



GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY

newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I am now starting to get "dug out" from the annual meeting and the holidays. So far I have been working mostly on GeoRef topics. As some of you may know, John Mulvihill, Director of the GeoRef Information System, asked the GIS Executive Board to consider the proposal to charge for the GeoRef Workshops that GIS and GeoRef put on jointly. Another topic that came up was that GeoRef might have to reduce its citations by 10,000 because of staff and funding difficulties. The GIS Executive Board will be sending an official response to these two proposals to GeoRef and to the American Geological Institute in the near future.

Related to GeoRef, there are four vacancies in the GeoRef User's Group. The appointments are for a two year period. The purpose of the User's Group is to

- 1) Advise GeoRef of needed improvements
- 2) Share information about searching GeoRef in order to improve overall skill and knowledge of GeoRef searchers

- 3) Advise vendors, such as Dialog etc., on changes needed in the way GeoRef is searchable on their systems
- 4) Inform and educate non-searching GIS members about online searching for geological information, and
- 5) Improve accessibility of all geological information online.

If you are interested in serving this group, please contact:

Barbara Pearson
Exxon Production Research Company
Box 2189
Houston, TX 77252-2189
phone: 713/965-4541

One very important activity of this group is to conduct the GeoRef training sessions at the annual meeting. Also, if you are not satisfied with GeoRef, here is a chance to get your opinions heard.

On another topic, I will be traveling to Washington, D.C. to attend a meeting of the Board on Earth Sciences of the National Research Council. It is billed as a summit meeting. I will report on the meeting in the April issue.

To those of you who are working on the various committees, I will be getting around to making you "official" this month. In the meantime, continue on with your work. For the April issue, I will publish a list of the committees.

I hope that all of you had pleasant holidays and that you have a prosperous new year.

1987 GIS Officers

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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 per year and is included in the Society's annual membership dues. All correspondence regarding dues, membership status, and address change should be directed to the GIS Secretary.

GIS members are encouraged to contribute materials for publication. Research articles and technical reports should be submitted to the Editorial Board for review and possible publication. Informational reports, officer and committee reports, publication notices, job announcements, and other news items should be submitted to the News Gathering Editor.

Material for the April *Newsletter* should be received by the editors no later than March 20, 1987.

EDITORS' COLUMN

This issue includes the minutes for the various GIS meetings held at the San Antonio conference. These are important communications to the membership since so much of the policy-making and direction of the Society is determined in these meetings. If you have any ideas or comments, please send them to the GIS officers.

We're pleased to start a new humor column, The High Plains Drifter, in this issue. Move over, Bob Bates!

And thanks to the accessibility of a reducing photocopier, we're able to change the look of the Newsletter. We hope you like it.

GIS 1986 ANNUAL MEETING

GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, NOVEMBER 11, 1986
MINUTES

Annette Bourgeois called the meeting to order at 8:07 am.

1. AGENDA: The proposed agenda for the meeting was amended and adopted.

2. 1985 MINUTES: The minutes of the 1985 business meeting, as published in the *Newsletter*, no. 98, February, 1986, were approved.

3. OFFICER REPORTS

3.1 Secretary: Connie Wick reported that as of November 3, the Society had 258 members, including 225 personal members and 33 institutional members. Seventy-one members did not renew this year, but we welcomed 16 new members. Membership is down 18% over the prior year.

3.2 Treasurer: Mary Ansari updated the Treasurer's report, as published in the October issue of the *Newsletter* (no. 102). Her annual report will appear in a future issue of the *Newsletter*.

3.3 Vice-President/President-Elect: Bob Bier reported on the meeting, symposium, technical papers session, and GIS field trip.

3.4 Exhibit Booth Manager: John Crissinger encouraged all GIS members to stop by and help out at the exhibit booth. He reported that this year's booth cost \$129 including chair and table rental, and custodial services.

3.5 Publications Manager: Jim O'Donnell thanked Nancy Crossfield for her work on the *Directory of Geoscience Libraries*, which is selling well. The *GIS Membership Directory*, however, is not selling well; we sold three copies this year. There are currently 45 standing orders for the *Proceedings*. Jim noted that this year we should publish no more than 125 more copies than are needed for our members. There are currently 27 *Newsletter* subscriptions. The careers brochure continues to be a very popular item, and will need to be reprinted soon.

3.6 Newsletter Editorial Board: Miriam Sheaves discussed the future and functions of the Board. There appears to be some ambiguity in the intent and mission of the Board, and the Society should examine the Board's functions.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

4.1 Membership Committee: Dena Stepp was not able to attend to give her report. Annette Bourgeois noted that the membership directory will not be issued in 1986. There will be a special meeting of

some members of the Executive Board and committee chairpersons to evaluate GIS automation needs.

4.2 Guidebooks Committee: Charlotte Derksen, chair, reported that the committee has been hard at work on the next edition of the *Union List*. Committee members have specific geographic responsibilities in coordinating output. A timetable has been set, and the committee should be finished with their work in January of 1988. A new feature of the list will be a formation index. Charlotte discussed the importance of the *Union List*, as alternative sources of information, such as RLIN, often do not turn up guidebook information. Jim O'Donnell noted that the format was hard to work with, and hoped that improvements could be made next time. Miriam Sheaves re-affirmed the importance of the guidelines for editors and publishers of guidebooks, developed by Claren Kidd, and expressed hope that we get these guidelines to the appropriate persons.

4.3 Best Geoscience Information Paper Award: Rosalind Walcott announced that the GIS Award for the best geoscience information paper has been awarded to Susan Klimley for her paper, "Saving geology libraries: What's available?" (*GIS Proceedings*, v. 15, 1984). Ros commended Susan for her work in tackling a long-standing problem. She also noted that more nominations are needed for the next award, and that the committee may do the nominating.

4.4 Best Geoscience Reference Book Award: Nancy Pruett reviewed the purpose and explanation of the award. By giving this award, we intend to honor someone outside of the GIS membership. Miriam Sheaves noted the importance of publicizing both this and the best geoscience paper award. The membership unanimously voted to go ahead with this award.

