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## President's Column: What's in Your Makerspace and Who is Visiting?

By Chris A. Badurek

Over the last few months, I provided my library feedback on the development of our university MakerSpace. After several discussions and demonstrations, I am now reflecting on the utility of makerspaces and how they can most benefit students and educators in the geosciences. In particular, I am now considering the following questions: 1) what are the pros and cons for managing and using specific technologies in the makerspace? and 2) what are the tradeoffs considered before deciding to purchase technology of the most use?

### 1. 3D Printing and Engraving

A trend that appears to be continuing is the presence of some level of 3D printing in libraries, whether in a makerspace or as an on-demand service. My institution has invested heavily into 3D printing services, including technology and personnel. We have also invested into a laser cutter service to provide engravings on a variety of material. Are these tools needed for learning experiences in the geosciences? I am not certain these have great utility in geoscience education aside from printing sample fossils, though they can be used to import 3D models of landscapes for printing.

However, for STEAM fields that better integrate craft arts uses with engineering purposes, such as industrial design, these technologies would have a higher volume of use.

### 2. Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality

A major consideration for the makerspace at my institution is promotion of virtual reality applications. As part of this investment, an Oculus Rift system was purchased with a few other VR headsets. A concern for maximizing use of VR is to find enough content ready to be used in these systems. Our library faculty are currently working on developing virtual tours using Google Earth VR. Google Earth VR content is certainly much faster and easier to develop, with Oculus Rift being more time consuming. I have also attended a demonstration of Samsung's VR content, which was quite impressive though only peripherally of relevance to the geosciences. Augmented reality as seen in mobile applications like Pokémon GO is being better integrated into other more useful software applications, like GIS uses from ESRI.

(Continued on page 3)

## Geoscience Information Society 2018 Officers

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(Continued from page 1)

### 3. *Deployable Technology*

Our makerspace developers had interest in providing access to deployable technologies like drones and Raspberry Pi. However, the time and personnel demands of supporting such technologies were too great. The Raspberry Pi, a computer board often used with sensors, has good potential for educational uses in environmental geosciences. A campus would have to consider how many students have informal coding experience or a faculty person dedicated to its maximizing its use. Drone use is limited for actual geoscience use by a large number of issues, including qualified pilots (e.g., FAA license) and most critically access to software for processing of imagery collected from the devices such as Pix4D.

### 4. *Visualization Lab*

A visualization lab education space is another option for a makerspace. For example, providing large screens with GIS and data visualization software access has, in my opinion, the most uses for the geosciences.

Reallocating a space for an active classroom design with data visualization capabilities can provide a more inviting and interesting learning space for students and educators. These spaces can be coupled with additional attention grabbing technologies such as augmented reality sandboxes and motion activated interfaces integrated with MS Xbox technology.

Of these options, my institution chose to invest in 3D printing and engraving, virtual reality, and a redesigned library space divided into work areas for each of these activities. This design of a repurposed space had a reasonable cost but, as many skeptic claim, redesigning the furniture doesn't necessarily lead to better learning outcomes. However, this investment has generated substantial buzz on campus and has created a waiting list for users, particularly for the laser cutting. Hopefully, longer term assessment data of impacts of these new technologies and spaces will be collected to better understand the long-term implications of investments into makerspaces.

## Vice Presidents Column

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By Cynthia Prosser

Happy Spring! I hope that Spring is arriving in your location even as this Newsletter arrives. This column is more of a musing. The question I am currently wrestling with at UGA Libraries is the changing nature of libraries, their collections, library use, and how to best meet the needs and/or wants of our patrons.

When we poll our patrons as to their preferences regarding resources to add to the collection, we can get conflicting answers. Almost universally we are told they want more – more journal subscriptions, more databases, more access to specialized resources, etc. Overwhelmingly we are told that they prefer print books to e-books, but our e-book statistics show robust use. Is that really contradictory or are our patrons simply

using what we are providing? Then we will hear that they prefer print books for leisure reading but not for serious study unless they tell us it is easier to use print books for serious study and e-books for leisure reading. There is also the issue of discoverability. If the library makes use of a discovery service, such as EBSCO's Multisearch, are e-books then ultimately more useful? The patron can dip into the e-book and use it immediately without making a personal trip to the library. That then begs the question; would they come to the library to use a book or simply decide to use a different resource that they can get to electronically and perhaps more importantly, immediately? Concomitantly, if a researcher is in the field or studying remote from campus, are e-books de facto more useful?

