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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Jan Heagy

Our 2009 annual meeting in Portland began with the ever popular Geoscience Librarianship 101 on Saturday, October 17th and culminated with an outstanding Technical Session, "Navigating the Geoscience Landscape: Pathways to Success," on Wednesday, October 21st. Other highlights included our Annual Business Meeting, the Information Resources Forum, our Luncheon and Reception.

A program of this magnitude is a tribute to the hard work and dedication of many people. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the committee chairs, session coordinators and volunteers who made our meeting so memorable.

- Awards plaques – Jim O'Donnell
- Best Paper Award – Carol La Russa, Chair
- Best Reference Work Award – Angelique Jenks-Brown, Chair
- Best Website – Carolyn Laffoon, Chair
- Best Guidebook Award – Erin Palmer, Chair, Guidebook Awards Subcmte.

- Distinguished Service Award – Patricia Yocum, Chair
- Exhibits – Darin Buri, Chair
- Geoscience 101 – Clara McLeod, coordinator; presenters: Linda Zellmer, Lisa Dunn, Lura Joseph
- Information Resources Forum – Cynthia Prosser, Chair
- International Initiatives Silent Auction – Judie Triplehorn, Chair
- Publicity – Shaun Hardy
- Technical Program and Poster Sessions – Jody Foote, Chair

Conference sponsorships enabled GSIS to offer quality sessions that included audio/visual, internet and technical support. In addition, our sponsors allowed us to provide a delicious array of refreshments for breaks and a lovely reception. Our 2009 sponsors included:

- AAPG DataPages
- Geological Society (London)
- Petroleum Abstracts*
- ESRI
- OVID

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GSIS members are encouraged to contribute content for publication. Material for the February, 2010 issue should be received no later than January 29, 2010. Please send submissions by e-mail to jdombrow@uwyo.edu.

(President's Column, continued from page 1)

Portland State University hosted our Geoscience Librarianship 101 and the staff really worked hard to make the session a great success.

Personally, I wish to thank Rusty Kimball, Suzanne Larsen and the Executive Board for their mentorship during my Vice-Presidential year.

Now we come to 2010. Opportunities abound for membership participation throughout the year. If you are interested in committee appointments or other volunteer activities, please let me know. Our new Vice-President Kay Johnson and Newsletter Editor/Webmaster Janet Dombrowski are very enthusiastic and creative. I look forward to a dynamic, energizing year for GSIS.

VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Kay Johnson

Recently, I've been pondering the duties of a Vice President of the Geoscience Information Society. What the heck does a VP do? So I Googled "Vice President Geosciences" (without the quotation marks) and the second entry was, "What exactly does a "Vice President for Geosciences" do? It was a career profile on The Geological Society website of a professional geologist, Chris, who is a Vice President of Geosciences (exploration) in the UK (<http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/gsl/education/careers/careerprofiles/page722.html>).

Here are his job duties, and my reflections on how they translate to the VP of the GSIS position:

What exactly does a "Vice President for Geosciences" do?

- *Strategic new business development – geological evaluation of exploration and acquisition opportunities world-wide.*

GSIS – Examine where GSIS is going. Can we improve and enhance our mission of facilitating the exchange of information in the geosciences through cooperation among scientists, librarians, editors, cartographers, educators, and information professionals?

- *Technical (geological) input into exploration programmes.*

GSIS – Be involved in planning next year's GSIS Annual Meeting. What online networking options are possible for meeting sessions?

- *International area and target selection.*

GSIS – Consider whether GSIS should increase its international membership and outreach.

- *Co-ordination of exploration geoscience (geochemistry, geophysics, remote-sensing, spectral geology, mineralogy) R&D group wide and internationally.*

GSIS – Identify different types of members and interests in GSIS. What are common interests? What are specialized interests? What is the GSIS role in bridging diverse groups?

- *Talent management and succession planning in the geosciences.*

GSIS – Foster membership and volunteerism. Encourage members to participate on committees and run for office.

All of my reflections ultimately lead to one topic – reach out to people interested in geosciences information. GSIS provides wonderful resources and networking opportunities to professionals who work with and produce information in the geosciences. Is there a way to reach out to more people? I don't

have answers, but I am looking forward to collaborating with the officers, committees, and members of the Geoscience Information Society to learn more about the society, explore options, and possibly find answers to some of these questions. I know the Membership and International Initiatives Committees are actively involved in outreach, and that I can learn a lot from them. Meanwhile, I'm still in a daze that I have been elected VP/Pres. Elect and am really looking forward to the meeting in Denver next year, especially since I missed Portland this year. Rusty, Suzanne, and others have been very helpful to me, thank you so much! A huge thanks goes to GSIS President Jan Heagy, for her kindness and patience in showing me the ropes.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Rusty Kimball

I can't believe it – this is the last President's column I will write. What a fast and yet fulfilling year it has been. And what a meeting we just had in Portland!! My thanks go out to everyone who made it such a success. And that really means everyone – every awards committee member, every awards committee chair, the Exhibits Committee and all who staffed the booth, all who have served faithfully behind the scenes on all other committees through the past year, and all officers – present, outgoing, and incoming. Continuing, thanks to Clara McLeod and her team for another successful Geoscience Librarianship 101 session, to Jody Foote for the engaging and provocative Technical and Poster Sessions (and for continuing to pioneer the new Technical Sessions Convener position), to Jan Heagy for a great job of event planning and fun cooperation, and to Cynthia Prosser for putting together such a timely and absorbing session for the new Information Resources Committee.

One amazing trait of GSIS is the very high percentage of its members who serve our organization, compared to other organizations. I certainly saw this when so many of you volunteered to serve in various roles for 2009, and beyond. I suspect that one thing that has contributed to this is the amount of mentoring that we routinely engage in, formalized or not. Mentoring has made for the success of the Technical Sessions Convener position as well as that of the three years of the presidency. My main duty in my new role of Past President will be to find a new Vice President/President Elect for GSIS. I cannot emphasize enough just how much difference the mentoring I received from Suzanne Larsen made for me in the roles of both Vice President and President. In fact, I had such a great time in these roles that I can't help but recommend it to you, regardless of whether you actually need national service experience on your resume or not. So, in the months ahead, please be considering serving as the new Vice President/President Elect for GSIS!!