4.5 Checklist for evaluation of geoscience journals: John Crissinger reported on the work of this committee which has developed guidelines which should aid journal reviewers. The committee has now been dissolved.

4.6 Nominating Committee: Rosalind Walcott announced that Jean Eaglesfield has been elected vice-president, and that Miriam Sheaves has been elected secretary.

5. GEOREF USERS GROUP: Discussion on the possible fees for the workshops will be discussed under 10.1 below.

6. GIS REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS:

6.1 CUAC: Nancy Pruett reported that there will be a meeting in Washington, D.C., in January. On the agenda will be the depository program and discussion of videodisc and CD-ROM applications for map information. Nancy called for GIS members to

let her know of specific problems, depository and other, to bring to CUAC. CUAC will also be contacting UMI concerning standards for microfilming maps. Nancy noted the importance of having a long-term view in dealing with government agencies at the present time, as they are all short on funding. Jean Eaglesfield commented on the problems stemming from not having an up-to-date *National Atlas*. Charles Bennett of the USGS was credited with being a very helpful resource for those who have had problems and concerns with USGS maps.

6.2 AGI: Unni Rowell reported on the status of GeoRef within the context of AGI. GeoRef provides 58% of AGI's income, but incurs 40% of the institution's expenses. Unni noted that AGI expects industry support to decrease in the current economy. As a result of diminished income, AGI will not be sponsoring a congressional fellow. On the positive side, a new edition of the *Glossary of Geology* will be published in 1987, and AGI will undertake a survey of North American geoscientists next year. Unni noted that GIS members should make their feelings regarding the AGI-GeoRef funding situation known.

6.3 SLA Geography and Map Division: Dorothy McGarry was not able to attend to present her report. It was noted that the SLA Geography and Map Division has adopted the Standards for University Map Collections (see *SLA Geography and Map Division Bulletin*, no. 143, March, 1986).

7. AGI TASKFORCE ON SERIALS AND COVERAGE IN GEOREF: Charlotte Derksen indicated that the committee has been charged with recommending priorities for GeoRef serial coverage, as they need to cut 10,000 items per year from the database to save on indexing costs. The committee will recommend a core of 100 journal titles which should be indexed speedily. Outside of this core is another 200-300 titles which should be the next priority. Charlotte noted that GeoRef online income is down because as petroleum companies cut back on exploration, they also cut back on literature searching. If cutting back needs to be done, the committee should insure that it is the lower priority material that is being cut. Dedy Ward commented on the ethics of diminishing the scope of a database which has been comprehensive in the past. He also wondered how the deletion of part of the database reflections on AGI's missions of communication and education. Mark Finnegan noted how prioritizing indexing has been a practice at *Petroleum Abstracts*. Joanne Lerud commented that by assisting in the creation of a list of core journals we may appear to be accepting of AGI's business practices. A GIS position paper on this subject was tabled until the NEW BUSINESS segment. Other members of the AGI taskforce are Margy Walsh, Miriam Sheaves, and Susan Klimley.

8. 1988 MEETING: Dedy Ward reported that there will be an exhibit of rare and early books and maps on North American geology, coordinated by Hart Phinney. GIS may do a workshop in conjunction with NAGT. Symposia are being planned and the GSA Council is planning a "mega symposium" which will be in an unopposed time slot. He also indicated that we may do a joint symposium with the International Committee of Mathematical Geoscientists. Dedy encouraged

GIS members to go on GSA field trips with geologists, as well as our own trips. Other ideas include a special GIS award, a special student forum, and using the theme of "New Directions" for our business meeting.

9. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION: The Australian conference was a success, and the Fourth Conference will be held in Ottawa, hosted by the Geological Survey of Canada.

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.1 GeoRef: Members discussed the AGI proposal to charge a fee of \$25 for the GeoRef workshop given at the conference. Jim O'Donnell suggested that maybe there should be a hands-on workshop with the usual \$100 charge. There was general sentiment that GIS members would like to sponsor a workshop featuring various databases. In the past we have ignored the other databases which may be of use to the geoscience community. It was suggested that the *Newsletter* could serve as a forum for further discussion of the subject. It was agreed that the 1987 Executive Board will determine how best to relay our concerns to AGI. The Board requested input from those at the meeting. Barbara Pearson, chair of the GeoRef Users Group, will be contacted to coordinate our response.

10.2 Exhibit Booth: In addition to her request for discussion on the exhibit booth, Jean Eaglesfield solicited input from the membership regarding the necessity/desirability of GIS annual field trips. She also wanted to know how people felt about the luncheon speaker, and described why she felt that the mechanism for producing the annual *Proceedings* is in need of change. She asked for input from members after the meeting. Jean then informed those in attendance of a proposal she will make to the Executive Board dividing up the responsibilities for the production of the exhibit. Susan Klimley thought it would be a good idea if members evaluated the exhibit by spending one hour helping out at the exhibit next year. John Crissinger noted that the purpose of the exhibit needs to be clearly defined, and that it might be a good idea if the exhibit is more interactive, perhaps including demonstrations of RLIN, DIALOG, and others. Joanne Lerud will chair the Exhibit Committee.

10.3 Membership Drive: People with ideas for the drive should contact Dena Stepp. It was noted that we will be accepting multi-year memberships in the future. Such memberships will be limited to three years. Dedy Ward noted the importance of expanding our membership.

10.4 Guidelines and Checklist: Annette noted that we need a volunteer to coordinate the distribution of the *Checklist for the Evaluation of Geoscience Journals* and the *Field Trip Guidelines* to the appropriate agencies and publications. We need to do this on an ongoing basis. As there were no volunteers, the 1987 Executive Board will ask someone to do this.

11. BY-LAWS COMMITTEE: It was noted that the By-Laws Committee will expand their work to include the Constitution. The Executive Board has developed a timetable for the committee. The suggested changes/ amendments will appear in the *Newsletter*, and there will be opportunity for discussion at next year's meeting, before members are asked to vote on the changes.