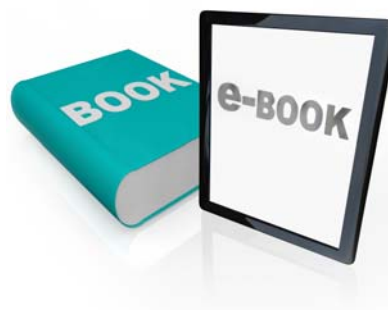
They can be accessed anywhere the internet is available, providing on the spot information without having to travel to refer to a physical copy or waiting for a physical copy to come to them. But then physical books are not subject to the vagrancies of technology and electricity. They can be used and accessed regardless of the state of batteries or internet access.

Too, there is the issue of how the library is being used by the patrons. There are groups that wish to collaborate and individuals that want to work privately. Also there is the level of noisiness or busyness surrounding the working area. Some do not mind a certain level of busyness while others want quiet or even silent study areas. In a finite building, how do you maximize it for the greatest number of patrons and their myriad needs? E-books do not take up shelf space and therefore provide more flexibility for use of the space.

Likewise there is the nature of the e-book itself. Patrons have the not unreasonable expectation of ease of use not unlike Amazon's Kindle environment. It seems that every publisher of e-books has their own platform and own method of accessing the e-book, complete with varying DRM restrictions. I remember when journals began the move to the electronic environment; at that time it seemed every journal had its own method of access and those methods varied

widely, not unlike today's e-book environment. Recently there seems to be some movement to more uniformity within the e-book world, such as offering the books DRM free and multiple simultaneous access, but there is not yet that seamless ease of use that is standard in the electronic journal world.

So, where does that leave us? Ultimately patrons want what they want and those wants and needs can change from project to project. Usage statistics and talking with our patrons can give us insights into what they want while budgets and space limitations can further define how to manage the collection. Libraries and patron needs will continue to change as will the nature of the resources we can offer. We can only continue to adapt.



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## Member/News/Publications

### **New Member Spotlight:**



On January 2nd Jo Klein started as Geospatial and Data Visualization Librarian at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Jo Klein is the Geospatial and Data Visualization Librarian at UNC Greensboro University Libraries, where they provide consultation services and training to support the geospatial/GIS and data visualization needs of faculty, staff, and students. They also serve as the library liaison to the Department of Geography, Environment, and Sustainability.

## Musings: Purging Your Office Files

By Michael M Noga

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### Musings

I have to move from a full office to probably a cubicle later this year, so I decided to start purging files. Perhaps I should follow decluttering advice including Marie Kondo's "The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up: The Japanese Art of Decluttering and Organizing."

I could take a picture of my office to scare myself and others. It would be good protection if I am accosted on a dark street at night. Of course, my office has sort of a rakish charm, at least to certain people. Empty desk advocates would melt on sight.

I could discard a file of work that I wanted to complete for a paper at a GSIS technical session. However, give me 15 minutes, and I can certainly fill it up with blather. Perhaps entertaining, perhaps informative, perhaps both, but maybe just a waste of time.

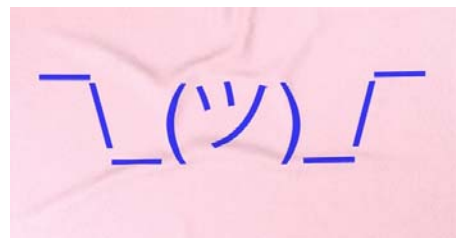
I could hold up a collection of minutes and documents from a committee, clutch it to my chest, sigh, and then let it go to the recycling bin. Perhaps a dumpster diver could intervene and be inspired to become an academic librarian. I did inspire some students during my career, but certainly not in that fashion.

Do my citation studies give me joy? Maybe they did at one time, but not anymore. Do my

collections of background papers inspire me to strategize and think big thoughts? Not if I haven't read them and just won't get to them. Do you have library literature at your bedside? Not me; if you do, more power to you. Send me your address and I will send you a packet (just kidding).

Then there are the shelves of gifts. Perhaps they have aged enough to find their way to the nearest Kiosk. Finally, I have several shelves of books on earth sciences, maps, and planetary sciences. The laudable purpose was to help me answer reference questions. However, it didn't quite work out for me. Most of my requests are for hard-to-get theses and obscure references.

