



# newsletter

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## FROM THE EDITORS

Summer's end is approaching too quickly and we don't have much time to give you details about the upcoming GIS annual meeting. Some information is included in this issue and the final details will be in the October issue.

In this issue we also have several reports from the Australian conference. Many thanks to the attendees who responded with their impressions.

There is also a Library Profile, an update on CD-ROM, an order form for the new edition of the *Directory of Geoscience Libraries*, and the usual news, new publication, and miscellaneous items. Remember: with only one more issue until the San Antonio meeting, send us any items you want the membership to consider in time for inclusion in the October issue.

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## 1985 GIS OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Annette E. Bourgeois  
Library  
Geological Survey of Canada  
601 Booth Street, Room 350  
Ottawa, Ont. Canada K1A 0E8  
613/995-4163

### PAST PRESIDENT

Claren E. Kidd  
Geology Library  
University of Oklahoma  
830 Van Vleet Oval, Room 101  
Norman, OK 73019  
405/325-6451

### VICE PRESIDENT and PRESIDENT ELECT

Robert A. Bier, Jr.  
Library  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Box 25046, MS 914  
Denver, CO 80225  
303/236-1004

### SECRETARY

Connie S. Wick  
Geological Sciences Library  
Harvard University  
24 Oxford Street  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
(617) 495-2029

### TREASURER

Mary B. Ansari  
Mines Library  
University of Nevada, Reno  
Reno, NV 89557-0044  
(702) 784-6596

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Miriam L. Sheaves  
Geology Library  
Mitchell Hall 029A  
University of North Carolina  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
(919) 962-2386

### EDITORS

Judy Geitgey  
2015 W. 27th Avenue  
Eugene, OR 97405  
(503) 686-3075

Connie Manson  
2525 Sleater Kinney Rd. N.E.  
Olympia, WA 98506  
(206) 459-6372

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GIS members are encouraged to contribute articles or news of general interest to the membership. Please send any manuscripts to the Chairperson of the Editorial Board. All other items, such as citations, letters to the editor, job announcements, publication notices, and general news should be sent to the Newsletter Editor.

Material for the October Newsletter should be received by the editors no later than September 15, 1986.

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The *GIS Newsletter* is published bi-monthly in February, April, June, August, October, and December by the Geoscience Information Society. Subscription to the *Newsletter* is \$30.00 per year and is included in the Society's annual membership dues. All correspondence relating to dues, membership status and address changes should be directed to the GIS Secretary.

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# THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION

Adelaide, Australia, June 1-6, 1986

## Descriptions and Comments from Attendees

*from:* Dean Crowe, Director,  
Australian Mineral Foundation

Some 130 delegates gathered at the Australian Mineral Foundation (AMF) in Adelaide, South Australia, June 1-6, 1986, to attend the Third International Conference on Geoscience Information. Of those present, 28% were from 13 overseas countries, giving the Conference a truly international flavour. The first of these international conferences was held in London and the second was held in Golden, Colorado.

The programme consisted of a Keynote Address, a Keynote Paper, 5 theme papers, 18 contributed papers, 12 poster presentations, a full-day Search Workshop, on-line demonstrations, a small trade and specialist services exhibition, and displays by the Australian State Departments of Mines and Mineral Resources and the Bureau of Mineral Resources, Canberra.

The Keynote Address by Dr. Ray Price, Director General, Geological Survey of Canada, stressed the role of geoscience information in government resources policy formulation. The Keynote Paper by Nancy J. Pruet, Sandia National Laboratories, projected what she considered to be an ideal geoscience information system through to document delivery—and she saw no reason why the first steps toward such a system could not be taken now.

The Theme Papers, which set the scene for the 5 technical sessions, covered:

- Data gathering and relational data bases in the geoscience information context
- The content and coverage of geoscience information over the last 20 years
- Developments in cartographic infor-

mation control and access

- Managing geoscience information for success and profit.

The Contributed Papers and the Poster Sessions covered a range of topics allied to the theme of each respective session:

- The integrated approach
- Standardization
- Patents as a geoscience information source
- The value and utility of information
- Expert systems
- Geological information for local authority planners
- Specific developments of systems in China, Australia, Canada, Japan, France, the UK, and the US.

The highlight of the Conference was a Search Workshop, led by Garth Peters of MIM Holdings, Brisbane, which endeavoured to explore the challenges and future directions facing geoscience information.