12. Those present extended thanks to Nancy Crossfield for her work in producing the *Directory of Geoscience Libraries*, to Bea Lukens for her work on the *Union List of Geologic Field Trip Guidebooks*, and to John Crissinger for his work on the exhibit booth. A hearty round of applause was given to each.

13. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

a. Dick Walker moved that GIS establish a fund to finance attendance at the 4th International Conference in Ottawa by third world conferees. The motion was seconded by Dedy Ward. Some discussion followed on the subject. It was estimated that a reasonable disbursement might be \$3000 to be shared by two people. Annette Bourgeois noted that UNESCO and AGID are also possible sources of funding. GSC, the conference's sponsor, will pursue these possibilities. Dick Walker noted that the \$3000 from GIS could be used as a matching fund. Nancy Pruett wondered how the award recipients would be determined. Lois Heiser noted that in view of this year's membership downturn, perhaps we should put the money somewhere else, such as subsidized institutional memberships. The membership voted, and the motion carried, with two opposed.

b. Lois Heiser raised the possibility of asking GSA to publish the field trip guidebooks for the annual conferences. Currently, distribution is not done by GSA, and guidebooks may be difficult to acquire. Jean Eaglesfield wondered if the guidebooks committee could look into this, but it was noted that the committee is currently very busy. Bob Bier said the Society should send a letter to GSA, to see if anything can be done. Jim O'Donnell reminded those present that guidebooks can be obtained by writing directly to the chairpersons of the conference. It was recommended that the Executive Board should decide what, if anything, should be done.

c. The Executive Board will set up an ad hoc committee to study current trends in pricing of geoscience journals. Lois Heiser will chair the committee.

d. Mary Ansari wanted to know if GIS should continue to publish the Treasurer's report in the *Newsletter*. It was agreed that members' need to know this information outweighed the possible concerns regarding our contractors knowing our financial situation.

e. John Crissinger noted that our current financial report does not reflect the publication costs of a proceedings volume, since none has been published this fiscal year.

f. It was noted that the upcoming meeting of the Australian Geoscience Information Society will be held in Brisbane, and that a flyer will be available at the Exhibit Booth.

g. Susan Klimley thanked GIS for funding she received to attend the 3rd International Conference in Australia.

h. Members were reminded to let the Executive Board know of their opinions regarding the Newsletter Editorial Board.

i. Joanne Lerud announced that Mary Scott is now living in Pittsburgh, working on her MLS, and has a new baby girl named Abigail.

j. Charlotte Derksen reminded those members who have access to BITNET to use it for GIS communication and the importance of getting BITNET addresses in next year's directory. Jean Eaglesfield mentioned the possibility of using the AGU electronic mail system, if GIS can work out a deal with them.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:54 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Wick
GIS Secretary [1986]

GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, NOVEMBER 9, 1986 MINUTES

Attending: Annette Bourgeois (presiding); Bob Bier; Jean Eaglesfield; Connie Wick; Mary Ansari; Connie Manson; Jim O'Donnell

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 pm by A. Bourgeois. The minutes of the last Executive Board meeting were approved and the agenda was adopted.

1. OLD BUSINESS

1.1 By-Laws Committee: Jim O'Donnell reported that in additions to the by-laws, changes may be needed in the Constitution. Discussion followed on several items, including the voting status of institutional members, length of time of the term of office for the President and the Vice-President (a longer term, although perhaps desirable, might be too much of a commitment to ask of our officers), the possibility of a separate field trip committee, the possibility of the Past-President arranging the technical papers session, and a proposal that the Secretary and the Treasurer could be appointed for a second term at the discretion of the Board (i.e., a person holding either of these offices could run for re-election unopposed.) The committee, now known as the Constitution and By-Laws Committee to reflect its expanded scope, will continue its work. The Committee will get the proposed changes to the members of the Executive Board. The Board will recommend changes or approval in time for the proposed changes to appear in the October issue of the *Newsletter*. At next year's meeting there will be an opportunity for all who wish to discuss the proposed changes. This will be an official, but separate, part of the business meeting. A ballot will appear in the December issue

of the *Newsletter*. Jim O'Donnell and Connie Manson will continue to serve on the Committee. Bob Bier will appoint two new members.

1.2 Best Reference Book: Annette read Nancy Pruet's proposal for a GIS award for the best reference book in the geosciences. The Board agreed to appoint an award committee. The criteria for the award will appear in the next issue of the *Newsletter*, as will the announcement of the formation of the committee.

1.3 GIS Automation Needs: The upcoming meeting on GIS's EDP needs was discussed. It was noted that there will undoubtedly be expenses incurred as we improve our database. Such potential expenses, as identified at the upcoming meeting, will be reported to the 1987 Executive Board.

1.4 Membership Directory: No directory was produced in 1986, but there will be a direction in 1987, and annually thereafter. Decisions need to be made as to which software will enable us to most efficiently produce the directory, as well as fulfill our other pressing information needs.

1.5 Electronic Mail: There was some discussion of some of the communications problems between GIS committee members and officers. Some people are currently using BITNET as an alternative to voice communication. BITNET and other electronic mail addresses should be routinely included in our membership directory.

1.6 IGC: The next International Geological Congress will be held in Washington, D.C. in July, 1989. GIS is committed to support and participation in the conference. Annette will contact Rosalind Walcott about GIS involvement in this.

2. NEW BUSINESS

2.1 Directory of Geoscience Libraries: The Board expressed unanimous delight with the new volume, and gave a vote of thanks to Nancy Crossfield. Annette will send a letter to Nancy.

2.2 GIS Membership: The Secretary's report indicates that there has been an 18% decrease in members this year. Discussion followed, and it was agreed that there should be a membership drive during the coming year. It was also agreed that GIS will accept multiple-year memberships, and it was noted that the forthcoming upgrade of our membership database should be able to handle all of the necessary record-keeping for multiple-year payments. The Board confirmed that GIS accepts memberships for the calendar year only. Members joining during the year will receive back issues of the *Newsletter*, and a copy of the membership directory for that year. Ex-members may claim and receive proceedings for meetings held in years they were members, even if they were published after the membership lapsed. Members joining in any calendar year receive the *Proceedings* which were published in that same year. Any membership application received after November 1 will be held and applied to the next calendar year. Our membership brochure should indicate this information.