Sometimes I think that my office should be displayed in a museum to represent a history of past librarian responsibilities. Several years ago, the Metropolitan Museum of Art had a fashion exhibit which included a recreation of the notorious restroom at the former New York club CBGB. The idea was to both repel and thrill the viewer. My office should have such a fate.



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## Area Spelunker Donates Cave Collection (Austin, TX)

By Dennis Trombatore

Caves and karst (eroded limestone terrains) are tied to the whole of human history – as shelters, as sources of water, as places of mystery and worship, and as research topics in geology, biology, hydrology and engineering. The Walter Geology Library (University of Texas at Austin) as a respected research library in earth sciences, has a strong collection in caves and karst

research, particularly since Central Texas has many caves and karst features, and the region has long hosted an avid caving community. One member of that local caving community, Bill Mixon — former book review editor for the National Speleological Society and friend of the Walter Library — recently donated his unique collection of over 1000 books and more than 1000 periodical issues related to cave and karst

research, literature, and culture. Remarkably, this entire collection is all material new to the UT Libraries, significantly broadening and enhancing our existing collections.

The collection is largely international in scope, and among the items included, almost 1/3 of the books are not only new to UT, but not held otherwise in any US libraries, or not held anywhere at all. Another 20+% of the materials are held in fewer than 5 North American collections.

The literature of caving is largely produced by specialists for specialists, and much of it is only shared among informal networks, or is only available locally or regionally — not the kind of stuff you can buy on Amazon. For this reason, this gift of personally-curated material from around the world is a tremendous asset, representing years of effort on the part of the donor to amass such a significant cross section of the world’s cave publications.

We are grateful for the gift, as it adds significantly to our existing strengths, and will give future researchers the benefit of having guides, exploration reports, and research on most of the world’s major cave and karst systems all in one place.

Volumes from the Bill Mixon cave collection:



## Why Caves Matter.

Caves are:

- Hidden time machines and an historical record of previous natural and human activity
- Essential filtration tools and sources for water
- Home to unique critters and life forms, including bats, spiders, microbes
- Great sources of fossils of all kinds
- Key to the study of climate
- Important areas of earth science research
- Home to early man, later man, hiding man, man at war
- Repositories of early human art
- Important risk factors in construction
- Irresistible explorers’ temptation

Who cares?

- biologists
- geologists
- hydrologists
- engineers
- military
- historians
- explorers

This article was originally published in the following online Blog:

<https://blogs.lib.utexas.edu/texlibris/2019/02/21/area-spelunker-donates-cave-collection/>



## GeoNet Update

By Emily Wild

As Louise mentioned on the listserv and at the GSIS business meeting, I became the moderator of the geonet listserv in November 2018 – thank you, Louise for being the moderator of geonet from 2011 to 2018!



The geonet archive is available from May 21, 2011 to present by logging in via:  
<http://www.geoinfo.org/lists.html>

Please let me know if you have questions – contact me directly at [ewild@princeton.edu](mailto:ewild@princeton.edu) or 609-258-5484

If you are changing jobs (email accounts) or are receiving geonet posts on more than one email and would like to consolidate, please feel free to contact me directly and I can make those changes in the geonet listserv settings.

## 2019 GSA Technical Session Announced:

By Emily Wild

As the new GSIS Technical Session Convener, I have great news - the GSIS topical session was accepted for the GSA conference 2019 (September) in Phoenix, Arizona!!

Submissions will open on April 1, 2019 at:  
[https://www.geosociety.org/GSA/Events/Annual\\_Meeting/GSA/Events/2019info.aspx](https://www.geosociety.org/GSA/Events/Annual_Meeting/GSA/Events/2019info.aspx)

Title of session for GSIS: “Tell Us What Is New in Your Library, Information Center, Company, Organization, Research Institution, or University!”



### Summary:

Librarians, information professionals, data managers, scientists, and researchers quite often take on new challenges to create new products, programs, and activities for geosciences promotion, outreach, education, and communications, as well as preserve and organize geoscience physical and digital materials. Do you have successes (or failures) you would like to share with others? This session will provide an outlet to discuss what is new within your institution such as, but not limited to, collection development, instruction, space assessment, outreach, geospatial information, data management, and(or) scholarly communications. We welcome oral papers about programs, projects, interdisciplinary research, and findings related to geoscience data and information, and look forward to abstract submissions from informational professionals, researchers, and students.