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

October 18, 2009 9:30am-12:30pm
Hilton Galleria II, Portland, Oregon

Meeting was called to order at 9:50am by Rusty Kimball, President.

I. Organizational announcements by Jan Heagy, President Elect

Acknowledgement of sponsors: AAPG Datapages, Geological Society (London), University of Tulsa Petroleum Abstracts, Wolters Kluwer-Ovid, Portland State University, who hosted the Geoscience 101 workshop, and ESRI, who provided materials for the workshop. Thanks also to Clara McLeod and Linda Zellmer for organizing Geoscience 101.

(Continued on page 12)

Tahirkheli Honored for Distinguished Service in Geoscience Information

Sharon Tahirkheli, Director of Information Systems at the American Geological Institute, was honored with the 2009 Mary B. Ansari Distinguished Service Award at a ceremony in Portland, Oregon during the GSA. The award is given by the Geoscience Information Society in recognition of significant contributions to the geoscience information profession.

Tahirkheli has worked in the field of geoscience information for more than thirty years. She started as an indexer for GeoRef – the world’s leading bibliographic database for the Earth sciences – and now oversees production of that database as well as other AGI information products such as the Cold Regions Bibliography Project. Under her leadership AGI’s information services have been broadened and deepened to reflect the increasingly interdisciplinary nature of the geosciences.

Tahirkheli’s professional record includes involvement in numerous committees and information projects in the US and abroad.

She was instrumental in establishing GeoScienceWorld, an aggregate of linked and interoperable Earth science journals, and served both on the GSW Board of Directors and as the organization’s treasurer. As a member of the Management Council of the Digital Library for Earth System Education (DLESE), she led cataloging efforts that provided metadata for the DLESE Community Collection. Her service in the international arena includes the Working Group for the Multilingual Thesaurus of Geosciences – an initiative of the IUGS Commission for the Management and Application of Geoscience Information. She is a past president (2001) of the Geoscience Information Society.

Writing on behalf of the selection committee, chair Patricia Yocum stated “Sharon’s people skills, technical savvy, business acumen, international awareness, and wide knowledge of the geosciences continue to serve the community with exceptional skill, competence and dedication. Gracious, fully focused, and effective, Sharon provides noteworthy service to geoscientists, librarians, and information specialists.”



Michael Noga (MIT) presents the Mary B. Ansari Distinguished Service Award to Sharon Tahirkheli (AGI) at the Portland meeting of the Geoscience Information Society. [photo by Shaun Hardy]

Tahirkheli holds an MSLS from the Catholic University of America. Her research interests include the development and maintenance of controlled vocabularies and the applications of geographic metadata for information retrieval.

The Ansari Distinguished Service Award was established in 2005 through the generous support of Mary B. Ansari, Director Emerita for Branch Libraries and Administrative Services, University of Nevada-Reno and past president of the Geoscience Information Society.

Top Awards in Geoscience Publishing Presented in Portland

Three awards for excellence in geoscience publishing were presented by the Geoscience Information Society at its 2009 annual meeting in Portland, Oregon in October.

Field Guide to Meteors and Meteorites, by O. Richard Norton and Lawrence A. Chitwood, received the Mary B. Ansari Best Reference



Work Award. The book is both a guide to observing meteors and a practical handbook for meteorite hunters. Abundant information on locating, preparing, and analyzing meteorites is presented.

The work's comprehensive treatment, fine color illustrations, and accessibility to a wide audience were winning points in the selection committee's decision. "Meteorite information has been scattered, hard to find and difficult to interpret – sort of like meteorites themselves," commented committee member Dennis Trombatore. "The *Field Guide* is a powerful reference tool. It will inspire, enlighten and inform everyone who uses it." The book was published by Springer in 2008.

Families and friends of the authors, both of whom are deceased, were present at the October 20 award ceremony. The Ansari Award has been presented annually since 1988 and honors an outstanding reference work in the field of geoscience information published during the previous three years.

Patrick T. Pringle's *Roadside Geology of Mount Rainier National Park and Vicinity* garnered the Society's Best Guidebook Award. The work was issued as Information Circular 107 by the Washington Division of Geology and Earth Resources in June 2008.

Angelique Jenks-Brown (SUNY Binghamton) presents the Ansari Best Reference Work award to the family of book co-author Lawrence A. Chitwood. [Photo by Shaun Hardy.]

Numerous color and historical photos and an easy-to-follow layout with clearly identified location stops distinguish the 191-page guide. The award subcommittee noted that of all of this year's nominees, Pringle's book best met the criteria established by the GSIS

(continued next page)



Connie Manson (American Geological Institute) and Lura Joseph (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) congratulate Patrick Pringle on his receipt of the Best Guidebook Award. [Photo by S. Hardy.]

GSIS-GSA Technical Session Report

By Jody Bales Foote,
2009 Technical Session Coordinator

The GSIS technical session papers and poster sessions offered a wide array of topics at our Portland meeting in October. This year's theme, "Navigating the Geoscience Information Landscape: Pathways to Success," produced 14 papers and 10 poster sessions. Paper topics included data curation at the U.S. Geological Survey, a comparison of databases in the geosciences, the identification of indexing gaps in geologic field trip guidebooks, and the changing landscape of professional society journals. Open access opportunities in the geosciences and state geological survey projects were examples of poster session topics. Thank you to everyone who contributed to our paper and poster sessions at the conference.



Jody Foote convened a varied and informative Technical Session on the last day of the meeting. [Photo by Shaun Hardy.]

Papers and poster sessions presented at the conference, along with summaries of the GSIS business meeting and other forums, will appear in volume 40 of the Society's Proceedings to be published later next year.