2.3 Exhibit Booth: The Board agreed to congratulate John Crissinger for his tireless efforts in coordination of the exhibit booth. An award and presentation will be made at the upcoming business meeting. The Board discussed Jean Eaglesfield's proposed committee for the exhibit booth. The proposal will be approved or not approved by the 1987 Executive Board. In essence, the proposal calls for the work of setting up the exhibit to be shared by several people, with each person responsible for one aspect of the operation.

2.4 Best Geoscience Paper Committee: The committee has voted to give this year's award to Susan Klimley. The presentation will be made at the business meeting. In the future, in addition to seeking input from GIS members, the committee itself may do the nominating for the award.

2.5 Conference calls: The Board agreed that meetings once a year is not enough, and that conference calls might be one way to facilitate communication. It was agreed that GIS should bear the cost for these calls. The cost of one 40-minute call among Executive Board members should come to about \$200. The Board voted to approve funds for one such meeting, during which minutes will be taken for publication in the *Newsletter*. The 1987 Board will discuss conference call funding for the Exhibit Booth Committee.

2.6 Checklist for evaluation of geoscience journals: John Crissinger gave a report, and it was noted that we need to get these guidelines to those who need them, i.e., journal reviewers. We have the same need for the field trip guidebook guidelines developed by Claren Kidd. The Board felt that there should be an ongoing committee responsible for getting this information to the right places. We will ask for volunteers at the Business Meeting. Jim O'Donnell will have the journal evaluation standards and the guidebook guidelines printed on GIS letterhead.

2.7 Field Trip Committee: Jean noted that there may be a better way to plan for the GIS field trip. Perhaps there could be a field trip committee. Jean will develop this further and check with members for their opinions, including the need for a separate GIS field trip and the possibility of GIS getting involved with other GSA field trips.

2.8 Newsletter Editorial Board: There was a discussion as to the mission of the Newsletter Editorial Board. What is the intent of this board? Is there a need for a refereed journal? Should we publish our proceedings in parts? The 1987 Board will examine these issues.

2.9 GeoRef Workshops: Bob Bier read a proposal from John Mulvihill regarding a possible \$25 charge for the GeoRef workshop. Discussion followed, and it was agreed to get further input from the GIS membership at the business meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:17 pm.

GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY
1987 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, NOVEMBER 12, 1986
MINUTES

The 1987 Executive Board meeting, held on Wednesday, November 12, 1986, at the Pecos Room of the Hyatt Regency Hotel, San Antonio, Texas, was called to order at 9:15 am by Bob Bier, President. Those attending were: Annette Bourgeois, Past President; Bob Bier, President; Jean Eaglesfield, Vice President/President Elect; Mary Ansari, Treasurer; Miriam Sheaves, Secretary; and Connie Manson, Newsletter Editor (Production).

The first order of business was to list agenda items and agree on the agenda. The Board then began to address old business, discussing the membership and duties of the various ad hoc and standing committees.

OLD BUSINESS

— Ad Hoc Committee on Bylaws and the Constitution: Members: Jim O'Donnell, chair; Connie Wick; Connie Manson; Annette Bourgeois; Hart Phinney. Duties: The committee should incorporate the Ad Hoc Committee on the Best Geoscience Reference Book Award as a standing committee. Bob will inform Jim that Hart Phinney was appointed to the committee.

— Ad Hoc Committee on the Best Geoscience Reference Book Award: Members: Susan Klimley, chair*; Julie Bichteler*; Dedy Ward*. The above were discussed as possible committee members, as long as none are working on a book or have recently authored one which would qualify. Duties: Review literature; solicit comments from GIS membership; make recommendation to Executive Board by August 1; prepare suitable plaque or certificate; aim for first award for 1988, but if able to present one in 1987, fine; publicize award as appropriate in the geoscience and library science literature; the purpose is outlook; highly consider works outside GIS membership.

— GIS Best Paper Award Committee: Members: Rosalind Walcott, chair*; Reggie Brown*; Trudy Sinnott*. The above were discussed as possible committee members. Duties: Review literature; solicit comments from GIS membership; make a recommendation to Executive Board by August 1; prepare suitable plaque or certificate.

— GIS Editorial Review Board: Connie Manson proposed an occasional paper series as a possible solution to getting people to publish in a GIS publication, i.e., one which would be more visible and attractive to a potential author than publishing in the *GIS Newsletter*. Miriam Sheaves reminded the Board of the work of the Ad Hoc Bulletin Committee, as chaired by John Crissinger, (about 1981). After some discussion, the Board agreed to appoint a new GIS Editorial Review Board with the following charge. Members: Allison Lewis, chair*; Dick

* This person was suggested for this committee, but as of press-time, was unconfirmed. — *Editor*

Walker*; Barbara Christy; Connie Manson. Duties: Come up with a workable mechanism for an "occasional paper" series; submit an outline in the *GIS Newsletter* for comment; contact Jim O'Donnell, Publications Manager, regarding ISSN (ISBN?); set up mechanism for who would produce. Connie Manson agreed to help with production of the occasional paper series. Miriam will write thanking the past Editorial Review Board for their work.

— GIS Microcomputer Needs: The Board agreed to adopt the recommendations of those who met the previous day (Nov. 11, 1986) at the Ad Hoc Meeting on GIS's Computer Needs. [This meeting was attended by: Annette Bourgeois, Jim O'Donnell, Jean Eaglesfield, Connie Wick, Bob Bier, Miriam Sheaves, Mary Ansari, Dena Stepp, Connie Manson, as invited and organized by Jim O'Donnell; and the following who joined as observers and/or participants: Elizabeth Morrissett, Jim Noga, and Lois Heiser.]

It was agreed that at the present, GIS does not need to purchase computer hardware, due to availability of computers among current officers, but that at some date in the future, this might be necessary. Furthermore, the Board agreed to hire David Sheaves to do the necessary programming (in dBaseIII) for a GIS database that would include information for both membership records and a membership directory, and could be used by the Publications Manager. The hiring rate was set at \$20/hour with an upper limit of \$500. If it becomes more expensive, a higher fee would need to be pre-approved through the GIS Executive Board.