Stemming from the Workshop in particular and the Conference in general, the following issues and initiatives were highlighted:

- Issues of national and international cooperation need to be addressed to avoid, wherever possible, duplication of effort and systems, and to promote standardization. Due attention should be given to the existing international cooperative programmes of bodies such as COGEODATA and COGEODOC and increased association with national societies such as GIS (Geoscience Information Society), GIG (Geological Information Group of The Geological Society, London), and AGIA.
- The geoscience information function profile should be lifted by special attention to promoting the function

amongst users, particularly management, with an emphasis on the benefits that could accrue from greater utilization of available and future information resources. This could best be achieved by promoting information services as a segment of strategic decision-making which would require more extensive education of specialists and users/managers. A primary part of the promotional process would be better identification of the specific needs of the user.

- In the light of the increasing demand for a wider range of reference and source data, the following were identified as requiring special attention:
  - Improved graphic indexes and geographic information (integration with other systems)
  - Improved and standardized access to data sets, e. g., theses, digital cartographic data, satellite imagery, geophysical data.

Besides the technical programme, the social side was not by any chance neglected. Sunday's opening ice-breaker was followed by Monday's AGIA cocktail party, which was reinforced by Tuesday's Conference banquet— with Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy's Chief Executive Officer, John Burns, giving a thoughtful address on creating and projecting the corporate image— through to Wednesday evening's drinks hosted by Comlabs, Thursday's Dinner Dance organized by AGIA, and Friday's excursion to a winery with a look at geological features of interest on the way back— all providing ample stimuli for lots of communication and the building of international bonds for years to come. In between, some monies were lost or gained at Adelaide's new casino and, on the gourmet side, the wide range of cuisine offered by the city's restaurants was sampled. Some even managed to get to an Australian rules football match on the weekend!

Overall, international attendance at the Conference was most gratifying,

notwithstanding the long-standing low ebb in the mineral industry and the recent steep fall in petroleum prices which has sent reverberations through petroleum exploration companies worldwide. The absence of delegates from the southeast Asian area, however, was cause for disappointment, especially since one of the reasons for bringing the Conference to Australia was to assist attendance from this part of the hemisphere. In this respect, the attendance by 4 delegates from The People's Republic of China was very welcome.

The Fourth International Conference on Geoscience Information will be held in Ottawa, Canada, in 1990. For more details in due course, contact Annette Bourgeois, Geological Survey of Canada, 601 Booth Street, Ottawa, Canada.

The price for the 2-volume Conference Proceedings is A\$75 per set, plus postage. Orders should be sent to:

AMF Bookshop  
PB 97  
Glenside, South Australia 5065

*from:* Nancy J. Pruett, Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque

Raymond A. Price, Director of the Geological Survey of Canada, gave an excellent overview of the need for geoscience information for policy-making.

Richard Jones provided an excellent analogy between data and a harvest. The data is like grain. Information is data which has had something done to it, so it is like flour. Knowledge is even further processed (like bread) and libraries are like bakeries, where various kinds of bread are available. One of the corollaries of the analogy is that the farther you go up the chain the less flexible you are, i.e., you can do many more different things with grain (raw data) than you can after it's been made into bread. No matter the quality of the information or know-

ledge, geoscientists often have the need to go back to the raw data.

Bill Henderson gave an excellent description of relational databases, with some explanation of why they're so useful in the geosciences.

Susan Klimley reported on a study which found that the percentage of the total geology literature which U.S. geology libraries are *not* collecting is much higher than anyone expected.

Donna Koepp talked about the Colorado computer maps electronic atlas. This is a system at Denver Public Library which produces maps of Colorado on demand (e.g., census maps by district) and was a good demonstration of how far technology for graphics has progressed.

Julie Bichteler reviewed expert systems in geoscience information. Many of the first expert systems (such as Prospector) were developed for mineral exploration and diagnosis of drilling mud problems, and have been quite successful in their narrow fields of expertise.

My Keynote Paper addressed trends which are affecting geoscience libraries and information services and they presented what an ideal geoscience system might be like. Many of the later papers described aspects of the ideal system which already exist, and they often referred to my keynote address. I also chaired a session on database creation and applications, and facilitated one of the discussion groups for Thursday's workshop session. (Our group won 2nd prize for best discussion group, and there wasn't any 1st prize). I also participated in the resolutions committee and in planning for the next International Conference which will be held in Ottawa 4 years from now.

