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President's Column: Encouraging Faculty Adoption of Open Education Resources (OER) at SUNY

By Chris A. Badurek

As a State University of New York (SUNY) faculty member, I recently participated in the SUNY Conference on Instruction and Technology (SUNYCIT) Conference at SUNY Purchase College in picturesque Westchester County, NY in May 2019. This is an academic/practitioner conference with participation from instructional designers, librarians, teaching center directors, and faculty from an array of disciplines. A significant portion of the conference content was on Open Education Resources (OER), ranging from 'best practices' in use of OER to developing OER content. A stream that caught my attention was an array of sessions on encouraging faculty adoption of OER as this has been a long standing road block to the full integration of the resources into curricula across the country. Many of the objections from faculty center on the amount of effort needed to transition from the trusty resources they currently use to new resources, slide decks in particular. A few of these sessions addressed this issue in three approaches: 1) integration between faculty and OER specialists in individual course development, 2) campus wide initiatives to spur

more rapid OER adoption, and 3) system wide targeted funding initiatives to increase the rate of OER use.

Firstly, a session entitled Teaching with OER: SUNY/CUNY OER Panel focused on efforts from a variety of faculty in use of OER as well as how they integrated them directly into their courses. I found this to be an effective approach as faculty discussing their enthusiasm for use of OER is likely more convincing than broad presentations from OER specialists. One of the panelists, Jessica Kruger, from the University at Buffalo, SUNY Libraries also discussed how to develop an OER textbook with students as participants in the process. This was much further integration of OER than I had seen previously and seemed to be an effective method for bridging students and faculty into the use of open materials. Of course, this approach may not work with all courses, especially in broad intro level geoscience courses.

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Secondly, I facilitated the session Calling All Faculty...Get Onboard with OER led by University at Albany, SUNY Library and Information Science faculty member Lenore Horowitz who discussed her work as a Provost's Office OER Fellow. This project focused on supporting four faculty members to make significant changes in their own courses as well as reach out to their colleagues in their respective departments to support campus wide OER initiatives. The discussion after the presentation ranged from the potential value in faculty creating their own OER textbook to discarding textbooks altogether to use an array of other kinds of online materials similarly to MOOCs. Audience members also questioned whether some courses could just be listed as "OER" by their department and any instructor would have to use OER if they taught those courses- certainly a possibility for many adjunct taught courses.

Lastly, the OER SUNY project was highlighted. This project was using \$4 million from 2017-2019 to make a greater impact on the costs of textbooks to SUNY students. Overall, the project has impacted 59 SUNY campuses and over a 1,000 faculty. The main efforts are to encourage course section implementation by 1)

providing incentives such as stipends and faculty support, 2) providing access to OER resource such as the Geology course from Lumen, and 3) funding the development of complete "OER Degree" initiatives which employ OER through all courses in the entire degree program. While most of these degree programs are at the associate degree level, it is an indication of the possibility of a fully integrated OER degree.

Overall, these conversations and the significant portion of this conference dedicated to OER indicates the investment SUNY is making in OER across the state. Over the next few years we can expect a greater integration of OER materials in the earth and environmental sciences as the OER approach catches up to courses beyond the 101 level.

SUNY Open Education Resource Services
<https://oer.suny.edu>

SUNY OER Services Course: Geology
<https://oer.suny.edu/courses/geology>

SUNY Conference on Instruction and Technology
<https://cit.suny.edu>

Reminder: Submissions for the GSIS Proceedings Due Soon!

Remember to submit your paper, etc. from your 2018 GSIS/GSA poster in Indianapolis by July 15. If you have any questions, you can ask Cynthia Prosser; cprosser@uga.edu Thanks!