Miriam will include information needed for the new database on the Membership Renewal Form. When members of the GIS Executive Board receive their renewal form, they are to scrutinize it to see that it includes all information desired in the database. All suggestions for database programming should be forwarded to Miriam by January 15. The database programming should be completed by late January or early February so that data entry can begin in February.

The Board approved the purchase of one copy of dBaseIII+ for use by Jim O'Donnell, Publications Manager, but stipulated as GIS-owned software, to "travel" with various GIS officers, as needed.

— Electronic Mail: Discussion deferred until the February conference call.

— Standards Dissemination Officer: This person would be responsible for sending out guidelines for serials and field trip guidebooks to appropriate authors/editors/publishers. Louise Zipp was suggested for this role.

— AGI Board--GIS Representative: The Board discussed who would replace Unni Rowell on the AGI Board. This is a 3 or 4 year appointment. It was decided that Annette Bourgeois would be GIS's representative. Annette will look into whom to contact (Unni or AGI) and do the necessary follow-up on this appointment.

— Letters of Thanks: The Board discussed which people and committees need thanking and Annette volunteered to write letters of thanks on behalf of GIS, to:

Nancy Crossfield and committee, for the *Directory of Geoscience Libraries*

Bea Lukens and committee, for the *Union List of Guidebooks*

Louise Zipp, for auditing the Treasurer's records

Dick Walker, for the update of the Careers brochure

Jim O'Donnell, for work as the Publications Manager

Judy Geitgey and Connie Manson, for work on the *GIS Newsletter*

Nancy Pruett, for the 3rd International Conference

Elizabeth Morrissett, for lobbying for formation name subject headings with LC, and for her liaison with LC

John Crissinger, for work on the Ad Hoc Committee on Guidelines for Serials; for the exhibit booth; and as Treasurer.

— Committees (in general): Jean Eaglesfield volunteered to pull together and summarize for the Executive Board what the current committees area, who the members of each are, what are the terms of office, and how members are appointed. Miriam will send to Bob (and members of the Board) a copy of guidelines to committee chairs which Nancy Pruett had outlined when she was President. Miriam suggested it, or a similar guideline, be used for committees each year. (It gave deadlines for mid-year and end-of-year reports, and outlined expectations regarding expenses and communicating via the *Newsletter*.)

— Exhibit Booth Committee: There was some discussion of the Exhibit Booth Committee, as proposed by Jean Eaglesfield at the Nov. 9, 1986 Executive Board meeting, regarding a computer terminal at the booth for demos. The Board agreed to have someone investigate the cost and feasibility of a terminal at the booth. Members: Joanne Lerud*; John Crissinger; Pat Sheahan*; David Reade*. Bob Bier will contact Joanne about chairing the committee. Annette will talk to David Reade. If Joanne can wait until June, David might be able to provide the technical expertise, re: the computer terminal. Duties: Duties of the committee will follow Jean's outline.

— GeoRef User Group: Discussion was deferred.

— International Geological Congress, 1989, Washington, D.C.: Discussion was deferred until February conference call.

— 4th International Conference on Geoscience Information: Discussion was deferred until February conference call.

NEW BUSINESS

— National Research Council, Board on Earth Sciences: Discussion of whether GIS should send Bob Bier to the summit meeting of Professional Society Presidents of the NRC, Board on Earth Sciences, set for

February 6, 1987, in Washington, D.C. Bob thought the USGS Library might be willing to support a portion of the travel costs. With that stipulation, the Board agreed to send Bob, with GIS to cover a portion of the expenses (amount yet to be determined). Bob will write a summary of the meeting and submit it to the *GIS Newsletter*.

[Note: With time running out, the Board adjourned at 11:25 am to reconvene in the evening, after the GIS field trip to Enchanted Rock. The Executive Board reconvened at 9:00 pm at the Hilton Hotel. Present were: Bob Bier, President; Jean Eaglesfield; Mary Ansari; Miriam Sheaves; Connie Manson; Jim O'Donnell.]

NEW BUSINESS (cont.)

— Multi-year memberships: Approved, no ceiling.

— CUAC, GIS Representative: Both Nancy Pruett and Charlotte Derksen agreed to continue representing GIS at CUAC meetings for 1987.

— Ad Hoc Committee on Geoscience Publication Prices: The Board agreed to set up a committee to study prices of geoscience publications and collect published data on prices. Members: Lois Heiser, chair; Michael Noga; Annette Bourgeois; Connie Wick.

— Conference Calls: A schedule for conference calls was set up, with the time of the calls set for 11:30 am, eastern time, for the: 2nd week of February; mid May; mid August; and, mid October. These four times correspond to certain deadlines and activities as noted: February—After Bob's NRC meeting, and the GIS database should be nearing completion; May—After the April 30 due date for mid-year committee reports; August—After the due date for award nominees; October—After end-of-year reports and before annual meeting.

Bob will have his secretary call the officers to pre-arrange a day convenient for everyone near the time of the calls.

— Long Range Planning: Discussion was deferred until February conference call. Jim suggested using an annual calendar to aid in planning.

— 1987 Annual Meeting: The Board briefly mentioned the annual meeting symposium and contributed papers session. A forum similar to that of the 1986 meeting with opportunity for discussion from the floor ought to be included. It was suggested that a call for papers be publicized in other newsletters besides the *GIS Newsletter*. Further discussion was deferred to the February conference call.

— GIS Newsletter: Miriam announced that one of our members has volunteered to do a humor column in the *Newsletter*, as an anonymous contribution. This was well received. Miriam then asked for feedback on a Brazilian bibliography that John Mulvihill had contributed. The Board felt it was too short for the proposed "occasional paper" series but that it should be published in the *Newsletter*. Connie felt that the entries in the bibliography should be edited to

conform to GIS style. Jim volunteered to do the re-
vising. Miriam will write to John telling him that
it will be published, pending style revisions.
Miriam will send suggestions for rewording/reformat-
ting the notes regarding *Newsletter* contributions to
Connie Manson.