In addition to an excellent program (with lots of dialog between the computer types, the users, and the librarians), the food, wine, and hospitality

were magnificent. The Canadians have a tough act to follow.

*from:* Susan Klimley, Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory, Columbia University

Unlike the 2nd International Geoscience Conference held 4 years ago in Golden, Colorado, the emphasis of the 3rd International Conference was on the mineral industry. This put a slant on the meeting less familiar to me, as Lamont has not had an economic geologist in years. I supply information on mineral exploitation infrequently and then usually to business students. On one hand, it was interesting for me to look at what I do from a production viewpoint and it is clear that some of the most highly developed information systems have been developed in an industrial setting. But I do feel that the issue of information transfer (and probably the relationship between basic research and industrial concerns) was inadequately discussed in the formal meeting and only briefly discussed informally.

Although librarians predominated at the meeting, there was a strong contingent of geology information handlers who characterize themselves as data managers rather than librarians. This latter group of people was mostly made up of male "practicing" geologists and they dominated formal presentations. The two groups were distinguished by the librarians' orientation toward bibliographic, printed material and the data managers' orientation toward numerical and/or source data. I sensed a certain amount of tension between these two groups, less apparent in formal presentations than in informal "working meetings" where the librarians express the common frustrations of having a lot of maintenance activity (and perhaps lack of access to needed hardware) that prevents them from moving into areas outside traditional library concerns. This is not to suggest that this tension prevented or inhibited discussions.

The only open conflict that emerged was during the discussion of the level of personnel necessary to do good indexing. (Was a "half geologist" good enough? Actually I sensed there was more than one "half librarian" present.)

The common theme of the Conference was the need to move toward more integrated informational systems— combined access to source data and bibliographic data in a system that will allow for unbundling of information components and manipulation of them in new ways.

Nancy Pruett presented a theoretical model for such a system that provided a point of focus for many of the papers that followed, as speakers were able to compare existing system with an ideal, theoretical system. Philip Stark of Petroleum Information Corporation discussed operational systems that combine a wide variety of exploration data with production and management data. Other presentations discussed systems that seem to be pieces of future systems envisioned: Dampney's paper on the Australian Society of Exploration Geophysicists standard for digital transfer of data; Nishiwaki's paper on the Japanese data base on fossil specimens deposited in Japan which has used a variety of graphic techniques, just to name two.

I sense that a key to this development may lay in Bill Henderson's paper on relational data bases and a discussion at the poster session of David Piesse's MINFILE system. This is important as the "relational" data bases appear to be in contrast to a "hierarchical" data base which is more common to our bibliographic utilities. It appeared to me that the relational systems freed the data from the constraints inherent in some of our bibliographic systems and allowed it to be manipulated in a more flexible way. This discussion made me very much aware that the basic philosophies of the data base management systems on which we hang our data have a profound effect on what we are going to be able to do with the information in these data bases.\*

Other interesting papers included Julie Bichteler's paper which clarified my understanding on progress on expert systems in geoscience. I liked Ray Price's characterization of geology as being "site specific." Nancy Pruett's display of a graph from King's study of energy information centers— which showed that the greater the distance in minutes a user is from the library, the less likely the patron is to use the library— was a big hit.

Two observations: it was interesting to see institutional chart after chart with the library separate from the systems offices and sometimes two or three data collection offices in a single organization, in view of the overwhelming opinion that these functions had to be combined. A paper by Gary North presented by David Cobb once more made me reflect on the vast resources and systems being developed at the USGS that do not seem to be accessible to the outside and the apparent lack of transfer of the technology to applications outside government.

\* People interested in finding out more about relational data bases should take a look at Michael Koenig's "Data relationships—Bibliographic information retrieval systems and database management systems," in *Information Technology and Libraries*, Sept. 1985, p. 247-272.

from: Dick Walker, Library School,  
University of Wisconsin

The meeting was not as well attended as we would have liked, but those in attendance were treated to a good, well run conference. We were well fed, treated to excellent drink, including South Australian wines and beer, and enough free time to exchange ideas and to discuss the papers. The weather was lovely (as the Australians are wont to say), lots of warm sunshine and clear skies. It was a relaxed group and we got along very well.