Janet Dombrowski (jdombrow@uwyo.edu) will serve as GSIS Technical Session Coordinator for our annual meeting in Denver in

2010. Remember, it's never too early to begin to think about a library project you might want to share as a paper or poster session with your GSIS colleagues!

(Awards, continued from page 6)

"Guidelines for Authors, Editors, and Publishers of Geologic Field Trip Guidebooks" (<http://www.geoinfo.org/GuidebookGuidelines.pdf>). Pringle is currently associate professor of Earth science at Centralia College, Centralia, Washington.

The Society's Best Paper Award Committee selected Kathryn Lage's article, "Zoom! Remote Sensing Imagery in the Geosciences," for its 2009 Best Paper Award. Lage is Map Librarian at the Jerry Crail Johnson Earth Sciences and Map Library at the University of Colorado at Boulder. In presenting the award, committee chair Carol La Russa praised Lage's work as, "a very useful, general overview of an important topic, with helpful links to resources." The paper will appear in volume 38 of *Proceedings of the Geoscience Information Society* (in press).



Suzanne Larsen (University of Colorado) accepts the Best Paper Award from Carol La Russa (University of California, Davis) on behalf of her colleague Katie Lage. [Photo by Shaun Hardy.]

Websites on Antarctica, Geoscience Education Win Top Honors

Websites on Antarctic discovery and geoscience education shared top honors at this year's Geoscience Information Society awards ceremony. The Best Website Awards for 2009 were presented at the Society's annual meeting in Portland, Oregon in October.

Discovering Antarctica

(www.discoveringantarctica.org.uk) is a production of the Royal Geographical Society in partnership with the British Antarctic Survey and the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Using an effective mixture of multimedia and interactive activities, the site engages visitors in exploring the physical, biological, and human story of the Antarctic continent. Topics are organized in non-traditional but logical ways that are easy to navigate.

"*Discovering Antarctica* has a pleasing, well-organized visual display," commented selection committee member Robert Tolliver. "It's a great fit for its audience and purpose." The site's contents were written by Simon

Scoones. The project development team consisted of Rinku Mitra, Judith Mansell, and Jonathan Wolton (RGS-IGB), Jamie Oliver (BAS), and Jane Rumble (UK FCO).

On the Cutting Edge

(serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops) is a website aimed at helping geoscience faculty stay up-to-date with both Earth science research and teaching methods. The site is a project of the National Association of Geoscience Teachers and the Science Education Resource Center at Carleton College, with support from the National Science Foundation's Division of Undergraduate Education. Heather Macdonald, Chancellor Professor of Geology at the College of William and Mary, heads up the website team. Citing *On the Cutting Edge* as "an interesting thematic collection of instruction related resources," the award committee praised its clear navigation, use of multimedia, and useful content. Member John Kawula observed, "There are a lot of instruction guides out there, but this one focuses on taking new discoveries and research and working them fairly quickly into

classroom settings."

The Best Website Award has been presented by the Geoscience Information Society annually since 2002 to a site which exemplifies outstanding standards of content, design, organization, and overall site effectiveness.



Cutting Edge team members Heather Macdonald, Carol Ormand, and Cathryn Manduca celebrate their Best Website Award, presented by Jim O'Donnell. [Photo by Shaun Hardy.]



Gordon Nord (Mineralogical Society of America) surprised Connie Manson (AGI) with a special award at the GSIS Luncheon on October 20 in Portland. The award was given by the Mineralogical Society of America in recognition of Manson's dedicated work on the *American Mineralogist* as part of a major Geo-Ref clean-up project. [Photo by Shaun Hardy.]

GSIS Membership Committee 2009 Annual Report

Serving on the Membership Committee for 2009 are Shaun Hardy, Sarah Hodkinson (Chair), John Hunter, and Miriam Kennard. This year we focused on recruiting new members from academic and state survey libraries. We also encouraged student membership and participation in this year's "Geoscience Librarianship 101" by promoting GSIS to Library and Information Science students. Additionally, we contacted former members who did not renew, encouraging them to renew their membership, and members of our Geonet listserv who were not members of the Society. This year we also updated our brochure and membership form.

Each of the committee members was responsible for recruiting members in certain geographical regions or populations. Shaun

worked on Pacific and mountain states; Sarah worked on Atlantic states, state survey librarians, and library school students; John focused on south central states, and Miriam did central states, non-renewals, and Geonet listserv members.

As of September 27, we have nine new members who are all academic librarians. Last year we had seven new members, so we were pleased with our progress this year. 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.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Z. Hodkinson, Chair

Best Reference Work Award Committee Annual Report

The GSIS Ansari Best Reference Work Award Committee reviewed 10 nominations for the award:

- *Encyclopedia of Earthquakes and Volcanoes*
- *Encyclopedia of Soil Science*
- *Field Guide to Meteors and Meteorites*
- *Handbook of Geophysics and Archaeology*
- *Handbook of Gold Exploration and Evaluation*
- *Home Ground: Language for an American Landscape*
- *Michigan Geography and Geology*
- *Ocean: An Illustrated Atlas*
- *Petroleum Engineering Handbook*
- *Treatise on Geophysics*

Committee members who evaluated these nominations were: Edward Lener (Virginia

(Continued on page 19)

GeoRef Advisory Committee Meeting
AGI Headquarters, Alexandria, VA
April 17, 2009

Present: Harvey Cohen, Shaun Hardy, Lura Joseph, Afifa Kechrid, Suzanne Larsen, Monika Long, Jim Mehl, Jim O'Donnell, John Steinmetz, Sharon Tahirkheli, and Dennis Trombatore (Chair)

Opening Remarks: Executive Director of AGI, Pat Leahy, joined GRAC for opening remarks. Leahy noted the value of GeoRef to AGI, and spoke of plans for new initiatives.

Budget Notes: The final numbers were not yet audited for 2008, however royalties did set another record. AGI was impacted by investment losses, however due to limited exposure to the stock market, losses were limited. Operations were in the black for the period. AGI directors were asked to develop budgets that reflected both 10% and 15% reductions in expenditures for the 2009 fiscal year and quarterly budget meetings are scheduled to monitor the ongoing situation.

