

GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION newsletter

Number 236, April 2009

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN By Rusty Kimball

Committees

1	Archives Committee Anne Huber, Chair Lura Joseph Diane Baclawski	2007-2009 2008-2009 2008-2009
2	Best Paper Award Committee Carol La Russa, Chair Angela Gooden Nancy Sprague	2008-2009 2008-2009 2008-2009
3	Best Reference Work Committee Angelique Jenks-Brown, Chair Dennis Trombatore Edward Lener	2007-2009 2008-2009 2008-2009

4 Distinguished Service Award Committee

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GSIS members are encouraged to contribute materials for publication. Material for the June, 2009 issue should be received no later than May 29, 2009. Please send materials by e-mail to afleming@unlnotes.unl.edu, or Janet Dombrowski, jdombrow@uwyo.edu

	Patricia Yocum, Chair Michael Noga Marie Dvorzak	2008-2009 2008-2009 2009-2010
5	Exhibits Committee Darin Buri, Chair Dona Dirlam April Love	2007-2009 2007-2009 2008-2009
6	Guidebooks Committee Lura Joseph, Chair Louise Zipp Jody Foote Erin Palmer Linda Musser	2008-2009 2008-2009 2008-2009 2009-2010 2009-2010
7	Information Resources Committee	0.71
Resou	(new- formerly Collection Develop rces committees) Cynthia Prosser, Chair John Hunter Michael Noga Angelique Jenks-Brown Patricia Gaspari-Bridges	2007-2009 2008-2009 2008-2009 2008-2009 2008-2009 2008-2009
8	International Initiatives Committee Judie Triplehorn, Chair Dorothy McGarry Margy Walsh Jan Heagy	2008-2009 2007-2009 2008-2009 2008-2009
9	Membership Committee Sarah Ziegler Hodkinson, Chair Miriam Kennard John Hunter Shaun Hardy	2008-2009 2008-2009 2008-2009 2008-2009
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11	Preservation Committee Richard Huffine, Chair John Hunter Diane Baclawski	2008-2009 2008-2009 2008-2009
12	Best Website Committee Carolyn Laffoon, Chair John Kawula Bob Tolliver Connie Manson	2007-2009 2008-2009 2009-2010 2008-2009
Appointees		
Audit	or Margy Walsh	2008-2009
Geonet Moderator Carolyn Laffoon 2007-2009		
GSIS	Newsletter Editor Adona Fleming	2006-2009
GSIS Newsletter Reviews Editor		

Janet Dombrowski

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Jody Foote

Carol La Russa

Ellie Clement

Publications Manager

Publicity Officer

Webmaster

2009-

2007-2009

2009-2010

-open-

2009

Geoscience Librarinship 101

Coordinator

Clara McLeod	2009
Adonna Fleming	2009
Linda Zelmer	2009
Lisa Dunn	2009

Representatives

Lura Joseph 2006-2009

AGI, Government Affairs Program

Marie Dvorak 2007-2009

Atmospheric Sciences Librarians

International (ALSI)

Judie Triplehorn 2008-2010

Cartographic Users Advisory Council

(CUAC)

Clara McLeod 2006-2009 Linda Zelmer 2007-2009

GSA Publications Committee

Jim McDonnell 2009-2011

North East Map Organization (NEMO)

Anne Graham 2008-2010

VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN By Jan Heagy

Plans are underway for the 2009 GSIS annual meeting 18-21 October in Portland, Oregon USA. Registration opens in June and the early registration deadline is September 14, 2009. This year most activities will take place at the Oregon

Convention Center and the Hilton Portland & Executive Tower. The co-headquarters hotel is the Doubletree Hotel & Executive Meeting Center Portland–Lloyd Center.

Complete housing details will be posted to the web when registration opens in June.

Jody Foote has done an outstanding job organizing our technical and poster sessions. See her article elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter.

Other GSIS activities to expect include:

- **Business** meeting
- Luncheon and Distinguished Service Recognition
- Reception and Awards
- **Executive Board** meetings

Additional events, forums and a field trip are also under discussion. If you have any ideas for speakers, topics, field trip destinations or activities, please be sure to contact me.