from: Julie Bichteler, University of  
Texas at Austin

The charming city of Adelaide was the perfect site for the Third International Conference, offering us a variety of attractions in our roles both as geoscience information professionals and as tourists. The conference was a great success. I especially enjoyed papers by Australians which gave us an overview of present achievements and future plans in several areas of geoscience information processing and management in their country. Discussions after these papers were particularly interesting and helped us to get better acquainted with our hosts and their concerns. Facilities at the Australian Mineral Foundation were ideal for our meetings, and staff members were exceptionally helpful and competent. As a tourist I have many pleasant memories— holding koalas at the Cleland Conservation Park, viewing the city at night from Mt. Lofty, sampling the wonderful South Australian wines in the Barossa Valley, admiring the incredible variety of opals, visiting the libraries and the university campus, and seeing the latest hit movie *Crocodile Dundee* (don't miss it!). Those of us from Austin were particularly fortunate to be able to go to Adelaide this year, since Austin and Adelaide are sister cities for our sesquicentennials. Our hosts treated us royally and certainly set high standards in hospitality when the folks from Adelaide visit Austin in the fall. All in all, a marvelous experience!

from: Dedy Ward, University of  
Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

The meeting was professionally handled by AMF and members of AGIA in every respect. About 125 delegates were present, and they developed the same close camaraderie as in previous conferences. The workshop produced resolutions on national and international actions. The next conference will be in Ottawa in 1990.

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ODE TO THE 3ICGI CONFERENCE,  
ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, JUNE 1986

by  
Anonymous, et al

(Read by Kerry Smith at the last session  
of 3ICGI.)

3ICGI is over  
The AMF is quiet,  
Poor Dean and Des sit lonely  
And ponder at the sight.

Paul Shelley's back at BMR,  
Nancy's gone on home,  
The posters have all disappeared,  
Thank goodness. We're now alone.

Here comes de Boss,  
It's Gunga Dean,  
We quiver and we shake!  
And here comes all the BMR,  
They're often running late!

Jack and Ghassam sat side by side,  
As papers came and went,  
'Twas not the message spreading wide,  
That stretched their intellect.

Annette arrived with her Papa,  
A grey haired gentle man,  
Who takes fair maidens on his knee  
When riding in a van.

An Irishman? German descent,  
Was wont to be quite caustic  
His comments prefaced with "Good God!"  
Is he also an agnostic?

I'm giving the talk! I run the show!  
We show the way, you see.  
To those of you not in the know,  
'Tis our secret, tee hee hee.

West Australia led the way,  
Used "yes" to all the answers,  
They even worked their holiday,  
And boasted some fine dancers.

The climax was a brainstorm  
A gathering of fine mind,  
To ponder on the global scene,  
Solve issues of a kind.

Dick swore he'd never touch THE PRIZE  
And vowed that they would spurn it,  
Lo and behold to his surprise,  
'Twas his team that did earn it.

Did we succeed?  
Will *we* make change?  
Will all be as before?  
It's up to us to pave the way,  
For the information poor.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THE BOARD ON EARTH SCIENCES MEETING

The Board on Earth Sciences convened a meeting of presidents and executive directors of major American solid earth sciences professional organizations on February 7, 1986, to explore the commonalities of goals and to enhance the effectiveness of individuals and organizations. The following items were discussed:

- Responsibilities of the Board of Earth Sciences and the American Geological Institute
- New scientific initiatives in the solid earth sciences
- The International Geosphere-Biosphere Program
- The International Decade of Hazard Reduction
- The deteriorating situation in the American energy and mineral resources industries
- The state of geological mapping in the United States
- Funding for research in the solid earth sciences.
- The 1989 International Geological Congress

Policy statements were developed on several of these topics. Program areas were identified that require the continuing attention of the earth sciences community.

A summary report enumerating the problem areas is available in the public domain. The Board will address these areas and seeks the support of the American earth science community. Representatives from many earth science organizations attended this year's meeting, and a larger turnout for next year's meeting is encouraged.

The 28th International Geological Congress will be held July 9-19, 1989 in Washington, D.C. The congress will feature sessions on basic and applied science, including resources, pollution, hazardous waste, geologic hazards, and land use. There will be symposiums, lectures, reporting and poster sessions, and many field trips, both locally and around the U.S. The Geological Society of America and the American Association of Petroleum Geologists will be responsible for various activities at the Congress. For further information, contact:

Bruce B. Hanshaw, Secretary General  
28th International Geological Congress  
Box 1001  
Herndon, VA 22070  
(703) 648-6053

GeoNodes, Inc., a computer teleconference organizing service for geopprofessionals has changed its name from Geonet Inc.