There was a discussion of the effect of the global economic crisis on geology programs, which in turn could impact GeoRef revenues. There was also a discussion of the potential for marketing both a revised GeoRef database and GSW to the community colleges.

Updates:

GeoRef Production – Current Status: Having set records for production of new references each of the last two years by using data from AESIS to supplement the standard production cycle, GeoRef staff members are currently on track to produce approximately 100,000 new items for 2009. If they reach the 100,000 target, this would be the first year that production has exceeded 100,000 without additional materials like AESIS. This was accom-

plished due to a very efficient staff, with the help of technology.

GeoRef Advisory Committee: Two new members may be added to GRAC, a young geologist, and a web expert.

GeoRef Priority Journals List: The List has been revised. Several journals were removed and all GSW journals were added. The new list is located at <<http://www.agiweb.org/georef/about/journals.html>>.

GeoRef Thesaurus – 11th Edition: The 11th edition of the GeoRef Thesaurus was printed in December. Printing costs have already been recovered through sales. A smaller number were published, and the rest will be printed in small batches, but all will look the same. The electronic version of the Thesaurus was offered to all GeoRef vendors and most accepted a copy. Several are developing plans to load the updated version.

Following the advice of the Vocabulary Task Force, the hierarchical lists from the Thesaurus are going online at <<http://www.agiweb.org/georef/lists.html>>; the lists are no longer published in the Thesaurus. The web site is still undergoing revision. Suggestions for enhancements are welcome.

CanGeoRef: The Canadian Federation for Earth Sciences has decided to go ahead with a pilot project to develop data for inclusion in GeoRef. They will begin with provinces that have volunteered to be test cases for the identification, selection, indexing and uploading of their data.

South Africa – SAGeoLit: A meeting was held in South Africa to work toward obtaining many of the bibliographic records in SAGeoLit. Progress is expected later in the year.

Mineralogical Abstracts: GeoRef hopes to get the full dataset from the Society shortly (142,000 items). GeoRef will do two things: provide a database for the Society's members to search without charge, and include data as needed in GeoRef (the number missing from GeoRef is currently unknown). This is retrospective information; the database stopped in 2006.

Vendors:

Dialog: Dialog was purchased by Proquest but is continuing to operate as a separate entity. Work to integrate GeoRef into DataStar has begun. A new Agreement has been completed and signed, allowing for both pay-as-you-go and subscription sales. It also has a provision for internal redistribution charges for corporations that provide alerts and searches across research groups.

Engineering Village: EV finally developed sales reporting procedures in late 2008. They are looking at loading the Thesaurus and the GeoRef In Process file and making improvements to the map-based interface.

Proquest: Re-organization at Proquest has caused some disruptions with GeoRef subscribers, including failure to pursue renewals, lack of customer support, and confusion over the relationship between GSW and GeoRef. Proquest is working to eliminate the disruption.

Ebsco: Ebsco and GeoRef are working on a new contract.

Ovid/SilverPlatter: An announcement about ending SilverPlatter CD-ROMs after June 2009 was circulated. Ovid has reloaded GeoRef on its site and is using Natural Language Processing for its Basic Search. This is causing some problems with search results.

GSW: GSW has added two new journals: *Lithosphere* and *Petroleum Geoscience*. Backfiles for several journals were added to GSW and included in GeoRef. GSL metadata

was delivered to GeoRef by Highwire, but it was incomplete. GeoRef is working to get this resolved.

OCLC: OCLC has proposed three changes to their presentation of GeoRef. A demo was provided by OCLC and the GRAC thought that the federated search looked promising.

New Business:

Vendor Chart: Suzanne suggested that GeoRef needed to develop a chart of the various vendors listing features and update schedules, etc. This chart could be posted on a web site by the Advisory Committee. Linda Zellmer joined the GRAC meeting by phone, and agreed to conduct the study and create the chart.

Awards: A recent discussion about coverage of awards in GeoRef seemed to indicate that GeoRef should be including awards as part of regular coverage. This would be new to GeoRef and Sharon will investigate how much effort would be required.

Open Discussion: There was a suggestion that PDA GPS locators could eventually be used to download references according to a current location by converting the location point to a polygon.

The meeting was adjourned. It is currently not known whether there will be a GRAC meeting at GSA. A Fall meeting could be conducted by phone.

Submitted by Lura Joseph

(Annual Business Meeting, continued from page 4)

Introductions: New Officers Janet Dombrowski, Newsletter Editor, Angelique Jenks-Brown, Treasurer and Kay Johnson, President - Elect. Jenks-Brown and Johnson were unable to attend the meeting, but Johnson sent a short presentation.

Committee chair introductions evolved into general member introductions around the room.

II. Approvals: The meeting agenda was approved with corrections. The business meeting minutes from October 5, 2008 were also approved with corrections.

III. Reports:

GSIS general (Rusty Kimball): This is the first year in long time that the society has dealt with an economic downturn and we are feeling the impact in a number of ways. This is also the first year delivering newsletter by email to individual members.

Financial report (Kimball): Renee Davis, outgoing Treasurer, forwarded copies of the financial spreadsheet. Kimball read Davis's email report.

2009 conference (Jan Heagy): Overview of conference sessions. Heagy also described how she developed and distributed a flyer for prospective donors outlining what GSIS does, the different levels of support, and where funds would be spent. The flyer was helpful in making new contacts and soliciting sponsorships.

Archives (Lura Joseph): Nothing new to report since her annual report.

Exhibits (Darin Buri): The GSIS exhibit hall booth, number 767, has two tables 6' x 8' and

two chairs for our \$500 fee. Our usual sponsor for the booth was unable to pick up the cost this year. And GSIS will probably have to pay for our own booth expenses in the future.

