GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY

newsletter

Number 107, August, 1987 ISSN 0046-5801

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Committees and Representatives

Marie Dvorzak of the University of Wisconsin-Madison has volunteered to fill the last vacancy in the GeoRef User Group Steering Committee. Thanks to Marie for her willingness to work on this important committee.

There are a number of vacancies on various committees. If you are interested in any of these committees, please let me or the chair of the committee know.

--Exhibits Committee - We need one or two more people to help Joanne Lerud (chair) and Dona Dirlim on this committee. With the 1988 GSA cenntenial meeting coming up, we are hoping to have some special features at the exhibit booth. One thing that Joanne is considering is some sort of data base access.

--Best Geologic Reference Book Award - This committee will develop selection criteria, review the literature, identify the best geologic reference book of the year, make up a suitable citation for a presentation at the annual meetings and publicize the award. At the present time, there are no members of this committee. This committee will be a major help in making our society more visible in the geoscience community. As part of the 1988 GSA Centennial meeting, it would be particularly appropriate to give the inaugural award. Three or four people are needed, including the chair.

--Best GIS Paper Award Committee - Last year Rosalind Walcott and members of her committee developed criteria for the selection of the best paper, for which Susan Klimley received the first award. Since Rosalind's committee did their part, we now need new committee members to carry on where she left off.

--Committee on the International Geological Congress - Still need some help on this committee, including someone that would be willing to act as chair. This committee will develop ideas for ways that we can participate in the IGC, and make the arrangements. I suspect that John Price feels like the Maytag repairman all alone on the committee. Please give him some company.

Note to Committee Chairman, Representatives and other Appointees:

--Please supply the members of the Executive Committee with a report of your activities covering the past year. This report should be sent to the board by September 1, 1987. Your reports will also be published in the October GIS Newsletter for the information of the membership.

--You are encouraged to attend the 1987 Executive Committee meeting that will be held in Phoenix, if you are able. I think that it would be useful for you to be there in the event that there are questions or discussion regarding your committees.

Thanks.

Audit

Marie Dvorzak completed the audit of the 1986 treasurer's report and found everything in order. I would like to thank Marie for her willingness to tackle this necessary task. Having been treasurer and

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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 October Newsletter should be received by the editors no later than September 15, 1987.

EDITOR'S COLUMN

This issue includes lots of information about the 1987 annual meeting, including the agenda, a summary of the Technical Session and Symposium papers, and the abstracts of the Symposium papers.

You'll note that our luncheon speaker will be Stephen J. Gould.

The mailing labels for this issue were produced from our new GIS database system. If there are any problems or errors, please contact Miriam Sheaves.

audited the books, I can appreciate the work involved. It is quite time consuming and difficult to review all of the financial documentation.

Executive Committee Conference Call

The Executive Committee held one conference call since the last report. Because one of the committee members was not able to participate in the June 2nd call due to illness, some of the topics were deferred until a second call, tentatively scheduled for late July. An outline of the more significant topics are as follows:

--The Committee voted to authorize the expenditure of up to $50.00 for the purpose of doing a review of the new formats for maps and illustrations that University Microfilms International recently announced. Related to this, anyone who would be interested in doing this review should contact Rosalind Wallcott at SUNY - Stony Brook, phone (516) 632-7140.

--The non GIS members who will be speaking at our symposium will be invited to attend our luncheon as our guests.

--The charges for the publication price and the International Geologic Congress committees were discussed and voted on. The charges appear elsewhere in the Newsletter. As an editorial comment, I think that it would be a good idea if all future Executive Committees develop written committee charges for all new committees. First of all, it documents that a committee exists, and secondly, hopefully makes clear just what the committee is expected to do. Also, by having to come up with a charge for the committee, it gives the Executive Committee a chance to reflect on it and to decide if the Society really should take on the task. There are a lot of things that the Society could do. However, I think that we need to be careful that we don't over-extend ourselves. We could end up getting committeed to death, with not enough people or time to do what really ought to be done. Perhaps the establishment of committees, either standing or ad hoc, should be voted on by the members at the annual meetings, with the understanding that it takes volunteers to fill those committees and that there is a limit to what we can do.

VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN
THE 1987 GIS ANNUAL MEETING, PHOENIX

JTPC MEETING

This article comes to you from a hotel room, after having just attended the Joint Technical Program Committee (JTPC) meeting at GSA headquarters in Boulder. The JTPC concerns itself mostly with uninvited papers (as opposed to "invited" symposia papers) that must be sorted, sifted, and finally scheduled by the approximately 40 representatives of GSA divisions and related societies present. All the symposia and technical sessions were checked to be sure that no two related events would run exactly at the same time and each of the 2000+ abstracts was reviewed carefully. Since more abstracts were submitted this year than ever before, the meeting planners have scheduled every inch of available conference space to be full every single minute of the 4 day meeting.