Happy Summer! I hope that your school year has ended satisfactorily and your patron's summer field work is off to a good start. I continue to muse about additional ways to make resources available to our researchers. Fairly recently it came to my attention that an interested researcher has the ability to create online exhibits of physical objects. A variety of content management software permits the organization and display of physical objects which can include images of paper items such as maps, brochures, and photos or 3 dimensional items such as rocks, household goods, and art objects. I learned about using the software Omeka at an in-house workshop hosted by the UGA Libraries Digital Humanities Lab and UGA Libraries Professional Development and Research Committee. Omeka is an open-source content management system which allows the user to organize physical materials to create curated exhibits on a subject. These exhibits permit materials to be accessible to not only the researcher or research group but to be shared with a wider online audience. I think this would be a wonderful way to organize geologic specimens and provide access to study or research samples when the physical collection

was not available. Others have thought of this before. Granted, nothing can replace actually handling and studying a specimen in person, but sometimes additional examples of a rock, mineral, or fossil, even if it is only online, can help clarify a concept. Also the online environment can make specimens available, on a limited basis, which could not or should not be regularly handled. For example; items such as asbestos or precious metal samples. Additionally, maps showing the geologic region, collecting site of the specimen(s), or field notes could be included to provide further insight and information regarding not only a given specimen but how it fits in the wider geologic context. One example of this use of Omeka is the Geneseo Geoscience Collections at the Milne Library, SUNY Geneseo: <http://www.geosciencecollections.milne-library.org/> There, they have made available the teaching samples of the Geological Sciences Department and continue to expand the collection with the aid of some of the advanced geology students. This sort of partnership between the library and a university department can make more resources available to more students and researchers.

USGS/Colorado School of Mines partnership

Lisa Dunn, Colorado School of Mines

The USGS and Colorado School of Mines have made an agreement on a long-term partnership, with plans to bring some 150 USGS scientists and their minerals research labs to a new shared Subsurface Frontiers Building on the Mines campus. From early discussions, my understanding is that this Building will have public space to accommodate visitors as well as secured spaces for researchers. We are waiting on details; there are bound to be significant impacts on the campus, the USGS Denver office, and both the Mines Library and the

USGS Denver Library.

For more information, see:
U.S. Geological Survey and Colorado School of Mines announce long-term partnership, <https://www.usgs.gov/news/us-geological-survey-and-colorado-school-mines-announce-long-term-partnership>.

USGS comes to Mines in new partnership, <https://goldentranscript.net/stories/usgs-comes-to-mines-in-new-partnership.272315>.

Musings: Remembrance - Connie J Manson (March 28, 1950 - March 8, 2019)

By Michael M Noga

When I think of Connie, three things to come to mind immediately:

- Her distinctive laugh (One GIS member described it as "loud, infectious, and inviting you to the conversation."
- Her phone conversation sign-off - She said goodbye in almost a quiet laugh. Unfortunately I do not have a recording of it.
- Our geoduck inside joke (The geoduck ("goeey duck") is a tasty clam with a ridiculously-large siphon that can't fit into the shell. I think the joke started because of the name and its occurrence in nearby Puget Sound waters.)

Connie had many titles and roles:

- Senior Librarian for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Geological Survey (over 25 years) - Her greatest contribution was the publication of over 100 bibliographies detailing the literature of the geology, mineral resources, natural hazards, and geophysics of the state of Washington.
- AGI/GeoRef Editor/Indexer (2003-2018) - Her early work concentrated on getting these records into GeoRef. She was a proponent of adding open-file reports to GeoRef.
- GIS/GSIS Newsletter Editor - 1986-2007 - She put out 6 issues a year, always on time. She was the production editor the whole time and also responsible for news-gathering after her service as VP/President./Past-President. She used to tell me that she was the world's fastest typist. On the Saturday after each news submission deadline, she made a bunch of popcorn, put on some old movies, and set to the work on the Newsletter.
- GIS president (1998) - A highlight was participation in organizing the GeoInfo VI (6th International Conference on Geoscience Information) in Washington D.C. in September 1998. The conference was also the 2nd

International AESE/CBE/EASE Joint Meeting, and the 32nd Annual Meeting of the Earth Science Editors. She edited the proceedings and edited or co-edited two Geoscience Information Society proceedings.

- GIS Vice President (1997) - Connie organized the GIS Annual Meeting at Salt Lake City. She promoted the first Friends of the U.S. Geological Survey Library meeting to support the library as an indispensable national resource. A few years earlier, after discussions about WAML's state geologic map indexes, she worked with the Director of the USGS Library to promote a national geologic map index, which is now has grown into the National Geologic Map Database.

- GIS/GSIS Pacific Section President - She arranged many of the section meetings (i.e lunches). They usually lasted long enough to call to order, elect a president and a secretary, and then adjourn. When the Pacific Section was proposed it included the states along the Pacific Ocean and perhaps Nevada and Arizona. Then Connie expanded the membership to anyone who had lived there in the past, visited, flown over, or even had warm wishes and longings for the Pacific states. The meeting or should I say, the lunch was a great social event, usually after the annual business meeting. It was a great way for new attendees to meet GIS/GSIS members.