Membership (John Hunter): Hunter distributed copies of the 2009 Annual Report for committee chair Sarah Hodkinson who was unable to attend the conference. The report acknowledged the efforts of committee members John Hunter, Miriam Kennard, and Shaun Hardy for their efforts in reaching out to academic, state survey libraries and students, as well as contacting former members and geonet-1 subscribers who are not currently members. Membership currently stands at 8 institutional members and 105 individual members. Hunter reminded us that all members of GSIS are ambassadors to recruit new members.

Best Paper Award (Carol La Russa): The 2009 award goes to Kathryn Lage for her paper "Zoom! Remote Sensing Imagery in the Geosciences," *GSIS Proceedings*, v. 38 (in press).

Guidebooks (Joseph): Joseph reported that she worked on a project during her sabbatical to document societies with continuing series. She needs volunteers to contact the societies and field trip leaders to promulgate the guidebook standards that GSIS developed. She reminded everyone that we each can do work for the committee without being officially on the committee: notify committee members when you get new guidebooks so they can be indexed. Joseph also noted that the published guidebook is often an abbreviated version of the one handed out on the actual field trip.

Nominating (Suzanne Larsen): Larsen encouraged members to consider standing for office. She asked members who are past presidents to stand and briefly share their ex-

periences. She also talked about some of the changes the society has made to the duties of the offices to make them less onerous. For instance, separating the GSA technical session planning out from the vice presidency. This change enables the vice president to focus on fund raising and planning the GSIS sessions. She also described how having potential candidates identified early on allows time for learning by shadowing incumbents.

Ansari Best Reference Award (Shaun Hardy): The winners of the Ansari Best Reference Work Award are O. Richard Norton and Lawrence A. Chitwood for their *Field Guide to Meteors and Meteorites*, published by Springer, 2008.

Distinguished Service Award (Michael Noga): Noga, standing in for Patricia Yocum, committee chair, will be presenting the 2009 Mary B. Ansari Distinguished Service Award to Sharon Tahirkheli.

International Initiatives (Jan Heagy): Heagy reported for Judy Triplehorn that the committee did have an awardee for the stipend, but visa issues prevented the person from attending the conference.

Cartographic Users Advisory Council (Linda Zellmer): Presentations at the last CUAC meeting included talks from the US Census Bureau, the National Agricultural Statistics Service, the GPO, the US Forest Service, the State Department and the NIH. A full report will be published in the GSIS Newsletter. The CUAC website is <http://cuac.wustl.edu>. Clara McLeod, GSIS's other CUAC representative, requested feedback from GSIS members for topics/issues to take to the next CUAC meeting.

Best Website Award (Carolyn Laffoon): Two websites tied for the 2009 award:

Discovering Antarctica [www.discoveringantarctica.org.uk] from the Royal Geographical Society in partnership with the British Antarctic Survey and the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and

On the Cutting Edge [serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops], a project of the National Association of Geoscience Teachers and the Science Education Resource Center at Carleton College aimed at helping geoscience faculty stay up-to-date with both Earth science research and teaching methods.

Website (Janet Dombrowski): The GSIS website is going to be redesigned by Dombrowski with input from a committee and the membership.

Auditor: The full statement will appear in the GSIS Newsletter.

Geonet Moderator: The full report will appear in the GSIS Newsletter.

Newsletter (Dombrowski): Are members printing out the file to read or reading online? A poll of members present revealed most are printing out the file. Dombrowski noted that reader behavior influences design issues and that newsletters are going away from the two column format. She would like to mount the electronic archive online but will continue the delay in mounting the latest issues.

Newsletter Reviews (La Russa): There have been no reviews in the last few issues, but the feature will be resuming.

Publicity (Hardy): Interesting dialog is being generated in publicizing the Geoscience 101 workshop. Discussions are evolving about student memberships and mounting workshop materials on the GSIS website. Zellmer made a CD-ROM of this year's presentations and

handouts from the workshop and has given them to Dombrowski.

Topical Sessions (Jody Foote): The poster sessions are on display today in the Convention Center Hall A, Booths 103-112 with authors present from 4-6 pm. Thirteen oral papers will be presented at the technical session Wednesday, October 21st, from 8am to noon, in Convention Center rooms D137/138. The session topic is “Navigating the Geoscience Information Landscape: Pathways to Success”. Janet Dombrowski will be the technical session’s chair (and proceedings editor) for the 2010 conference. Foote noted that if GSIS members don’t contribute the required amount of papers to fill the session, the GSA will add content of their own. Connie Manson encouraged members to be active – this is your support group, colleagues and friends – so be as active as you possibly can. Lisa Dunn noted that GSA sets the theme for a conference a year before it’s held and an early deadline for abstracts (January?), so get your ideas going now.

Geoscience 101 (Clara McLeod): This year’s workshop was hosted at Portland State University Library. There were 36 attendees including the three presenters (Lura Joseph, Lisa Dunn, and Linda Zellmer). McLeod thanked Hardy for his publicity efforts. Ten of the attendees were students so organizers raffled off two student memberships.

AGI Government Affairs Program (Marie Dvorzak): Please contact Dvorzak if you have any issues to suggest for discussion, for instance open access, the Google settlement, etc. A short review of the Google issue identified key points: that Google and the Association of American Publishers have come to terms on a settlement but the terms keep changing; more than 1000 comments have been forwarded to the judge from entities such as the Copyright Office, the Department

of Justice and other interested parties; many of the comments are unfavorable so the judge sent the comments to the parties for consideration before reconvening in November. Information about the case and editorial opinion pieces have been in the newspapers and various journals.

IV. Old Business:

Committee Structure (Kimball): At last year’s meeting we had decided to reduce committee sizes in response to fewer members. However, the reduction was not needed this year as Kimball had enough volunteers to fill committee vacancies at the old size. In addition to various committees, GSIS also has representatives to other groups. For instance Suzanne Larsen is our representative to the AGI and the GSA Allied Societies groups. Jim O’Donnell is the GSIS member on the GSA Publications Committee.

