aspects of the battle. In announcing the selection, Guidebook Committee awards chair Jody Bales Foote cited the publication's blending of history with geology. "It's an example of how a geo-

logical publication can be used to pro-



Helen Delano (Pennsylvania Geological Survey), at left, attended the ceremony to accept the Best Guidebook Award from Jody Bales Foote (University of Oklahoma) on behalf of her co-authors. (Photo by Shaun Hardy)

mote an interest in the geosciences for the general public," Foote observed. The Committee commended the work's color photographs, detailed road load, and online format. They noted it conformed to all the requirements established in the GSIS *Guidelines for Authors, Editors, and Publishers of Geologic Field Trip Guidebooks*.

Lura E. Joseph (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) was presented with the 2008 GSIS Best Paper Award for her paper titled "Comparison of Retrieval Performance of Eleven Online Indexes Containing Information Related to Quaternary Research, an Interdisciplinary Science." It was published in Reference & User Services Quarterly (vol. 47, pp. 56-75) in 2007. Joseph is the university's Geology and Digital Projects Librarian and Associate Professor of Library Administration. In presenting the

award, selection committee chair Carol La Russa stated "The Committee was impressed with the way Joseph demonstrated the benefits of searching multiple databases to achieve comprehensive results for this multi-disciplinary topic." While a small number of databases provide most of the retrievals for quaternary science, Joseph's research showed that access to other databases is necessary for their unique content. "Having such



Lura Joseph (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), at left, accepts the 2008 GSIS Best Paper Award from Carol La Russa (University of California, Davis) for her research on bibliographic database retrieval in Quaternary science. (Photo by Shaun Hardy)

evidence is very useful in this time of budget cuts and pressures to limit library subscriptions to databases," La Russa added.

GSIS Keynote Address

Dr. Sharon Mosher Addresses Information Behavior By Adonna Fleming

GSIS keynote speaker Dr. Sharon Mosher gave her perspective on where information behaviors are headed, during her talk at the GSIS annual luncheon in Houston, October 7th. Mosher is Chair of the Department of Geological Sciences, University of Texas at

Austin. Her perspectives on the information-gathering behavior of students and researchers comes from her experience as a department head, GSA president, one of the founders of GeoScience World, and as a working researcher herself.

Discussing science journals, Mosher said the trend to publish in electronic format will grow, and that the printed journal would continue to diminish. She listed the cost of maintaining a paper journal as one of the factors for their loss in popularity, as well as the inability to provide interactive components such as linking, animations, and 3D slicing. It is essential for electronic journals to have reference linking, the ability to provide a copy of an



Sharon Mosher discusses information-gathering behaviors at the GSIS annual luncheon, held October 7th, in Houston, Texas. (Photo by April Love)

article in text-like form, color, online archives, and accessibility from outside the library. In addition, they should link to animations; movies etc., Mosher continued.

Mosher stated the first books to go to electronic format will be monographic serials; those that are a collection of articles. Then 'real books' such as the Lyell collection will follow. She stated that maps will need to be interactive, and have the ability to download and print either all or a section of the map.

New journals will be published in specialty areas as science changes, and the current trend is towards interdisciplinary journals such as *Lithosphere*. Publishers like to introduce new journals in aggregate databases because they insure an instant audience, and are less of a risk to the publisher and author, she stated. Over time, all journal archives will need to be accessible electronically, otherwise the archives will not be used, Mosher

continued.

Aggregates will continue to be the best packaging of electronic journals, Mosher stated. As budgets continue to shrink, small or specialty libraries want the inexpensive all-in-one package, such as GeoScience World, she continued. The most successful aggregates will offer different types of materials and formats. For example, field guides, maps, books, and regional/ second tier journals, she concluded.

Open access will continue to be an important issue, Mosher stated.

The popularity of personalized home pages will grow she said. The pages will provide the scientist with access to selected journal articles, the capability to browse the table-of-contents of favorite journals, and reviews of specific articles, in addition to the weather and news, Mosher said.

The future will see the development of personal databases of articles with linking and simplified searching, text alerts on handhelds, less browsing of individual journals and a decrease in journal identity. The subject of the article will be the focus, not the journal it is published in, Mosher said. Wikis will continue to grow as well as, online science chats and 'most read' indexing, she concluded.

In conclusion, Mosher stated, libraries will become a quiet place to study, help centers where librarians teach users how to access information, social gathering places, and specialty libraries will have close associations with museums.

Meeting Wrap-Up

Silent Auction Update

By Jan Heagy, Chair International Initatives Committee, Vice President/President Elect

Thank you GSIS! Your contributions and participation in the 2008 International Initiatives Committee silent auction netted \$435.00 for the IIC fellowship and stipend funds.

GSIS – GSA Technical Session ReportBy Lisa Johnston, GSIS-GSA Technical Session Coordinator

As this year's GSIS Technical Session Coordinator I was extremely proud of our overflowing, both in speakers and content, Topical Session at the 2008 Geological Society of America meeting in Houston, TX.