- 2008 Mary B. Distinguished Service Award winner
- Presenter of at least 7 papers at the GIS/GSIS Annual Meeting
- Constance Mansions (Jim O'Donnell's choice of address)
- Ballard Girl (Connie's choice) Connie grew up in Ballard, a neighborhood in Seattle. She was proud of the neighborhood and took Jim O'Donnell and myself on a tour of the Nordic Museum there.

Several GSIS members have fond memories on Connie. They described her as:
"warm, welcoming"
"made you feel like being a geoscience librarian was special"
"willingness to share with others"
"a very congenial roommate"
"an ardent supporter of knowledge"
"a bright light at conferences"

I agree with all these characterizations of Connie. I still recall her laughing at one of Jim O'Donnell's favorite Mexican restaurants (Rosarios) when we first met in 1986. I am so glad that she was part of our lives.

Useful Collection Development Tools for Geoscience Librarians

By Linda Musser, Penn State University

Identifying and selecting materials to build geoscience collections can be a challenge. Approval plan vendors such as YBP, Lindsay and Croft, Harrassowitz, and Casalini are helpful in identifying new materials but not all librarians have access to the resources of these vendors. Publications such as Booklist, Library Journal, and Publisher's Weekly announce new and forthcoming works however their coverage of geoscience topics is extremely limited. Given the many responsibilities and time pressures librarians face, it is helpful to be aware of tools that can facilitate identification of new geoscience resources. Do you have any favorite tools for selection? Two tools that may not be well-known but I find helpful are the British National Bibliography and GeoKartenbrief. Both have the advantage of being freely available online.

The British National Bibliography, or BNB, lists newly published books and journals distributed or published in the United Kingdom and Ireland. Weekly lists of new materials are posted to the BNB website, arranged in Dewey call number order. (In the Dewey classification system,

geosciences are mostly in the 550-559 range.) I find the BNB to be a useful tool to consult to ensure awareness of non-North American resources though their coverage of non-English materials is quite limited.

GeoKartenbrief is produced by the ILH Internationales Landkartenhaus in Germany. The ILH is a vendor of general and geoscientific maps, atlases and other publications from around the world. GeoKartenbrief is arranged geographically and produced quarterly with weekly updates. I find their occasional inclusion of index maps at various scales useful but the primary value is their coverage and reporting of new geoscience maps and atlases.



Reminder: Submit your 2019 GSA Technical Session Proposals! Due: June 25th!

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 are due June 25th, 2019 :
<https://www.geosociety.org/GSA/Events/AnnualMeeting/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.

**GSA Early Registration
Deadline is:
August 19th!**

Call for Nominations for the 2019 GSIS Guidebook Awards

Linda Musser, Penn State University

The Guidebooks Committee of the [Geoscience Information Society](#) (GSIS) is accepting nominations for the 2019 Best Guidebook Award(s) and Outstanding Geologic Field Trip Guidebook Series award. Geologic field trip guidebooks from any region that were produced from 2017-2019 can be considered for the award, which is awarded in the fall at the annual meeting of the Geoscience Information Society. Via these awards, the GSIS seeks to recognize the value of guidebooks and reward examples of excellence. In addition to being outstanding in content, the nominated titles will be evaluated according to the criteria outlined in the [Guidelines for Authors, Editors, and Publishers of Geologic Field Trip Guidebooks](#) published by GSIS. A list of previous winners can be

found [online](#). Awards will be given in the following categories:

- Best Guidebook Award(s) - The purpose of these awards is to recognize examples of excellence in geologic field trip guidebooks, with awards in **popular** and **professional** categories.
- Outstanding Geologic Field Trip Guidebook Series award - The purpose of this award is to recognize organizations that have made continued contributions to the geologic field trip genre over time.

Nominations, consisting of the title and bibliographic information (author, publisher, etc.) of the work or series, should be sent to the [Guidebooks Committee](#). The committee will begin the selection process in July.

2017 GSIS Audit is underway!

Greetings. The audit for the 2017 GSIS books is underway. Patricia Yocum has stepped up again to perform the audit with the same attention to detail that she provided for the 2016 audit.