V. New Business:

Conference Sponsorships (Heagy): We want to continue seeking sponsorships for conference expenses. Heagy tried some new ideas this year and was successful in recruiting some new sponsors even in this tight economy.

Geoscience 101 (Heagy): Heagy proposes that we revitalize the pooled sponsorship fund (which is supposed to pay for memberships) and use those funds to cover a drawing for a student membership at the workshop as was done this year. She further proposes that we use money from the professional development fund to help defray some expenses for conference attendance. Hardy asked if sponsoring students to attend the conference was a legitimate use of the professional development fund. Dunn asked whether either or both funds were limited to students or open to everyone, and suggested a check of the meeting minutes to see the original intent. Heagy

will investigate the background. Larsen remembers discussion of using professional development funds to support member attendance at a specialty conference. Dunn reminded the group that last year we decided to subsidize the GSA abstract submission fees for members. Will the funds be sufficient for multiple uses?

Officer Candidates: No further discussion.

GSIS meeting independently of GSA (Larsen): Given the rising expenses of conference attendance, Larsen raised the question of holding our meetings independently of GSA. Manson commented that it may be easier to get funding to come to GSA which is a large, well known society. Larsen commented that no one at the Allied Societies meeting complained about the rising costs of meeting with GSA, but she questions the minimal return for the costs involved. Yes, we would like to maintain a tie to GSA for the technical session and the faculty interaction, but could we break out our professional meeting? Larsen thinks GSIS needs more autonomy over our own meetings and cited WAML as an example. Larsen has successfully convinced her institution's administration that WAML is the preeminent map society so that papers presented at WAML have as much weight for professional review as papers presented at larger society conferences. Discussion ensued with comments about meeting locations (both of the conference as a whole and with regard to specific meeting functions), costs, scheduling, conference housing, exhibit and non-GSIS session attendance opportunities. Heagy suggested forming a subcommittee to look at different scenarios, the issues involved and suggest some possible plans. Larsen volunteered to chair the committee. Lisa Dunn, Linda Zellmer, Erin Palmer, and Darin Buri volunteered to serve on the subcommittee. The committee's report is due next year.

Enhanced member participation opportunities (Heagy): During her year as President, Heagy would like to experiment with enhancing participation through electronic means and reporting to the membership throughout the year.

Marketing GSIS (Heagy): Heagy would also like to start some marketing initiatives: internal marketing among members to encourage active participation as an officer or for committee service, and external marketing such as the sponsorship flyer for instance to reach our vendors. Discussion comments cited rethinking our value added features for members, balancing "members only" content with rich content for non-members as an enticement to join, attracting librarians from the corporate sector, and looking to comments from workshop attendees as feedback to help define "value".

Closing announcements: Connie Manson announced the meeting of the Pacific Section immediately following the close of the business meeting. Linda Zellmer announced that she and Andrea Twiss-Brooks completed an update for *Resources for Earth Sciences* again and requested volunteers to review the sections.

Since there were no other items of business, it was moved, seconded and approved that the meeting be adjourned. Meeting was so adjourned at 12:08pm.

Submitted by Elaine B. Adams
Secretary

Literature Reviews



Carol J. La Russa

Green, T. (2009), "We Need Publishing Standards for Datasets and Data Tables," *OECD Publishing White Paper*, OECD Publishing. doi: [10.1787/603233448430](https://doi.org/10.1787/603233448430)

In this paper Toby Green of OECD Publishing makes a case for publishing standards for datasets and data tables so these can be cited in published works in such a way as to make them accessible to other researchers. Green looks at how OECD datasets have been cataloged by libraries and sees that there is no accepted way to catalog them. Some sets are less accessible because they have been cataloged as parts of packages; others are not cataloged at all. Green proposes a bibliographic standard for datasets that includes the use of CrossRef and metadata fields that would be exportable to MARC and to ONIX (used by the book industry).

Roth, D L. (2009). "Reference Checking in a Web World: A Reference Librarian's Trek Through Sci-Tech and News Sources," *Searcher*, 17(2), 22-31.

Dana Roth describes in this article the online sources a librarian might use to attempt to find all the publications and news items by or about a personal author. He uses as his example "Harry B. Gray," a Caltech chemist. The search is complicated by the variations of his name in the literature and because it is a relatively common name. Chemical Abstracts (SciFinder) does the most complete job of

finding published articles and abstracts. Google Scholar and Scopus find 13 of the 15 journal articles found in Chemical Abstracts while Web of Science has 14. Possible places for news items include the online versions of the *New York Times* and *Los Angeles Times*. Some unique news items were retrieved in each of the following databases: Google, Yahoo!, Microsoft's Live Search, and Ask.com. Book chapters authored by Gray or mentioning Gray were found using Google Book Search. Other specialized search engines used by Roth include: Google, U.S. Government Search, Scirus, Thomson's Scientific WebPlus, WorldWideScience.org, NDLTD (Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations), Wikia Search, Facebook, WhitePages.com, Cuil, and Infomine. For information in blogs, Technorati and Google Blog were searched. To search institutional repositories, ASE, OpenDOAR, OAIster, and Caltech CODA were used. YouTube, CastTV, VideoSurf, Mefedia, and blinkx were used to search for videos.

Jasco, P. (2009). "Google Scholar's Ghost Authors," *Library Journal*, 134 (18), 26-27. In this article Peter Jasco states that Google Scholar should not be used to evaluate the performance of scholars and the impact of their research because of the huge number of errors regarding author names in the database. Jasco blames the problem on the decision database developers made to ignore publisher and indexing/abstracting service-provided metadata and to attempt to discover author names by crawling the article web pages. This has led to author names like P. Login (short for please login) in the database. Also Google Scholar lumps together both master records for individual publications with publications that cite them when showing totals hits for an author search leading to inflated counts. Further problems arise when Google Scholar data is used by other utilities

like Google Citation Count.

Archambault, E, & Lariviere, V. (2009). "History of the Journal Impact Factor: Contingencies and Consequences," *Scientometrics*, 79(3), 635-649.