— Membership Committee: Members: Dena Stepp;
chair; Connie Wick; Connie Manson; Lois Heiser;
Carolyn Laffoon*. Duties: Membership drive; re-
design membership brochure; present cost of brochure
to Board for approval; held with membership direc-
tory. Data disk: Miriam Sheaves. Work with title
page, etc.: Membership Committee. Production: Jim
O'Donnell.

— GeoRef User Group (and problems with GeoRef):
The Board discussed problems related to GeoRef in
general and problems with the User Group this year
as related to the workshops and lack of a User Group
meeting.

AGI is contemplating charging \$25 for the GeoRef
workshop at future GSA annual meetings. This,
coupled with the announced drop of 10,000 citations
to be indexed in GeoRef, are items of major concern
to GIS. The Task Force on Serials and Coverage (of
the GeoRef Advisory Council— not GIS-affiliated
but chaired by Charlotte Derksen with Miriam and
Susan Klimley, to name a few, also as members) is
involved in working with GeoRef on a core list of
serials for priority indexing.

Since the GeoRef User Group (GRUG) acts as GIS's
channel of input to GeoRef/AGI, and since the chair
of GRUG, Barbara Pearson, was unable to attend this
annual meeting due to illness, the Board felt it
important that Barbara be apprised of the concerns
raised. As a response to John Mulvihill regarding
his letter to Bob Bier about AGI's possibly charging
a \$25 fee, GIS's response, as summarized by the
Board, should include the following points:

- It is important to have a beginner's GeoRef
workshop at each annual GSA meeting
- Workshops without access to computer terminals
for participants do not merit a fee
- Refer to analysis of the evaluations of the
two GeoRef workshops held at the 1985 annual
meeting for attendee attitudes regarding fees
in support of this position
- A fee would be appropriate commensurate with
the amount of hands-on time

This should be conveyed to Barbara Pearson to res-
pond to John Mulvihill/AGI on behalf of GIS.

Discussion then turned to GIS involvement in a
beginner's GeoRef workshop for next year, and also
of the possibility of having a "database fair" with
demos and/or discussions of other databases such as
CAS Online, Compendex, Physics Briefs, Tulsa, and
Petroleum Abstracts. Jim O'Donnell participated in
the Beginner's GeoRef Workshop held today (Nov. 12)
and commented that of about 14 attendees, 4 were GIS
members.

The GeoRef User Group should be charged with
arranging for a beginner's GeoRef workshop either
with or without GeoRef.

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Having discussed all items on the agenda, the meet-
ing adjourned at 10:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Miriam L. Sheaves
GIS Secretary

1986 REPORT: GIS NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL BOARD

The 1986 Newsletter Editorial Board members are
Barbara Christy (Library of Congress), Katherine
Shanks (AAPG), Miriam Sheaves, chair (University of
North Carolina), and as ex-officio members, News-
letter editors Judy Geitgey (University of Oregon)
and Connie Manson (Washington Division of Geology
and Earth Resources).

The Board received three papers for review this year.
Pending final editing and author notification, two
will be forwarded to the *GIS Newsletter* for publica-
tion.

There is still some ambiguity as to functions per-
formed by the Editorial Board. Occasionally, some-
one will inquire of the Editorial Board chairperson
whether to send a summary or report of a meeting to
the Board or to the Editor. Now would be an oppor-
tune time to examine the purpose and functions of
the Board, since the Chair of the Board will be end-
ing her 2nd two-year term. Ambiguities could be
cleared up by re-wording or further clarifying the
portions in the *Newsletter* describing reader contri-
butions. Or, the Newsletter Editor could function
as the Chair of the Editorial Board. We recommend
changing the name of the Board from the Editorial
Board to the Editorial Review Board to help describe
the function of the Board.

Although people are not beating down doors to pub-
lish their papers in the *GIS Newsletter*, it would be
wise to continue to have a Review Board, leaving the
mechanism for reviewing papers in place, even though
the need arises only now and then.

The Board also received a letter from Don Holloway,
a GIS member in Kent, England, who would like to
serve as a European correspondent, along with Tony
Harvey. His letter will be published in the *GIS
Newsletter*. The Board invites members to respond.
The Chair sent a letter to Mr. Holloway encouraging
his participation in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,
Miriam L. Sheaves
Chair, GIS Newsletter
Editorial Board, 1986

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

FLOYD C. MOULTON has been appointed Manager of
Exploration for Fisher Petroleum Corporation, Salt
Lake City. Moulton most recently was an independ-
ent consultant. He earlier had nearly four years
with Anschutz Corporation and was Senior Explora-
tion Geologist with Phillips Petroleum. Fisher
Petroleum's headquarter offices are at 230 South
500 East, Suite 500, Salt Lake City, Utah 84102.

LETTER FROM AUSTRALIA, by Claren Kidd

Canberra— The capitol city of Australia is located in the 900 square mile plot of hilly territory that was carved out of the state of New South Wales in the early 1900's. Melbourne and Sydney both wanted to be the capitol but to settle the long rivalry between the two largest Australian cities, the Australian Capitol Territory was created and an American architect, Walter Burley Griffen, won the right to design the city. His plan was to create small centers of population with a maximum city population of about 75,000. Population growth was slow until the early 1960's; today's population is close to 250,000. The city was laid out in a Y (to conform with the topography), with the center of the Y being the site of the major government buildings. The plan is very evident with large shopping centers on each of the three branches. Small neighborhood shopping centers are in each of the 15,000-person suburban units. Within these neighborhoods, streets are rarely straight; in fact, there are very few straight streets in Canberra. At the center of the Y is Lake Burley Griffen, created in 1963 when a dam was constructed on the Molonglo River. The government buildings are located along or very near to the shores and within the "Parliamentary Triangle." It is in two of these buildings, the Bureau of Mineral Resources, Geology and Geophysics (BMR), and the National Library of Australia, where I have done most of my work between mid-July and the end of November, 1986.