GeoNode's services include systems analysis to develop computer conferences for inter- or intra-organizational communications needs, research and compilation of requested data for on-line presentation, conference facilitation, and participant training.

For further information, contact:

Nancy J. Nadel  
P. O. Box 29046  
Oakland, CA 94604  
(415) 547-8160



## San Antonio Meeting Notes

### Accommodations

The La Quinta Convention Center Motel has been selected as the "unofficial" GIS motel. All this means is that those members that are interested in getting into the same hotel as other GIS members can use this one. It was selected because of its reasonable rates, about \$35 single and \$42 double, closeness to most activities, and it has a coffee shop.

There are no specially reserved rooms for us, so if you want to stay there, make your reservations early through the usual GSA reservations procedures. It is one of the GSA convention hotels.

### Technical Sessions

There are a number of interesting papers that are scheduled to be given. For the symposium, Users and Geoscience Information, we will actually have a user speaking to us.

### GeoRef Workshops

The popular workshop for beginning GeoRef users will be given again. Also, for the first time, there will be a workshop on training GeoRef users. This should be very useful, particularly in light of the increased interest and emphasis on end-user training.

### Social Events

In addition to the customary ice breaker and luncheon, there will be a field trip to Enchanted Rock. The field trip will be led by Dr. Robert Reed, Chairman of the Trinity College Geology Department. On the way back to San Antonio, we will stop for dinner at the Settlement Inn. Their specialty is barbecue, which is acclaimed by a GIS member to be really good. Those unable to make the field trip, but wishing to join us for the dinner may do so.

It looks like we will be having a very good meeting, so I hope that you can go. See you in San Antonio.

### DIRECTORY OF PALAEOLOGISTS

Preparations for the 5th edition of the *Directory of palaeontologists of the world* are underway. This edition will be published at the time of the 28th International Geological Congress to be held July 1989 in Washington, D.C. Over the next year Rex Doescher of the National Museum of Natural History will be collecting the names and other necessary information about every paleontologist in the world, and any cooperation would be appreciated.

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### GEOLOGICAL LITERATURE NEEDED BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Increasing numbers of organizations are contributing copies of their publications to selected third world institutions. Recycling extra copies of back issues increases the flow of scientific literature to scientists who would otherwise be unable to obtain current information in the geosciences. Coordinating such a program, establishing guidelines, and identifying potential donors and recipients are all areas for

further research. In you are interested in more information, please contact:

AGID  
Asian Institute of Technology  
P. O. Box 2754  
Bangkok 10501, Thailand

or, the coordinator of SEPM's project:

Dr. Molly Miller  
Department of Geology  
Vanderbilt University  
P. O. Box 6001, Station B  
Nashville, TN 37235

A more detailed report on this issue is in *Episodes*, v. 9, March 1986, p. 29.

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## PUBLICATIONS

The new list of AGI Publications and Services is now available. New publications, special publications, and services are highlighted in color, and there is also a section on forthcoming titles.

Some selected entries:

*Geology of the Black Hills, South Dakota and Wyoming*, 2nd ed., ed. by F. J. Rich. 292 p. \$22.50.

*GeoRef online workshop training manual*, rev. and updated by Dr. G. N. Rassam and Sharon Tahirkheki. 140 p. \$35.00.

A comprehensive guide to searching GeoRef, and an effective self-teaching tool.

*Guidelines for reviews of geological manuscripts*, by H. E. Malde. 36 p. \$3.95.

Concise advice on what to look for in a geologic paper and how to review it for significance, soundness, and completeness.

*How to collect mountains*, by C. B. Hunt. 36 p. \$4.95.

A geowhimsical classic.

*Minerals—Foundations of Society*, by Ann Dorr. 56 p. \$4.00.

A non-technical overview of non-fuel minerals, covering their significance, origin, and the complexities of making them available.

*Our modern stone age*, by R. L. Bates and J. A. Jackson. 150 p. \$12.95.

Details of our dependence on some important minerals. Well illustrated.

*Writer's guide to periodicals in earth science*, 2nd ed., ed. by Gail Papa and Sharon Marsh. 40 p. \$3.95.

Information about leading professional geoscience journals.