Hope to see you in Portland this October!

Call for Papers

Share your recent research project or your library's latest innovation with us in an oral presentation or a poster session at the 2009 GSIS/GSA Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon. GSIS will sponsor two technical sessions at the October 18-21 meeting:

Oral presentations--"Navigating the Geoscience Information Landscape: Pathways to Success" (Topical Session #118)

Poster sessions--"Geoscience Information Landscape: Pathways to Success" (Topical Session #117).

Beginning April 1 you can submit your abstract on the electronic submission form on the GSA website: http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2009AM/ index.epl

The deadline for submitting your abstract is midnight (Eastern time) on August 11.

This year GSIS will reimburse all presenters (oral presentations and poster sessions) who are GSIS members for the cost of submitting their abstracts (\$20 for students and \$30 for non-students). When you submit your abstract on the GSA website, you will need to pay the fee by credit card in order to submit it. Following the conference, a reimbursement check will be sent to all presenters who are GSIS members.

Contact Jody Foote, Technical Sessions Chair, (jbfoote@ou.edu or 405-325-6451) if you have questions.

See you in Portland!

Committee News

GeoRef Advisory Committee (GRAC) Meeting October 6, 2008 Hilton Americas Hotel, Houston, TX

Attending: Advisory Committee members: Shaun Hardy, Suzanne Larsen, Jim O'Donnell, Lura Joseph, Dennis Trombatore (chair), and John Steinmetz; AGI Staff: Sharon Tahirkheli, and Jim Mehl

Budget Notes: Sharon Tahirkheli reported that revenue is on track to finish the year as budgeted with royalties slightly ahead of last year. Concern about the economy and its impact on the bottom line was noted. Revenue is projected to increase for publications with the production of the new edition of the GeoRef Thesaurus. Royalties are projected at only slightly more than the total for 2007. This incorporates a 5% price increase for 2009 and allows for a 5% decrease in subscription revenue.

Outlook for Libraries:

Dennis Trombatore presented his outlook for library budgets for the upcoming year and near future. Due to the present economy, the outlook is very gloomy for academic budgets, which will impact libraries, and therefore may impact GeoRef revenue. Some states, including CA, NY, and FL are already in bad shape and the Eastern and Midwest states are shaky. FY10 and FY11 look bad: student loans are crashing; and there may not be enough PELL grant money, so library budgets based on student fees will take a hit if student enrollment drops.

In summary, the next few years look bleak for academic budgets. Dennis pessimistically noted that the downturn could last as long as 15 years; but three to five years are a distinct possibility. This will call for creative thinking for GeoRef, with a focus on markets that are left, and on new markets. GeoRef will need to diversify sources: Australia, Asia, Europe.

Updates

a. GeoRef Thesaurus: 11th Edition, and Scope of GeoRef, definition of geosciences and impact on GeoRef Thesaurus

Sharon Tahirkheli noted that the 11th Edition of the GeoRef Thesaurus will be published in November or December. The Vocabulary Task Force (VTF) met at AGI on September 18-19, 2008 to discuss all changes to the Thesaurus. A major topic of discussion

was the changing scope of GeoRef and how that is impacting the Thesaurus. The Task Force asked that the Advisory Committee take up the question of limits to coverage in several areas:

- Organizational coverage: where GeoRef covers all publications of a given organization (USGS, state geological surveys, GSW)
- Geoscience vs. geology: where GeoRef covers some materials because they are geosciences, but not covered under the classical definition of geology (JGR – Oceans)

The GRAC discussed how the expanding definition of geosciences is impacting the Thesaurus. Dennis stated that language should drive the Thesaurus, not vice versa, and structure should not be the driving force. The Thesaurus should go where the science takes it.