The BMR, a segment of the Department of Resources and Energy, employs over 600 people, most of whom work in the 6-story building which contains offices, laboratories, and the BMR library. The latter contains over 25,000 monographs and approximately 4000 serial titles. The collection is located on the 2nd floor where most of the collection is in open stacks. Compact shelving is used for a portion of the serial titles, and there is additional compact shelving in the basement. Many of the serials are obtained on domestic and international exchange. The Library staff is composed of 4 librarians, 3 paraprofessionals, 2 clerks, and 2 unfilled positions that are frozen from immediate hiring. Material selection is primarily a reaction to requests of the BMR personnel. The Library is a part of the Special Projects and Geoscience Services Branch. Database searching (GeoRef, Geoarchive, Aesis, etc.) is an important part of the reference service. The collection is cataloged in the Universal Decimal Classification and, since 1984, records have been used from and input put into the online Australian Bibliographic Network (ABN). Prior to that time, bibliographic control was sub-standard and causes much grief to all the staff and library users.

It is from a desk in the BMR Library's cataloging area that I did my work to compile the *Union List of Geological Field Excursions of Australia*, a forthcoming BMR Report. In April 1986, a letter requesting photocopies of the title page, map of route, and introduction was sent to libraries that were thought to hold geological literature. When I arrived at the BMR in mid-July, the packets of photocopied

guidebook pages (usually called excursion guides, in Australia), were awaiting me. I searched BMR's collection to add to the list. A valuable source concerning excursion guides was the database search of AESIS (Australian Earth Science Information System) and the *Australian Geologist*. The latter contained notification of trips to be held or reviews that had been held. Australian geologists have not put their excursion guides in libraries, so I called the geologists and requested a copy for the BMR Library and entered its title into the union list. In almost all cases my request was fulfilled with a copy.

Searching the National Library of Australia also yielded heretofore unknown titles. Using ABN I also learned of holdings. In October a list of all the guides and their holdings was returned to the libraries to make additions or corrections. As a result, the final version was produced from the data which had been input into the BMR computer using the IMAGE software. This software was not easily manipulated but the new one that had been expected for many months had not arrived in time for the union list.

While in Canberra in early September, I went snow skiing in the Snowy Mountains under the gray-green leaves of the eucalyptus. I have gone to Sydney several times to be a tourist while my sister, and later my parents, visited Australia. I also have gone to the coast of New South Wales where there are beautiful white sandy beaches interspersed between steep dark cliffs.

Within Canberra I rode many kilometers on their wonderful, wide, paved bike paths that are usually separate from the streets. Every day I biked along the shores of Lake Burley Griffen to the BMR. It was a beautiful, safe, unpolluted 15-minute ride. Across the lake I could see the National Library, the National Gallery of Art, the High Court (equivalent to our Supreme Court), the Parliament House, and the new Parliament House, scheduled for completion in 1988 (the bicentennial of European settlement of Australia). In addition to biking to work from my residence in Bruce Hall on the campus of the Australian National University, I biked to the Australian Institute of Sport's indoor swimming pool, to the embassies, to the Governor-General's House (he's the Queen's representative), and around the neighborhoods to see the flower-filled yards. Across the street from Bruce Hall is one of the many divisions of CSIRO (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization). This is the site of CSIRONET, and where study of plant physiology and entomology is conducted by employees of CSIRO and by visiting scientists from around the world. Several of these international scientists also live in Bruce and we socialize together. Adjacent to CSIRO are the National Botanical Gardens composed only of Australian plants. Banksia, protea, myrtles, eucalyptus, and to me, many more exotic plants grew in these wonderful gardens that seemed to always have something in bloom. Now that the Union List is completed, I will begin to travel around the continent visiting most of the 19 universities. James Cook

University in Townsville, Queensland, will be the only university that I will not be able to visit. My goal will be to collect thesis information for input into the AESIS database. The database contains a few titles but my work should make it a complete retrospective database for Australian MS and PhD theses. I will also submit information on the BS Honors theses which 4th year university students write. It is usually done if the person is considering further education.

PUBLICATIONS

Publications from the GOLD '86 conference are now available:

- The Proceedings volume contains the papers given at the conference. Most of the paper describe individual gold deposits with an emphasis on recent work. Cost: \$50 (Can.); \$45 (US)
- The Excursion Guidebook describes the areas, outcrops, and deposits visited. Cost: \$45 (Can.); \$40 (US).
- Poster Session Abstracts are also available. Cost: \$12.50 (Can.); \$9.50 (US).

Make all checks payable to Patricia Sheahan, and send to Konsult Int., Inc., 44 Gemini Road, Willowdale, Ontario, Canada, M2K 2G6. The prices include postage and handling.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCIENCE REFERENCE/BIBLIOGRAPHER, University of Minnesota Institute of Technology Libraries, Minneapolis.

The University of Minnesota Institute of Technology Libraries seeks qualified candidates to participate in developing services and collections for a recently combined science and engineering library in the physical and engineering sciences. The Institute of Technology Libraries consist of the consolidated Science and Engineering library plus two departmental libraries: Mathematics and Architecture. Resources consist of approximately 400,000 volumes, 450 serial subscriptions, a professional staff of 9. The successful candidate will participate in reference and research assistance, teaching library use and research methodologies, collection development in assigned subject, computer based operations, and the provision of information services to business and industry. Special areas of responsibility will include the following: performance of reference, research and instructional services, including on-line data base searching and other programs of information delivery; participation in the implementation of the NOTIS multi-library automated system and other computer based operations; collection development in chemistry or geology or selected areas of engineering. Minimum qualifications: MLS; formal course work in science or science bibliography or one year's experience in a science library; strong public service commitment; basic knowledge of science reference materials; training and/or experience

with on-line data base searching (BRS, DIALOG, or SDC). Appointment: This is a 12-month academic/professional position with probationary appointment at Assistant Librarian rank with a minimum salary of \$22,000. Submit letter of application to:

Barbara Doyle
Personnel Officer
University of Minnesota Libraries-Twin Cities
Campus
453 Wilson Library
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

Letters of application should be received by February 15, 1987. Identify applications with UL151.

CATALOGER, Colorado School of Mines, Golden.