For additional information, contact:

Customer Service Department  
American Geological Institute  
4220 King Street  
Alexandria, VA 22302  
800/336-4764 (toll-free outside Virginia)

New index maps for the 2nd National High Altitude Photography (NHAP II) program are available from the USGS. Coverage is through March and shows maximum foliage. Available black-and-white aerial photographs scale 1:80,000 are on one side of the map and color-infrared aerial photographs scale 1:58,000 are on the other. The photos are available as 9" x 9" prints or as enlargements. Contact the USGS for more information.

*A selected and annotated listing of petroleum atlases, maps, and map sources*, by Jannette Sharp Wesley (U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 86-262) is now available. This selection and acquisition aid for petroleum maps lists sources of maps, distributors and publishers for individual maps, atlases, and maps in volumes. The coverage focuses on North America, but also includes some international titles and sources.

DIRECTORY OF GEOSCIENCE LIBRARIES, 3rd Ed., AVAILABLE

Nancy Crossfield, chair of the Directory Project, has announced that the 3rd edition of the *Directory of geoscience libraries, United States and Canada*, is now available. In Orlando, the GIS membership voted to have a 2-tiered pricing structure benefiting GIS members. Members ordering a copy (or copies) of the new Directory using the order form printed below (or a photocopy thereof), will be eligible for the member's price of \$10. (U.S.) per copy. Members may order any number of copies. (The non-member list price is \$20.)

Paid orders received by September 1, 1986 will be mailed immediately. Orders received after then will be delayed. (Until Sept. 1, Nancy will ship the copies directly from Fresno. After then, she'll send the entire inventory to our Inventory Manager, Aphrodite Mamoulides, in Houston. That enterprise will take several weeks, due to the vagaries of the U.S. Postal Service.)

This offer applies to GIS members only. Subscribers to the Newsletter are not eligible for the discount. (Orders from non-members will be returned with an invoice for the list price.)

GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY

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NOTE: You may also use this order blank as an order form, and a proforma invoice will to you for prepayment at the same price. If you choose this route, check the space below and mail to the address above.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bill me.

The *Atlas of the exclusive economic zone, western conterminous United States* (U.S. Geological Survey Miscellaneous Investigations series map I-1792) is now available. The atlas covers potential energy and mineral resources and features previously unmapped submarine volcanoes, landslides, faults, and channels. The cost is \$45. Orders must include check or money order made payable to the Department of the Interior, USGS and should specify the atlas by title and number. Order from:

Western Distribution Branch  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Box 25286  
Federal Center  
Denver, CO 80225  
(303) 236-7477

The *Bibliography on the geology and geotechnical engineering of the Bangkok area*, by E. W. Brand, is now available from the Asian Information Center for Geotechnical Engineering (AGE). The bibliography contains over 700 references and covers the whole central plain area of Thailand. Price is \$25.00. Order from:

Asian Information Center for Geotechnical Engineering  
Asian Institute of Technology  
P. O. Box 2754  
Bangkok 10501, Thailand

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#### MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

The Summer, 1986 issue of *Special Libraries* contains two articles by GIS members: "Human aspects of high tech in special libraries," p. 121-128, by JULIE BICHTLER, and "In-house automation of a small library using a mainframe computer," p. 162-169, by FRANCES B. WARANIUS.

SOPHIE A. SMITH, manager of library/information services, Hart Crowser, Inc., Seattle, has been elected international chair, SLA Engineering Division.

The Summer, 1986 issue of *Geobyte* has an article by PHILIP W. STOFFER, "Where and why to search on-line for geological literature," p. 24-27.

JANNETTE SHARP WESLEY is the author of a new USGS Open-File Report, *A selected and annotated listing of petroleum atlases, maps, and map sources*.

#### NEW MEMBERS

Michaele Lee Huygen  
Montana Tech Library  
Butte, MT 59701

#### FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- Sept. 7-10, 1986—Society of Mining Engineers of the AIME; fall meeting; St. Louis, MO.  
Sept. 11-12, 1986—Western Association of Map Libraries; fall meeting, Eugene, OR.  
Sept. 17-19, 1986—American Institute of Professional Geologists; annual meeting; Keystone, CO.  
Sept. 26-28, 1986—Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists; midyear, annual meeting; Raleigh, NC.  
Nov. 2-5, 1986—Society of Exploration Geophysicists; annual meeting, Houston.  
Nov. 10-13, 1986—Geological Society of America; annual meeting; San Antonio.