This year's theme, Libraries in Transformation: Exploring Topics of Changing Practices and New Technologies, generated an impressive turn-out of 14 presentations that took place on Wednesday, October 8, 2008 in the Brown Convention Center room 351BE from 1:30-5:30. Topics ranged from Information Literacy to Collection Development with an overarching theme of Geoscientific Data Curation and how libraries have transformed themselves to address the issues of digital data management, dissemination, and preservation. Following the session, we enjoyed cold refreshments and fresh perspective at the Geosciences Information Posters session held in Convention Center Exhibit Hall E where our eight presenters were on hand from 4-6pm during the all-day exhibit.

This year's successful

organization of the GSA session was particularly rewarding with the challenge and opportunity of working alongside the five societies which came together for this year's Joint Meeting. I want to thank everyone who lent me their experience and guidance along with way - your guidance was invaluable!

Next year's GSA planning is already underway and I'm absolutely confident that the 2009 Technical Session Coordinator, Jody Foote (jbfoote@ou.edu), will make our next GSA



GSIS members enjoy a fieldtrip to the Houstion Museum of Natural Science, October 6, 2008. (Photo by April Love)

meeting in Portland titled "From

GEOSCIENCE Information Society

GSIS exhibits booth, 2008 annual meeting, Houstion, TX. (photo by April Love)

Volcanoes to Vineyards: Living with Dynamic Landscapes" an even greater success. Please send us your suggestions of next year's **GSIS-GSA** Technical Session theme by December 1, 2008.

This & That

Welcome New Members!



Returning member:

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RSMAS
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Atmospheric
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Call for Editor:

The GSIS Newsletter is looking for a Co-Editor. Responsibilities can be negotated. If interested please contact: Adonna Fleming, GSIS Newsletter Editor dfleming2@unl.edu.

Literature Reviews



Ice People on DVD

By Lura Joseph Geology Librarian University of Illinois - Urbana

I recently viewed a new documentary film, *Ice People*, by Anne Aghion. This film features the research of two geologists conducting research in the Antarctic, along with two of their undergraduate students. Dr. Allan Ashworth is currently in his 5th season in the Antarctic, collecting data and samples related to the response of organisms to climate change in an

ecosystem that existed over 15 million years ago. Dr. Adam Lewis has spent seven research seasons in Antarctica, also researching the role of the Antarctic in climate change. Adam's specialty is glacial geology.

Emmy-winning documentary filmmaker Anne Aghion spent four months in the Antarctic with the research team, observing the dedicated pursuit of science, documenting the experience of living and working in this extreme environment, and "witnessing one of the most significant discoveries about climate change in recent Antarctic science" (see *Science*, v. 320 [30 May 2008], p. 1152-1154, and *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, v. 275, n. 1650 [Nov. 07, 2008], p. 2449-2454).

This is not a typical documentary. Rather than long explanations, the film relies on spectacular visuals, conversations with and among the researchers and support personnel, and the sounds of wind and silence to convey the reality of geological research in such a harsh, remote, and beautiful part of the world.

The film has recently screened at the San Francisco International Film Festival, The Jerusalem Film Festival, 2008 Scinema Film Festival, Vancouver International Film Festival, the Pariscience Festival and as part of the Independents Night Series at the NY Film Society of Lincoln Center, with more scheduled including Amazonas Film Festival, and Rencontres Internationales Sciences et Cinémas.

If you plan to attend AGU, there will be two screenings of *Ice People*, in addition to a live webcast from

Antarctica featuring both scientists from the film, on December 14th at the Exploratorium Science Museum in San Francisco. The first screening is at 11a.m. followed by the live webcast from Antarctica at 1 p.m. followed by the second screening at 2 p.m. The screenings are open to the public and Anne will be there for Q&A sessions after each screening. Please check the *Ice People* website closer to the screening date for more detailed information about ticket reservations.

A preview edition of the 77 minute DVD is currently available without any bonus features or educational materials. Libraries and universities that purchase the preview edition will also receive the educational edition at no additional cost as soon as it is available. It is unclear as of now, exactly what this will include (additional video or text). Also, in the meantime there is a lot of useful information on the website http://www.icepeople. com/index.html, including the press kit which is downloadable, and more is being added periodically. They are offering a 25% coupon right now which brings the institutional price down to \$292.50 (from \$390). The discount is available through February 1st. To take advantage of the discount, use the code: ipdiscount1.

I believe this film will be useful in helping attract undergraduates into the profession of geology in particular and into science in general. It is also timely, as it records the moment of recent important scientific discovery in the area of climate change.

Proceedings of the Annual GSIS Meetings

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(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 Dissemi-

nation 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 Develop-

and Their Impacts, ed. by S. N. Tahirkheli. (ISBN 0-934485-33-X)

-v. 30, 2000 Communication Divides: Perspectives on Sup-

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 Informa-

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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