When it comes to complete organizational coverage, the Vocabulary Task Force had concerns with covering non-geoscience publications like the biological material from the USGS. After discussion the GRAC recommended that GeoRef restrict its coverage of pure biology, but should continue to try to meet the needs of the changing usage in the geosciences. In addition, the GRAC noted that there should be tracking of search terms used.

b. Cold Regions Bibliography Project: Sharon Tahirkheli reported that AGI received notification of the continuing funding for this project in the amount of

\$205,000 for the fourth-year of this sixyear grant. A record 7250 items were added to the Cold Regions databases for the current year. IPY publications comprise a significant number of these additions. As part of this project GeoRef digitizes un-copyrighted materials and has purchased a new scanner that does color and multiple formats.

c. CanGeoRef: A draft of an agreement was presented to the Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences (CFES) in early September that included the development of a Canadian bibliographic database – CanGeoRef. The proposal is for AGI and CFES to collaborate and explore creating a database like AusGeoRef for Canada.

Vendors

a. Engineering Village

No sales had been reported for Engineering Village through the 2nd quarter of 2008 but they have been active in the marketplace. A quarterly report is due in mid-November for the July-September quarter.

The subject of a geographical interface was introduced. GeoRef is simultaneously working with several groups in addition to Engineering Village on a workable interface.

b. Dialog

Dialog, after being purchased by Proquest, has announced that they will continue to market GeoRef as usual for their web platform. AGI had been in discussions with them about expanding GeoRef to their DataStar platform, but it is unclear if this will happen under the new regime

c. Proquest

Proquest has continued to move the CSA operations to Ann Arbor. Some sales issues have arisen because of the move. However, we have a new coordinator and hope this will make a difference.

d. Ebsco

Ebsco has just finished reloading GeoRef and adding the GeoRef In Process file to the mix for the first time.

e. Ovid

Ovid is in the process of reloading the entire GeoRef file. This reload will take effect in about a month. This does not replace the SilverPlatter version of the file which has grown older and older

7. GeoRef Priority Journal List

The GRAC looked at the GeoRef Priority Journal List, eliminating some titles, and adding others. The final list will be made available on the GeoRef web site once it is finalized

8. Open discussion

The GRAC read an article from Information Today, v. 25, n. 9, 2008: State of Federal Libraries followed by a discussion of federal library activities, including digitization projects. Additionally, Lura suggested a web page linking to scanned geological material, or at least linking to scanning projects.

Respectfully submitted,

Lura Joseph GSIS Representative to GRAC October 20, 2008

From the Editor



Dear Colleagues,

As a former Vice President/President elect, I strongly encourage you to volunteer your name for this position on the upcoming GSIS election ballot. As incoming vice president, you will be responsible for organizing the 2010 annual meeting in Denver, and as president, you will lead the society in 2011.

I will truthfully say that, yes, it was a lot of work; however, the rewards were tenfold. As a recently tenured academic librarian, I'm happy to report that my GSIS presidency was positively acknowledged by my reviewers. In addition, the organizational and management skills I developed while serving have helped me in other areas of my job. Besides, since I held this office, the workload has been considerably reduced. We now have a separate position that is responsible for the technical program and publishing the proceedings; leaving the organization of the annual program the focus of the vice presidency. We have met in Denver several times, and there are a lot of local people and former officers who can help! And, as an added incentive, the vice president and president are eligible to receive a stipend to offset travel costs.

Contact a member of the Nominating Committee today!
Suzanne Larsen, at suzane.larsen@colorado.edu
April Love at, april.love@utah.edu
Lisa Johnston, at. ljohnsto@umn.edu

Adonna Fleming
GSIS Newsletter Editor

Guest Columns

Year of Science 2009 By Robert Tolliver Pennsylvania State University rlt17@psu.edu

Every year, month, week, and day seems to be designated to promote the awareness of an important issue or to celebrate an important anniversary. Some of these are especially relevant to those of us working in the geosciences, such as Earth Day or the anniversary of the publication of Darwin's On the Origin of Species. I would like to mention another celebration that could be put to use by geoscience librarians to promote science and their libraries: the Year of Science 2009. The Coalition on the Public Understanding of Science (COPUS)(http://www.copusproject. org/index.php) is promoting 2009 as the Year of Science as a way to increase awareness of science. To quote from their promotional flyer:

"The scientific community will shine the national spotlight on science in 2009, by celebrating "How We Know What We Know" in a 12-month event: the Year of Science 2009. The goal of this national celebration is to engage the public in science and improve public understanding about how science works, why it matters, and who scientists are."