# LIBRARY PROFILE: THE UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN GEOLOGY/PHYSICS LIBRARY

by

DAVID P. SALT, *Engineering and Science Librarian*  
University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK S7N 0W0

The University of Saskatchewan Geology/Physics Library opened in July, 1986 when the collections from the previously separate Geology and Physics Libraries were amalgamated in a facility in the new CDN \$20 million Geological Sciences Building. The incorporation of the Physics collection was necessitated by the fact that its existing space would be utilized in linking the new building to the old Physics Building. Fortunately, the two collections are largely complementary in that the Geology collections cover geoscience and mining engineering, while the Physics collections contain a large amount of material on astronomy, cosmology, geophysics, and atmospheric science, as well as mainstream physics.

The Geology/Physics holdings number some 65,000 bound volumes, of which about 40,000 are specifically geoscience. Only a few microforms are now housed in the Branch; most are in the Government Publications, Maps and Microforms Department of the Main Library. However, with the improved facilities in the new building, consideration is being given to moving the relevant microforms to the new Branch. About 10,000 maps are housed in the new library, with another 50,000 (mostly geophysical or aeromagnetic) being held elsewhere in the Geological Science Department. Some 485 periodical titles are currently received. Depository material received from the Geological Survey of Canada is held here. The geographic emphasis of the geoscience collections is on the Province of Saskatchewan, the Great Plains, and western and northern Canada. A special collection of the library are theses on the geology of Saskatchewan; the Library collects copies of theses produced at other institutions whenever copyright restrictions allow. An annotated bib-

liography of theses on the geology of Saskatchewan to September 1985 has been prepared (Salt, 1986).

The Geology/Physics Library occupies a 720 sq. meter space on the ground floor of the new Geological Sciences Building and has some 66 study spaces. It is linked to the University of Saskatchewan Library's Geac automated circulation system and online public access catalog. Online searching using an IBM PC is available through DIALOG, SDC, BRS, and CAN/OLE on a direct cost recovery basis. Databases commonly searched are GeoRef, GeoArchive, Compendex, and CAS.

While the Geology/Physics Library primarily serves the University of Saskatchewan community, many off-campus users are registered with us, enabling them to borrow our materials; and reference assistance is given whenever possible. The usual interlibrary loan services are also available.

The Geology/Physics Library is open September-April, 8 am to 10 pm, Monday through Thursday, 8 am to 8 pm Friday, 10 am to 4 pm Saturday, and noon to 5 pm Sunday. During the summer the hours are 8 am to noon and 1 pm to 4 pm, Monday through Friday, closed Saturday and Sunday. Phone: (306) 966-6047.

## *Reference*

Salt, D. P., 1986, An annotated bibliography of theses on the geology of Saskatchewan: Saskatchewan Geological Survey Branch Saskatchewan Energy and Mines Data File 10, 105 p. (Available from: Regina Fast Print, 1639 Broad Street, Regina, SK S4P 1X3; Phone: (306) 359-1944.)

## THE CONTINUING SAGA OF CD-ROM

by

Susan Klimley

Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory  
Palisades, NY 10964

Perhaps just corporate users:  
When a new disc is produced the old one has to be returned or it costs \$500

After hearing and talking about CD-ROM for the last 8 months, I finally got a chance to try one of the 3 CD installations that have been attempted at Columbia University in the past few months. The one I tried has been quite a success but not all the installations have been. I have also found it interesting to talk to the librarians involved and hear about some of the problems—expected and unexpected—that they've had with CD's.

Teacher's College was asked by DIALOG to act as a test site for their CD version of ERIC. The system has been in use now for over a month and has been such a hit with students that a half-hour allotment sign-up sheet has been needed. The system permits access by both easy access and the DIALOG search system. I really didn't sense any difference between searching online and via CD. The protocols are the same and the response time seemed similar. The easy access was really a treat. Although I had never used it before, I found the options easy to understand, the mechanism for selecting options clear and the ability to escape from dead-end searches a relief. Since I am not familiar with ERIC on a sophisticated basis, I was unable to determine whether easy access concealed "pitfalls" of the data base from me (as some of the front-end systems for GeoRef seem to), but the librarians I spoke to did not seem to think this was a problem.