Cheers,
Lori Tschirhart
GSIS Treasurer, 2016-2017

GSIS Member Benefit: Earth



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/>.

FAIR Data Sharing in the Geosciences

By Shaun Hardy, Carnegie Institution for Science

On May 2 the American Geophysical Union hosted a fast-paced and informative webinar for librarians on “Data Sharing in the Earth, Space, and Environmental Sciences.” Shelley Stall, AGU’s senior director of data leadership, reviewed the research data ecosystem and the FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable) guiding principles for scientific data management and stewardship. She identified a number of useful information resources. The Enabling FAIR Data Project (<https://copdess.org/enabling-fair-data-project/>) is working to develop standards that will connect stakeholders in the geosciences to enable FAIR data on a large scale in order to “accelerate scientific discovery and enhance the integrity, transparency, and reproducibility of

this data.” The recognition of data as a first-class research object is a central tenet of FAIR. For an overview, see S. Stall et al., “Advancing FAIR Data in Earth, Space, and Environmental Science”, *Eos*, vol. 99, <https://doi.org/10.1029/2018EO109301> (published 5 November 2018).

Among the initiatives of Enabling FAIR Data is Repository Finder (<https://repositoryfinder.datacite.org/>) – a free tool that helps researchers, librarians, and others find FAIR-compliant repositories where they can deposit their data. The search engine queries the re3data registry (<http://www.re3data.org/>) and identifies both domain repositories and institutional

repositories if they are open and use taxonomies and persistent identifiers. Repositories certified as “trustworthy” are identified with the CoreTrustSeal (<https://www.coretrustseal.org/>). Guidance for authors on repository selection, data availability statements, data/sample citation, and software citation and curation is available from COPDESS – the Coalition for Publishing Data in the Earth and Space Sciences (<https://copdess.org/enabling-fair-data-project/enabling-fair-data-faqs/>). Best practices for journal publishers regarding data policy statements and instructions for authors are also provided ([https://copdess.org/copdess-suggested-author-instructions-and-best-](https://copdess.org/copdess-suggested-author-instructions-and-best-practices-for-journals/)

[practices-for-journals/](https://copdess.org/copdess-suggested-author-instructions-and-best-practices-for-journals/)). Data should NOT be published as supplemental information!

Stall also presented preliminary results of 2017 and 2019 stakeholder surveys which polled researchers, data professional, and publishers on how they access, share, and use data and their attitudes toward FAIR principles. She invited everyone interested in keeping up with developments in Enabling FAIR Data and/or COPDESS to email her at sstall@agu.org to be placed on their mailing list.



GEOSCIENCE
INFORMATION
SOCIETY

newsletter



Call for Abstracts

The Association of Earth Science Editors (AESE) is holding its 53rd annual meeting in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, from September 4 to 7, 2019. The theme of this year's meeting is **Editing and Publishing in an Increasingly Digital-Only World**.

If you are interested in earth science editing, publication, communication, or geoscience outreach, consider submitting an abstract for a talk at our meeting. **The deadline for abstract submission is July 17, 2019.**

Abstract Guidelines

- The abstract should clearly and concisely outline the scope of your talk, what problems you may be addressing, and what conclusions you've made.
- Limit your abstract to 200 to 250 words in length (excluding title and authorship).
- Include author name(s), affiliation, and contact information.
- Send abstracts to: heather.brown4@gov.sk.ca, with "AESE 2019 Abstract" in the subject line.

If you have any questions, please contact Karen MacFarlane, technical program chair, at Karen.MacFarlane@gov.yk.ca, or Heather Brown, host chair, at heather.brown4@gov.sk.ca.

For more information about the Regina meeting—including registration and hotel details—visit the [AESE Web site](#) or follow AESE on Twitter (@AESERocks), Instagram (AESERocks), [Pinterest](#) or [LinkedIn](#).

Also like us on Facebook for meeting updates:

- regular [AESE Facebook page](#)
- [AESE Regina 2019](#) – closed group for discussing travel plans, the program, things to see and do around the city and in the area



Aerial view of Regina's downtown core, showing the lively outdoor patios on Scarth Street, the iconic Mosaic towers, and the east side of Victoria Park, the perfect spot to enjoy a sunny Saskatchewan day. *Photo credit: Regina Tourism.*