The Year of Science website (http://www.yearofscience2009.org/home/) provides a lot of information on ideas as well as projects that others are doing for the Year of Science. One of the ways that COPUS is promoting the Year of Science is through monthly themes

based on a broad range of science topics, all of which can include some aspect of the geosciences. The monthly themes are:

January – Process & Nature of Science
February – Evolution
March – Physics and Technology
April – Energy Resources
May – Sustainability & the Environment
June – Ocean and Water
July – Astronomy
August – Weather and Climate
September – Biodiversity and
Conservation
October – Geosciences and Planet Earth
November – Chemistry
December – Science and Health

Depending on the focus of your library, some of these themes may be more relevant than others, but I believe that all of these can have their applications to the geosciences. However, you don't need to stick to the monthly themes. You can use the ideas provided by the Year of Science to create projects or events that incorporate broader aspects of science. For example, we are coordinating across our subject libraries a photo display for the main library's gallery that will cover all areas of science. Other examples suggested on the Year of Science website include collaborating with the arts and humanities on an art exhibit, creating profiles of researchers, hosting special events for Earth day, as well as many others.

I encourage you to take a look at the Year of Science website, as well as the COPUS website, to get some ideas that you can use to help promote science, as well as science libraries and the resources that you can provide.

KGS Data Dissemination Model a Hit with Constituents By Jerry W. Weisenfluh Kentucy Geological Survey Jerryw.weis@uky.edu

The Kentucky Geological Survey at the University of Kentucky has a principal mission of disseminating to a variety of stakeholders the results of its energy, mineral, water, and hazards research as well as a number of mandated state data repositories. For decades the business model for providing these data was a fee-based system for recovering a portion of the costs of publication, data collection and product distribution. In 1999, new director Jim Cobb established a goal of making all KGS information available on the internet. A group of KGS staff subsequently conducted an in-depth examination of the business model to determine if it would suit the new goal.

A difficulty with the old business model was that it required significant involvement of senior staff to interact with customers, perform complex database searches, and oversee financial transactions. In many cases these tasks could only be performed by research staff that was familiar with the databases. The task group developed a new philosophy of data distribution to provide KGS data on the Web at no charge. This was a leap of faith, because it was certain that revenue would be lost, so the benefits had to outweigh this risk.

The group felt that these benefits would include an increase in the scope of our constituent base and improved public service that would generate good will among our customers. The new model would also free researchers to increase their efforts at obtaining new research grants to offset the lost of data revenue.

The Web-based data distribution system was initiated in 2001 and virtually all KGS data, maps, and publications were available by 2005. This transition has been an unequivocal success. Before 1999, data sales were measured in the tens or hundreds of transactions per year. Publication sales, including topographic maps, ranked in the low thousands. Now, users conduct over 100,000 unassisted database searches each year that result in 500,000 downloads of datasets or electronic documents. Over 50,000 users a year create custom geologic maps from our Web site to assist their activities. Our client base is composed primarily of Kentucky businesses, state agencies and private citizens, but national and international users frequently access our data from 56 countries. Comments and reports to KGS indicate that these customers are thrilled with the service they receive. Oil and gas exploration companies no longer need to send staff to Lexington to examine the records they require for their business. Reports from a number of companies suggest that custom petroleum exploration strategies have been developed around our Web services.

The new Web site has established KGS as a leader among state geological

surveys, and together with the good will generated from improved public service new opportunities have emerged. Two new grant programs totaling \$875,000 with the Kentucky Division of Water and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet were established to enhance the distribution of groundwater and geotechnical data from the KGS Web site. Our relationship with the petroleum industry has never been better. Recognizing this and the quality of our research staff, the Kentucky Legislature awarded KGS \$5 million for research into carbon management and enhanced petroleum recovery.

New opportunities bring new challenges. KGS data is now utilized by a broader spectrum of users with more varied backgrounds. And many of these users depend on the accessibility. completeness, and accuracy of the information, which they use for making important personal, business, and community decisions. This requires KGS to redouble its efforts at managing the data holdings that we are entrusted with. Research programs like the carbon management project are vitally important to the state and nation, and the data they generate will be scrutinized very carefully by stakeholders. High quality research and effective communication of results have never been more important.