The Business Library has had the financial data base Disclosure on CD for several months. Although they originally got it on 30-day approval, they found the initial demo so good that it was subscribed to immediately. It costs \$3200/year including the CD rental which will become the library's at the end of

~~two~~ two years. The business students use it continuously and it has also become an important resource for the Business School Placement Office. The system is distributed directly by Disclosure and runs on the DIALOG software.

There have been some interesting problems. A couple of times industrious students have swiped the operating software, apparently under the impression that if they copied it they would have access to the whole data base. At one point the system refused to work. After having the symptoms read over the phone to them, the vendor sent an updated version of the software which seems to have resolved the malfunction. Another occasional problem has been that the disk just gets dirty. A little Windex and it works fine.

The installation of the *Electronic Encyclopedia* in the School of Library Service library proved to be a failure. The software caused the search system to abort right at the beginning of a search. Talks with Grolier indicated that the solution to the problem was in one of two manuals, neither of which had been included with the CD. Repeated calls to the distributor went unreturned until the disk was finally returned for a refund.

The case of the *Electronic Encyclopedia* at the School of Library Service may have been an isolated incident. But the problems encountered both there and in the Business Library point to the importance of good vendor and data base support for these products.

One final note on the CD front: In the last couple of weeks, I've received advertisements for two systems that pro-

duce CD's from company documents. ACCTEX Information Systems is advertising the TAB Laser-Optic series 1000 Filing System. It includes an IBM PC and scans documents, digitizes them, stores on an optical disk and has a laser printer for hardcopy output for \$49,000. Computer Access Corporation is selling an "evaluation program" that includes a CD-ROM player, software, "services and support necessary to produce" 50 searchable test discs which costs \$9,800— you supply the IBM PC.

Although these systems are still beyond our reach financially and not really geared to the book-type preservation options that we need, I think it's good to see the spread of the technology to managing paper in business and industry. I suspect the day of being able to send a journal run to a company to be put on a CD is not very far away. Well, maybe a little further away if it has color maps and foldouts...

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### JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### ENGINEERING/SCIENCE LIBRARIAN, THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHARLOTTE

General reference duties and liaisons with the College of Engineering and the departments of Mathematics, Physics, and Geography/Earth Science. Qualifications: MLS required; undergraduate or advanced degree in Engineering, Computer Science, Mathematics, or Physics preferred; at least two years of science or technology reference experience in an academic library preferred, along with online searching and library instruction. Salary: \$20,000 minimum. Deadline: August 15, 1986. Send resume and names of three references to:

Raymond A. Frankle, Director  
J. Murray Atkins Library  
University of North Carolina at Charlotte  
Charlotte, NC 28223

#### REFERENCE LIBRARIAN/SCIENCE BIBLIOGRAPHER, LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY

Reference assistance, user education and collection development. Requirements: MLS; five years science, engineering or medical professional library experience or degree in science or engineering. Desired: academic or special library reference experience. Salary: \$20,000 minimum. Deadline: August 22, 1986. Send letter, resume, and names of three references to:

Mrs. Burnelle Brantley, Chair  
Search Committee  
Prescott Memorial Library  
Louisiana Tech University  
Ruston, LA 71272

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONTRIBUTORS

The GIS Newsletter welcomes original, previously unpublished English language papers related to geoscience information. Manuscripts should be typed on opaque paper, on one side only, double-spaced throughout, with 3 cm margins on all sides, and all pages numbered consecutively. Length should not exceed 12 pages.

The title page should include the title, the name(s) of the author(s) and their institutional address(es). References should be mentioned in the text (author and date), with a list of "References cited" appearing at the end of the paper, following GSA reference style. Provide on a separate sheet an informative abstract of no more than 200 words and a biographical sketch of the author(s), of

no more than 100 words, which includes current position and education.

Clear, black and white (glossy) photographs and illustrations with strong contrast should be submitted on separate sheets from the text and numbered consecutively in order of reference in the text. Tables and figures should be submitted on separate sheets from the text, numbered, and referred to in the text by number.

Send two (2) copies of the manuscript to the Chairperson, GIS Newsletter Editorial Board. Include a phone number where the author(s) may be reached and a self-addressed stamped envelope for notification of receipt of manuscript. Each manuscript will be reviewed by at least two persons.

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Connie Manson - Editor  
Geoscience Information Society  
2525 Sleater Kinney Road N.E.  
Olympia, WA 98506

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