Archambault and Lariviere take a critical look at the history of the journal impact factor (JIF) and the consequences of that history. First they emphasize that the JIF was invented to meet the collection development needs of U.S. university librarians. It is biased toward English language journals. The use of the JIF to make decisions about where to publish has had the effect of encouraging the domination of English in scientific fields. Next, JIF was designed for comparing journals within a discipline, not for comparisons between disciplines with different citation patterns. Unfortunately it is often used for cross-disciplinary performance reviews. Another problem with historical roots is the inclusion of journal self-citations. Journal editors have found they can inflate their JIFs by encouraging their authors to cite their journal. They can also manipulate the JIF by publishing materials in such a way as to ensure they will be excluded from the total number of articles published used in the JIF denominator but will still be cited and thus will appear in the JIF numerator. The authors criticize the JIF two-year citation window as being totally arbitrary. They point out that it was well known that the vast majority of citations are older than two years. A longer citation window can greatly affect the JIF. The authors list the following possible solutions: 1) Abandon the use of the JIF. 2) Use it only with methods to make sure it is used wisely. 3) Redesign the JIF from the ground up. They believe a redesign would be best solution but they also express concern that bibliographic and scientific communities have been unable influence the situation.

Sennyey, P, Ross, L, & Mills, C. (2009). "Exploring the Future of Academic Libraries: A Definitional Approach," *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 35(3), 252-259.

The authors examine possible futures for academic libraries. They first look at the academic library as a place. This role is changing as more print materials are replaced with online resources and the print materials stored or discarded. How should the resulting space be used? Should the library building be primarily a study space and a place for student services? Should another campus entity manage the space? They next look at the library as a collection. As more of the collection is online users have difficulty associating it with the library, especially when they access it through search engines like Google. Much available digitized information does not come via the library. Finally the authors look at the academic library as staff. Digital collections do not require the low skill processing that print collections require, but users of digital collections do benefit from experts in digitization, GIS, institutional repositories, etc. Should academic libraries reshape their staffs as half of their librarians retire in the next decade? The authors state that, "Academic libraries that choose to emphasize services that are relevant in a digital world strike the authors as the most likely to find fertile ground." They end by saying that academic libraries currently still have institutional goodwill and that libraries should start making changes while this is still the case.

Sung, J, Whisler, J, & Sung, N. (2009). "A Cost-Benefit Analysis of a Collections Inventory Project: A Statistical Analysis of Inventory Data from a Medium-sized Academic Library," *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 35(4), 314-323.

Sung, Whisler, and Sung argue that the benefits of doing an inventory/shelf-reading project outweigh the costs. ARL libraries spent more than \$315 million dollars on monograph collections during the 2006-2007 year. The money does no good if volumes are not findable on the shelves. Also lost/misplaced items are likely to be heavily used works which will need to be reordered if not found. Eastern Illinois University inventoried its collection using an automated system using barcode readers. The system gives immediate feedback if the item scanned is shelved incorrectly. Approximately 300,000 volumes were inventoried. 228 missing books were found; 516 books were declared missing; 565 books had label discrepancies; 6.1% of the books were mis-shelved. The labor cost if the greatly mis-shelved books had been replaced is estimated at \$159,000 while they estimate the cost of the inventory at \$11,000.

Gelernter, J. (2009). "Image Indexing in Article Component Databases," *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, 60(10), 1965-1976.

Judith Gelernter describes a project to create a database by using automated indexing techniques for maps contained in articles. Her technique uses pre-existing, hierarchically-arranged controlled vocabularies. The article describes a manual procedure that the author hopes can be automated. The map images are extracted from their articles and three indexes for region, theme and time are created. Metadata for the maps comes from the map caption, title of the article, and the article sentence that refers to the map. For category (theme) indexes a condensed version of the Library of Congress classification system is used and assigned terms were weighted. For regional indexing a first pass is made using the *World Gazetteer*. Once the general

geographic area is established a second pass using GeoNames is made. This eliminated the misclassification of maps due to duplicate names of widely separated villages, parks, etc. The procedure classified maps correctly 75% of the time by region, 69% by time, and 84% by theme.

Page, J.R., & Kuehn, J. (2009). "Interlibrary Services Requests for Locally and Electrically Available Items: Patterns of Use, Users, and Canceled Requests," *portal: Libraries and the Academy*, 9(4), 475-489.

This paper describes a study of all 2007 interlibrary loan requests at the Ohio State University to find out why the library is receiving more requests to borrow items that are available online or locally in print. Of about 34,000 ILL and document delivery requests, 20.5% were cancelled and 32% of these cancellations were because the library owned, or had electronic access to, the material. Data on user status, department, user location, item type, publication year, and citation sources were collected and analyzed using SPSS 16.0. Results showed that a higher than expected number of cancelled requests were for items published recently (between 2001-2005). Availability for these years can be confusing due to embargoes and lack of current information in the catalog. The cataloging records for items that were requested and then had the request cancelled due to electronic availability were more likely to be missing links. Some academic departments, whether due to bibliographic instruction or chance, seemed to be less prone to request locally available materials. No significant effect of patron status was seen. Students and faculty were equally likely to make requests for locally available items. Users from regional campuses were no more likely to make these requests. The authors conclude that more attention needs to be paid

correct links. Also, increased library instruction might convince users to go beyond the catalog and to search in the library's Serials Solution A-Z database. Library instruction might also teach users how to cite correctly to avoid future problems due to bad citations.

(Best Reference Work Award, continued from page 9)

Tech), Dennis Trombatore (University of Texas at Austin), and Angelique Jenks-Brown, Chair (Binghamton University, NY).

The Committee members based their selection on average scores of a ten-point, ten-criteria scale. The winner received high scores in illustrations, usefulness, and uniqueness. For the 2009 Ansari Best Reference Work Award, the Committee selected the *Field Guide to Meteors and Meteorites* by Richard O. Norton and Lawrence Chitwood, and published by Springer. At the 2009 GSIS Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon, the award was presented to the late Lawrence Chitwood's wife and son, Karen Chitwood and Peter Chitwood. An award was also mailed to the late Richard Norton's wife, Dorothy Norton.