Announcements

GSIS Newsletter Co-Editors

Janet Dombrowski, Head, Brinkerhoff Geology Library, University of Wyoming, has joined the GSIS Newsletter as Co-Editor responsible for editorial content. She will be the contact person for submissions beginning with the June 2009 issue. Ed Lener, College Librarian for the Sciences, University Libraries, Virginia Tech, will be the Co-Editor responsible for publication. He will take over these responsibilities when my term as Editor ends this fall. Please join me in welcoming Janet and Ed to the GSIS Newsletter!

Adonna Fleming GSIS Editor

This & That

Sad News

Karen Sue Bolm, USGS, Tucson, passed away Saturday, April 4th. She had been a GSIS member since 1998.

According to information provided by her office, "Six weeks ago she was diagnosed with a malignant tumor. The cancer was extremely aggressive and spread quickly. She will be missed by all those who knew her."

Memorial services were held at the Holy Cross Lutheran Church Wisconsin Synod, Tucson, Arizona. Donations may be made in her name to Mission to the Children, P.O. Box 42223, Tucson, AZ 85733. Phone: 520-791-2129, email: info@missiontothechildren. org.

Literature Reviews

Carol J. La Russa



Borrelli, Steve, Betty Galbraigh, and Eileen E. Brady. The Impact of Electronic Journals on Use of Print in Geology. College and Research Libraries, 2009: 70(1), 26-33.

This article discusses the results of a journal usage study of geology journals done at Washington State University. It was a follow-up to a similar study done on usage of chemistry, mechanical and materials engineering, and physics journals. The authors compare 1998 usage (pre ejournals) with usage from 2000-2004 of both print and electronic journals. As e-journals became established they received far more use than print titles but print geology journals continued to be used more heavily than the print versions of chemistry, mechanical and engineering, and physics journals. The number of citations in faculty-authored publications rose as e-journals became more available and accepted. WSU also saw increased use of its total geology collection (electronic and print) over the years of the study. This was especially noticeable after their link resolver became functional in GeoRef.

Martell, Charles. The Absent User:

Physical Use of Academic Library Collections and Services Continues to Decline 1995-2006. Journal of Academic Librarianship 2008; 34(5):400-407.

Charles Martell documents using Association of Research statistics supplemented with other statistics how the physical use of academic library collections and services has generally declined as the use of internet resources has skyrocketed. Circulation statistics from a variety of sources show declines of 58% for medical libraries to 20% for public university libraries between 1995 and 2006. Private and Ivy League libraries are the sole exceptions with increases of 2%. The number of ARL library circulations has declined 15% while the number of FTE students rose 22% and the volume count increased 31%. In-house use in ARL libraries is down 57%. Use of print journals and newspapers has declined as electronic versions have become dominant. Reference transactions have declined an average of 54% for ARL between 1995 and 2006. The number of library instruction sessions is up 30% and instruction participation is up 54%. Interlibrary borrowing is up 265% between 1986 and 2005. Electronic materials as a share of materials budgets have gone from 6.43% in 1995 to 37.25% in 2006. Library portals are now receiving millions of searches per year. In short it will be difficult to justify new buildings and increased print budgets.

Nolan, Maureen, et al. Science

Experiments: Reaching Out to Our Users. Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship 2008; 55. http://www.istl.org/08-fall/article1.html

Nolan, et al. responding to the library situation evidenced above show how it is possible to reach library users who no longer come to the physical library. The methods they have tried at the University of Washington science libraries are described in this article. They include: setting up shop with a laptop PC in a common area in the academic department to do embedded reference, a Geocache (to find it requires the construction of an LC call number), a topic table giving information on a current controversial topic with a bibliography of relevant works on a web page, participation in a campus-wide event similar to "The Amazing Race," library blogs that can be subscribed to through whatever RSS feed their users use, provision of a place on an academic department web page, and a virtual reading room showing the electronic covers with links of the most commonly used periodicals.