Open access is a hot topic within the academic world, particularly with the recent news that the [University of California system has terminated its subscriptions with publishing giant Elsevier](#) and the launch of Europe's [Plan S initiative](#) for open access publishing. Even before these major steps, funders such as the U.S. National Science Foundation made open access of practical concern to many researchers by requiring public accessibility of articles within 12 months of publication in order to receive funding.

As many are aware, there are two main forms of open access, Green and Gold. Gold Open Access refers to articles that the publisher makes available without charge to the reader (usually by passing the costs on to the author in the form of an article processing charge), while Green Open Access refers to toll-access works that can also be made freely available by the author via repository or personal website (self-archiving). While journals that are fully Gold Open Access remain a small percentage of journals in the geosciences, most major publishers do make some allowances for self-archiving.

For librarians interested in better understanding the Green Open Access policies of geosciences publishers and journals, [SHERPA/RoMEO](#) is an online resource that aggregates the open access policies of publishers and assigns one of four rating levels. RoMEO compiles policies and special conditions around self-archiving, and assigns each publisher a color code based on their self-archiving policies. **Green** is the most permissive policy, which allows the archiving of pre-print and post-print or publisher's version/PDF. (Please note that RoMEO's use of green in its color coding is different from the

concept of Green Open Access.) **Blue** is assigned to publishers that allow authors to archive post-print (i.e. final draft post-refereeing) or publisher's version/PDF. A **yellow** rating means publishers allow only pre-prints (i.e. pre-refereeing) to be archived. A **white** rating indicates publishers have no formal policies related to self-archiving.

While publishers as a whole are assessed and rated by SHERPA/RoMEO for their default policy (or lack thereof), it is important to also examine individual journals for their policies, because many journals have special policies that can be more or less permissive than the policies of the publisher as a whole. As an example, the Geological Society of America has a **white** rating due to lacking any formal policy supporting self-archiving. However, their publication *GSA Today* is a **green**-rated journal that allows authors to archive the pre-print and the post-print or publisher's version of their article, as long as it is archived in an institutional repository. Conversely, the publisher Springer Nature has a **green** rating but their prestigious journal *Nature* has only a **yellow** rating since it places embargo restrictions on an author's ability to archive post-prints.

In a time when librarians are increasingly called upon for information and advice on issues related to archiving and open access, it is critical to understand the nuances surrounding these topics. The SHERPA/RoMEO site is a valuable tool to have in one's arsenal. For more information on open access and how librarians and institutions can advocate for broader open access policies, the [Coalition of Open Access Policy Institutions](#) is a useful resource.

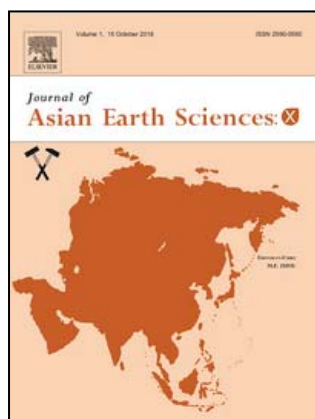


## Quick Guide to Archiving Policies of Major Publishers in the Geosciences

Publisher	RoMEO status
American Association of Petroleum Geologists	yellow
American Geophysical Union	green
Cambridge University Press	green
Canadian Institute of Mining Metallurgy and Petroleum	white
Copernicus	green
Elsevier/Academic	green
Geological Society	yellow
Geological Society of America	white
Micropaleontology Press	green
Mineralogical Society of America	white
Oxford University Press	yellow
Paleontological Society	yellow
Seismological Society of America	white
SEPM Society for Sedimentary Geology	yellow
Society of Economic Geologists	white
Society of Exploration Geophysicists	green
Society of Vertebrate Paleontology	white
Springer/Nature	green
Taylor & Francis	green
Wiley/Blackwell	yellow

RoMEO Color	Archiving policy
<a href="#">Green</a>	Can archive pre-print <i>and</i> post-print or publisher's version/PDF
<a href="#">Blue</a>	Can archive post-print (i.e. final draft post-refereeing) or publisher's version/PDF
<a href="#">Yellow</a>	Can archive pre-print (i.e. pre-refereeing)
<a href="#">White</a>	Archiving not formally supported

[SHERPA/RoMEO](#) is an online resource that aggregates and analyses publisher open access policies from around the world and provides summaries of self-archiving permissions and conditions of rights given to authors on a journal-by-journal basis. Much more information about individual titles and publisher policies is available at the SHERPA/RoMEO website.