Under the supervision of the Assistant Director for Technical Services, the Colorado School of Mines has an entry-level 12-month position for a cataloger starting September 1, 1987. Responsibilities include: overseeing the cataloging of all monographic and serial material added to the collection and the maintenance of all bibliographic records, service to the university community and the profession, and scholarly activity. Candidates must have an ALA accredited Masters degree, knowledge of AACR2, LC subject headings, LC classification, OCLC and automated systems. Undergraduate background in sciences or engineering preferred, knowledge of foreign languages helpful. Position is at the Assistant Librarian rank, and is a faculty position. Salary is \$18,000 with good benefits. Please send resume with 3 references to:

Hartley K. Phinney, Jr.
Director
Arthur Lakes Library
Colorado School of Mines
Golden, CO 80401

Deadline for applications is March 15, 1987.

SCIENCE SUBJECT SPECIALIST/REFERENCE LIBRARIAN, Southern Oregon State College, Ashland.

Permanent full time, 9-month appointment; tenure-track position with faculty status. Responsibilities; General reference, bibliographic instruction, on-line services coordinator, and liaison with Departments of Chemistry, Physics, Math, Computer Science, and Geology. Requires: ALA MLS; experience/training in on-line literature searching; undergraduate science degree or 3 years experience as a science librarian. Related subject masters desirable. Instructor/Assistant Professor salary range \$19,000-\$22,500. Applications received by March 15, 1987 will receive first consideration but applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Send resume and names, addresses and phone numbers of 3 references to:

Deborah Hollens
Library Personnel Committee
Southern Oregon State College
Ashland, OR 97520

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTORY FIELD GEOLOGY CLASS FOR NON-GEOLOGISTS

An introductory field geology class gives teachers and librarians the opportunity to experience the "old west." Miami University of Ohio is offering 2 two-week long excursions to see, hear, taste, smell, and feel the geologic wonders of the Yellowstone, Teton, and Wind River Basin regions. The course objective is to provide continuing education to teachers, librarians, or other non-geology graduates. Geology 699 can be used for 3 graduate credits at Miami University or transferred to another university or college. Emphasis will be on the description, identification, and interpretation of geologic features in the field. Headquarters is Timberline Ranch, located near Dubois, Wyoming. The classes begin on July 5 and 19. Tuition (Ohio resident: \$249; out of state: \$412) includes registration, lab fees, room, board, and a \$125 stipend for travel expenses. For information, write or call:

Phil Stoffer
Science Library
Miami University
Oxford, Ohio 45056 513/529-7268

In describing the class, Phil said, "This is an ideal class for librarians, teachers, or library science students who want to get a taste of geology in the field, to learn a lot in two weeks, and to have a great time, too."

FOR SALE

Numerous items from the John Haller Library are still available for sale. These include books on land and marine geology, international conference proceedings, and a few journals. For further information and a complete list of available items, contact:

Susan M. Haller
15 Homer Road
Belmont, MA 02178

CALL FOR PAPERS: AMERICAN TRANSLATORS ASSOCIATION

The 28th Annual Conference of the American Translators Association will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on October 8-11, 1987. The Conference is co-sponsored by the Rio Grande Chapter of the Special Libraries Association and features the theme, "Across the Language Gap." You are invited to submit papers related to the conference theme. Topics include various aspects of translation, online searching, identifying languages, acquisition and evaluation of translated documents, new technologies related to this field, etc. A 200-300 word abstract of the proposed paper should be submitted by Feb. 15, 1987. Final papers are due July 15, 1987. Send inquiries and/or abstracts to:

Karl Kummer
ATA President-Elect
P. O. Box 814
Astor Station
Boston, MA 02123

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF MAP LIBRARIES, 20th Anniversary Meeting

The Western Association of Map Libraries (WAML) 20th anniversary meeting will be held in Reno at the University of Nevada-Reno, College Inn, Sept. 10-12, 1987. The program includes papers on relevant computer software programs, map collection internship programs, and the literature of map librarianship. The formal program concludes with a banquet to roast/toast the organization. A field trip to Virginia City and Lake Tahoe is planned for Saturday along with other events and speakers for this special meeting.

Along with the WAML schedule, Reno will be having its annual Balloon Races that same weekend, Friday-Sunday. Over 100 balloons lift off at daybreak just one mile north of the College Inn. This is a huge event and will effect your ability to make plane and hotel reservations. Although registration materials will be mailed to the membership in June, it is not too soon to make plans to attend. For more information, contact:

Linda Newman
Mines Library
University of Nevada-Reno
Reno, NV 89557
702/784-6596

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- Feb. 24-27, 1987—Society of Mining Engineers; annual meeting; Denver
- Mar. 16-20, 1987—Lunar and Planetary Science Conference; Houston.
- Apr. 23-24, 1987—Western Association of Map Libraries; spring meeting; Provo.

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.

THE HIGH PLAINS DRIFTER

This is an anonymous column. After reading it, you will understand why there will be no name attached. I'm hoping that the talented Robert Bates-type author will step forward to silence me by offering her/her own words of wisdom. Here goes—

I am seeking a liberry. Telephone receptionists say, "Just a minute, I'll connect you with the liberry!" Ordinary people say, "I like to go to the liberry," or, "May I talk to a liberrian?" I have checked grocery shelves for liberry jelly. I didn't find any, but if I did and I them ate some, would I tell fibs? Does this place the credibility of a reference liberrian in serious trouble? Does one get a degree in liberrianship? How do you pass the tests— perhaps by telling the biggest tall tale? Never fear, this is still a marketable product. The toy companies will figure out that Strawberry Shortcake could grow up to be a liberrian. Then we will be subject to commercials on Saturday morning extolling the virtues of a liberrian. Perhaps liberries are out-of-season. Would someone let me know when the liberries are ready?

* * * * *

Librarian # 1: I've got good news and bad news.

Librarian # 2: Give me the good news.

Librarian # 1: Some of the students actually used the new set of encyclopedia today!

Librarian # 2: That's wonderful! What's the bad news?

Librarian # 1: Four volumes are missing.