Respectfully submitted,
Angelique Jenks-Brown

GSIS Best Paper Award Committee Annual Report

The GSIS Best Paper Award Committee presented the 2009 GSIS Best Paper Award to Kathryn Lage of the University of Colorado at Boulder for her article titled "Zoom!: Remote Sensing Imagery in the Geosciences" to be published in the *GSIS Proceedings*, v. 38.

Carol La Russa, Chair
Nancy Sprague, Member

Welcome New Members!

Robin Dasler
University Libraries
University of Houston

Aldean Kilbourn
Fairbanks, AK

Christina Mayberry
California State University, Northridge

Atul Kumar Srivastav
Western Offshore Basin Library
Oil & Natural Gas Corporation LTD
Mumbai, India

Loriann Tschirhart
Shapiro Science Library
University of Michigan

Catherine Wojewodzki
Reference Department
University of Delaware of Library

Call for Papers & Posters 2010 GSA-GSIS Annual Meeting Denver, Oct. 31-Nov. 3

GSIS will sponsor two technical sessions at the GSA-GSIS Annual Meeting next fall. The overarching theme for this GSA meeting is "Reaching New Peaks in Geoscience." The dates of the meeting are Sunday, October 31 through Wednesday, November 3.

The GSIS theme for both the oral presentation and poster sessions will be "Geoscience Information Services: 'Peak' Performances."

Today's geoscience information landscape is

(Continued on page 21)

Geologists' Birthday Celebrations in the Library

Mary Scott

At the GSIS meeting in Portland I mentioned that I have monthly birthday parties in the Library and several people asked for more information.

The plan is to keep it simple and cheap. The party consists of coffee and cookies, brownies, coffee cake, or what I either bake or find on sale at the grocery store. I have a list of geologists' birthdays that I have compiled from various sources on the web. The best one I have found is Today in Science History, <http://www.todayinisci.com/>. I have also included local geologists. I pick one with a birthday on a date that works for our schedule and invite faculty and students to stop by to celebrate. I usually schedule it for an hour and straddle the class break time. This allows them to come before, after or between classes. Often I include a display of works by the person. For example, in November we celebrated Sir Charles Lyell's 212th birthday and I had copies of his books on display.

My list is not complete but here is the list for Jan-May to get you started:

Earth Science Birthdays to Celebrate

January

1 Jan 1891, Carl O. Dunbar
1 Jan 1861, Marcellin Boule

February

12 Feb 1809, Charles Darwin
12 Feb 1813, James D. Dana
12 Feb 1850, William Morris Davis
26 Feb 1823, Joseph LeConte
28 Feb 1743, René-Just Haüy

March

9 Mar 1829, Edward Orton, Sr.
(180th in 2009)
11 Mar 1865, John Adams Bownocker
23 Mar 1769, William Smith (240th in 2009)

April

3 Apr 1896, Ralph A. Bagnold (Physics of blown sands)
3 Apr 1798, Charles Wilkes
5 Apr 1838, Alpheus Hyatt
7 Apr 1911, Kenneth (Page) Oakley
8 Apr 1903, Martin Julian Buerger
12 Apr 1849, Albert Heim
14 Apr 1904, Reinout Willem van Bemmelen
15 Apr 1801 Édouard Lartet
15 Apr 1800, Sir James Clark Ross
17 Apr 1853, William John McGee
20 Apr 1809, James David Forbes
20 Apr 1798, Sir William Edmond Logan
22 Apr 1891, Sir Harold Jeffreys
26 Apr 1900, Dr. Charles Richter
26 Apr 1774, Leopold von Buch

May

2 May 1797, Abraham (Pineo) Gesner
4 May 1825, Thomas Henry Huxley
5 May 1882, Sir Douglas Mawson
5 May 1833, Ferdinand Paul Wilhelm Richthofen
5 May 1820, Elkanah Billings
6 May 1872, William Bowie
6 May 1843, Grove Karl Gilbert
21 May 1799, Mary Anning
24 May 1804, William Williams Mather
28 May 1807, Louis Agassiz

If you want the full list, contact me at scott.36@osu.edu.

Mary Scott
Orton Memorial Library of Geology
Ohio State University

(Call for Papers, continued from page 19)

complex, dynamic, and broadly distributed. It includes data, imagery, institutional repositories, and informal communications, in addition to the more traditional monographs, journal articles, and maps. Content comes in many formats: audio/visual, electronic, print and much more. Consequently, Geoscience librarians apply their expertise to add value to information and deliver exceptional services for library users in a wide variety of roles: consultants, contract negotiators, teachers, and website developers, to name a few.

Oral presentations are only 15 minutes long, so they need not be extensive. GSA is likely to maintain the same plan for posters as exhibited the past two years: posters are displayed all day, with presenters on hand from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Efforts will be made to insure that this two-hour slot does not conflict with other GSIS sessions. Although the deadline for abstracts is not until August 10, please start thinking about presenting a paper or poster now. GSA has posted information about preparing an abstract for submission at <http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/preparations.htm>.

The final schedule with dates and times for technical sessions will be announced in late August. 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.

If you have questions, please contact Janet Dombrowski, Technical Sessions Chair, (jdombrow@uwyo.edu or 307-766-6538).

GSIS PUBLICATIONS

Proceedings of the Annual GSIS Meetings (ISSN 0072-1409)
\$45.00 each; standing orders are \$45.00/year.

-v. 39, 2008 [published 2009], *Libraries in Transformation: Exploring Topics of Changing Practices and New Technologies*, ed. by Lisa Johnston. [ISBN 978-0-934485-67-8]

-v. 38, 2007. Publication has been delayed.

-v. 37, 2006 [published 2008], *Geoscience Information: Keys to Discovery*, ed. by 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 978-0-934485-38-0]

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