### Journal of Asian Earth Sciences: X

Website:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/journal-of-asian-earth-sciences-x>

*Journal of Asian Earth Sciences: X* is one of around three dozen of OA “mirror” journals introduced

by Elsevier this year and the first of their geoscience titles to adopt this new publishing model. (See discussion on mirror journals below.) Launched by Pergamon in 1986 as the *Journal of Southeast Asian Earth Sciences*, the journal publishes original research and reviews on the regional geology, tectonics, geochemistry and geophysics of Asia. The subscription journal and its “X” counterpart share the same scope, editorial team, submission system, and peer review process. The main difference is the \$2,600 article processing charge to publish in “X”. Authors have a choice of CC BY and CC BY-NC-ND licenses. As of March 8 the first issue of *Journal of Asian Earth Sciences: X* was still in preparation, but five “in press” papers were already posted on the website.



### Physical Review Research

Website:

<https://journals.aps.org/prresearch>

Promising coverage of “the full spectrum of research topics of interest to the physics community,” *Physical Review Research* (PRResearch) was

introduced by the American Physical Society on February 28. It is the Society’s fourth OA journal. Acceptance criteria will parallel those for the established, peer-reviewed journals in

the Physical Review family. Content will be published under a CC-BY 4.0 International license. The journal will begin accepting submissions soon and expects to publish its first papers in the second half of 2019. The article processing charge (APC) has not yet been announced.

**Regional geoscience journals:** The following English-language journals focusing on regional geoscience research – some formerly published as subscription titles – were recently added to the Directory of Open Access Journals.

- **Geofizika** (Andrija Mohorovičić Geophysical Institute, University of Zagreb, Croatia) – <http://geofizika-journal.gfz.hr/>
- **GeoPatterns** (Center for Risk Studies, Spatial Modelling, Terrestrial and Coastal System Dynamics, University of Bucharest, Romania) – <http://www.geodynamic.ro/geo-patterns>
- **Hydrogeology** (Faculty of Natural Sciences, University of Tabriz, Iran) – <http://hydro.tabrizu.ac.ir/>
- **Lithosphere = Litosfera** (Zavaritsky Institute of Geology and Geochemistry, Ekaterinburg, Russia) – <https://test.lithosphere.ru/jour/index>

### “Mirror” journals have arrived

Mirror journals are new OA titles that are piggybacked on established, subscription-based journals as a way of giving authors a way to publish in a “fully open access journal” (i.e., in order to fulfill funder mandates). The original journal and its mirror each has its own ISSN, but share the same aims and scope, editorial board, peer review process, and manuscript handling system. Elsevier seems to be leading the way. Since its launch of *Water Research X* in December Elsevier has now added 35 more OA mirror journals (mainly in the biomedical sciences and engineering) to its ScienceDirect portfolio.

The introduction of mirroring is considered by some commentators (Angela Cochran, “Are

Mirror Journals a Better Path to the Open Access Flip?”, *The Scholarly Kitchen*, October 29, 2018, <https://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/>) to be a reasonable and sustainable way for publishers to transition to full open access – and away from hybrid journals – and to satisfy authors’ preferences to publish in journals they already know and trust. Others consider it to be a ruse concocted to ensure publisher revenues while complying in principle with Plan S, which disallows publication in hybrid journals (David Matthews, “Warning on ‘Mirror Journals’,” *Inside Higher Ed*, January 24, 2019, <https://www.insidehighered.com>). The potential for “double dipping” (charging libraries for the subscription journals and authors to publish in the OA mirrors of the same journals) is a chief

concern. How Plan S implementation will even deal with mirror journals is unclear.

See More OA News in Shaun’s additional article: *Global Reaction to “Plan S”* on page 12!

GSIS Member Benefit: Earth

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Publication News: has now made Earth digitally available to members of all of their associated societies. All GSIS members are eligible for free subs to the digital version.. To set this up, members just need to create an account at <https://digital.earthmagazine.org/>.

Last November cOalition S (<https://www.coalition-s.org/>) issued a call for feedback on their implementation guidance for Plan S – the new mandate by European research agencies that by 2020 will require funding recipients to publish in fully open access journals (no paywalls, embargo periods, or hybrid journals) and that will cap the OA publication fees (APCs) that publishers can charge authors. Since then, more than 600 individuals and organizations in 40 countries – publishers, scholarly societies, libraries, library associations, funding agencies, and researchers – have submitted comments.