Darnton, Robert. Google & the Future of Books. The New York Review of Books 2009; 56; (2): 9-11 http://www.nybooks.com/articles/22281

Robert Darnton takes a thoughtful look at the future of the book in his article about Google

and copyright. Darnton starts with a historical look at 18th century Enlightenment ideals concerning open access to information and compares it with the current copyright situation in the U.S. (for post-January 23, 1932 books lifetime of the author plus seventy years with some complications). He is concerned about Google's mass digitization project and its legal settlement with publishers. He sees a moral conflict between the goal of libraries to promote the public good by providing access to information and Google's need to make a profit. He believes current copyright laws and the Google legal settlement with publishers got the public vs. private interest balance wrong for the public good. He see the settlement as essentially giving Google a monopoly on digitized copyrighted materials.

Evans, James A. Electronic Publication and the Narrowing of Science and Scholarship. Science 2008;321(5887):395-399.

Evans argues that the easy availability of journal articles online has narrowed rather than broadened, as one might expect, the numbers and variety of articles cited in recent publications. He examined a database of articles covering 1945-2005 (the Thompson citation indexes) and a database of full text sources covering 1998-2005 (Fulltext Sources Online). Evans sees that as journals went online and backfiles

became available researchers cited more recent articles and from a smaller set of articles. He believes this is a result of a shift from browsing in print to searching online and using hyperlinks. Researchers using online sources bypass more marginal sources and rely on prevailing opinion. Evans states that the poor indexing of print materials was ironically one its main advantages because it forced researchers to examine a broader range of materials.

Tenopir, Carol, Donald W. King. Electronic Journals and Changes in Scholarly Article Seeking and Reading Patterns. D-Lib Magazine 2008;14(11/12) http://www.dlib.org/dlib/november08/tenopir/11tenopir.html

This article is a follow-up to the Evans article above. The authors argue that though the citation pattern changes described in Evans article are real researchers are fact reading more articles than they did in pre-online times. Studies show that researchers have almost doubled the number of articles read from 1977 to 2005 (from average of 150 per researcher to 280). They are much less likely to find articles by browsing and much more likely to find articles through automated searching. Over the same study years they became less likely to obtain articles from personal subscriptions (from 60% to 22.6%) and more likely to get the through their libraries (from 22.6% to 60%). The authors do not see evidence that researchers are reading fewer older

articles.

Baldwin, Virginia A. Using Google Scholar to Search for Online Availability of a Cited Article in Engineering Disciplines. Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship 2009; 56. http://www.istl.org/09-winter/article1. html

The author used the Web of Science database to create a list of 4500 citations published by the faculty of five engineering schools. The institutions were chosen because of their wellestablished institutional repositories. The article titles were then searched surrounded by quotation marks in the Google Scholar database from an IP address not affiliated with the author's institution to avoid having her institution's subscriptions confuse the results. Google Scholar identified nocharge online sources for full text for 25% of chemical engineering titles and 13% of mechanical engineering titles. These full texts came from institutional depositories, PubMed Central, disciplinary depositories, open access at publishers' sites, and other unspecified sources.

Xia, Jingfeng. A Comparison of Subject and Institutional Repositories in Selfarchiving Practices. Journal of Academic Librarianship 2008; 34(6):489-495.

Xia describes a study he conducted to test the hypothesis that researchers working in subject areas

with well-established electronic repositories would be more likely to use their institutional repositories, depositing a similar number of papers to them because of familiarity with the concept of repositories. He selected the University of Southampton School of Physics and Astronomy for his study. The University of Southampton's institutional repository was searched for items from the School; 500 items were found. Next the arXiv physics repository was searched using a list of Southampton University physicists; 1,556 articles authored or co-authored

Southampton University physics faculty were found. Examination of the items in the institutional repository showed that many of the items were abstracts only. Also many were deposited by support staff members who may lack the background to provide adequate metadata. The author concludes that researchers appear unlikely to want to take the time to deposit items to more than one depository. He also points out the need for guidelines for what should be deposited and for quality control procedures

GSIS Publications List

Proceedings of the Annual GSIS Meetings

(ISSN 0072-1409)

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

-v. 37, 2006 [published 2008], Geoscience Information: Keys to Discovery, ed. P.B. Yocum [ISBN 978-0-934485-68-5]

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

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