Writing in *The Scholarly Kitchen* (“Taking Stock of the Feedback on Plan S Implementation Guidance,” February 11, 2019, <https://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/>), Lisa Janicke Hinchliffe identified some general trends in the blizzard of statements posted online and distributed through discussion lists and social media. Among them:

- Support for open access to scholarship and the goals of Plan S, but concerns about the actual mechanisms.
- Inadequately thought-out technical requirements for publishing, repository, and other platforms.
- Concerns over detrimental impact on small, independent, and society publishers.
- Impossibility of setting “fair and reasonable” APCs.
- Unrealistic implementation timeline.

In a follow-up piece (“Is Hybrid a Valid Pathway to Open Access?” *The Scholarly Kitchen*, February 19, 2019), Hinchliffe characterized the responses of mega-publishers Wiley, Springer Nature, Taylor & Francis, and

SAGE as indicating “no intention of abandoning hybrid models, a pathway they characterize as successfully meeting market demands and fostering growth in open access publishing.” A February 8 statement by STM, the global trade association for academic and professional publishers, criticized the Plan S guidelines for their apparent disregard of hybrid OA, green OA, and mirror journals as legitimate approaches to proving public access ([https://www.stm-assoc.org/2019\\_02\\_08\\_STM\\_Comments\\_on\\_Plan\\_S\\_Implementation\\_Guidance.pdf](https://www.stm-assoc.org/2019_02_08_STM_Comments_on_Plan_S_Implementation_Guidance.pdf)).

For many scientific societies supported by subscriptions, Plan S is seen as an “existential threat” (Jeffrey Brainard, “Scientific Societies Worry About Threat from Plan S,” *Science*, January 25, 2019, <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.363.6425.332>; Lindsay McKenzie, “Who’s Afraid of Plan S,” *Inside Higher Ed*, February 19, 2019, <https://www.insidehighered.com>). The American Physical Society, American Chemical Society, American Astronomical Society, and AAAS have all weighed in with public comments, though geoscience societies have so far been conspicuously silent, at least in the public arena. The consensus appears to be that, at a minimum, revenue losses from implementation of Plan S may force societies to sell off their journals to commercial publishers and cut back on activities that serve their memberships in order to remain solvent.

According to a February 20 press releases from cOAlition S, “Responses are now being analysed and will feed into an updated version of the Plan S implementation guidance. An initial analysis of the feedback will be released in the spring and all feedback responses will be made openly available” (<https://www.coalition-s.org/>).

**Association of Earth Science Editors  
53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting  
Regina, Saskatchewan**

**September 4 to 7, 2019**

The 53<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting of the Association of Earth Science Editors will take place in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, September 4 to 7, 2019. AESE meetings are a wonderful way to learn about earth science editing, publishing and communication. Our meetings, generally small in size, consist of two days of technical sessions and a one-day field trip, and provide an unparalleled opportunity to network with other editors, publishers, educators and others working in the earth sciences.

Nicknamed 'The Queen City', Regina is the capital of the province of Saskatchewan, one of the three 'Prairie Provinces' in Canada. Settled in 1882, Regina was originally called 'Wascana', a Cree term meaning 'Pile of Bones'. Located roughly in the centre of the North American continent, Regina is like an oasis of trees, people and buildings in the heart of the Canadian prairies. With a population of over 230,000, it is the second-largest city in Saskatchewan, and a cultural and entertainment destination for many in this part of the province. Wascana Centre, the Royal Saskatchewan Museum, the RCMP Heritage Centre, and the iconic Legislative Building are just a few of the city's attractions.

The meeting is open to anyone interested in earth science editing, publishing and outreach. The program is in the initial planning stage, but meeting information is now available on AESE's web page [www.aese.org](http://www.aese.org). A *Call for Abstracts* will be issued mid Spring. We hope you'll join us for what promises to be a great meeting.

For more information, please contact host chair, Heather Brown (Saskatchewan Geological Survey), [heather.brown4@gov.sk.ca](mailto:heather.brown4@gov.sk.ca).

Regina's downtown core: a vibrant mix of the historical and the modern. *(Photo courtesy of Tourism Regina.)*



The Saskatchewan Legislative building, lit up for the evening, is reflected in the surface of Wascana Lake against the backdrop of a typical Prairie sunset. *(Photo courtesy of Tourism Regina.)*