There was concensus that this meeting is necessary in order for each representative to check the final schedule, check papers with each other (there's a lot of "horse-trading" of abstracts among the divisons), and work with appropriate members of the GSA staff on various questions. There was strong criticism that there is too high a proportion of symposia (1/5 of all papers will be symposia) and this prevents many young people from giving papers. Theme sessions are being developed as a compromise solution between the desire to have symposia on given themes and the desire to incorporate an many uninvited papers as possible. Watch for future discussions on this in GSA's News and Information.

We chatted about the fact that few GIS members submit papers and someone suggested that GIS consider having informal idea exchanges in lieu of or in addition to our technical session. That's an idea that future GIS program planners might use.

As your representative, I must report to you that GIS has been treated with fairness and careful consideration by GSA and the '87 program planners. We were given the same proportion of paper space as everyone else.

WHY THE SCHEDULE IS THE WAY IT IS

First, 1986 attendees said loud and clear that Thursday oral sessions were to be avoided. Therefore, our 12 sessions had to be crammed into 3 days. Second, there is lots of Society business (boards and annual meeting, luncheon) and special work (By Laws, costs of geoscience literatuare) that had to be scheduled and balanced in relation to each other. Third, unexpected scheduling changes take place at the last minute leaving no time to change. This is why our Technical Session will occur at the same time as our annual business meeting. We wanted to do the Technical Session with the National Association of Geology Teachers, and the Archaeology and History of Geology Divisions and in order to be

together two of us have to do our annual meetings at the same time and it was impossible to change either. Therefore, GIS will have an early annual meeting (with coffee and danish) and then we will dash briskly to the Technical Session to hear GIS papers which will run during the last hour that morning. I am confident that in future years all 4 groups (GIS, History, Archaeology, and NAGT) will avoid conflicts with their annual meetings and be able to attend the entire Technical Session together. These jointly sponsored sessions will have a fruitful outcome, such as co-authored papers by GIS and NAGT members. (One solution to these scheduling conflicts is the suggestion to hold business meetings only in the evenings, if at all.)

THE SCHEDULE

Below is the schedule as of August. It is likely that there will be some changes in this-- especially in location, so check the final program (to be published in the Newsletter and available at the meeting).

GIS PAPERS SUMMARIZED

TECHNICAL SESSION: HISTORY, ARCHAEOLOGY, INFORMATION, and EDUCATION

Oral Papers, Tuesday, October 27, 1987

11:00 am Tahirkheli, Sharon, "Thesaurus problems and solutions--The language of geoscience develops steadily"

11:15 am Sargent, Kenneth, "The National geologic mapping program--A revitalization of geologic mapping in the United States"

11:30 am Triplehorn, Julia, "Comparison of library collections in geology--A model based on the Pacific Northwest conspectus"

11:45 am Klimley, Susan, "Managing reprint collection on a personal computer"

Posters, Wednesday, October 28, 1987

1:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Stoffer, Phil, "The proliferation of geological societies and their impact on the geological information explosion"

Bichteler, Julie; Ward, Dederick, "Information seeking behavior of geoscientists"

Note: Abstracts of Technical Session papers will appear in the October GIS Newsletter.

SYMPOSIUM: COLLECTIONS FOR THE FUTURE--ARCHIVISTS, CURATORS, HISTORIANS, BIBLIOGRAPHERS SPEAK

Oral papers: Monday, October 26, 1987

8:05 am Day, Deborah, "Archival documentation of the history of geology"

8:30 am Thibodeau, Sharon, "For the record--Federal geoscientists and the National Archives"

8:55 am Melson, William, "National collection of rocks and ores"

9:20 am Socolow, Arthur, "Extent and limits at state geological surveys"

10:05 am Sturdivant, Clarence, "Geoscience project documentation--Archival accessioning and processing procedures of U.S. industrial research records"

10:30 am Walcott, Rosalind, "Geoscience dissertations for the future--A case study from the United States"

10:55 am Golden, Julia, "What has millions of pieces, weighs hundreds of tons, and can't take care of itself?"

11:20 am Friedman, Gerald, "Center for the history of geology"

Beginning with a summary of work of the Joint Committee on the Archives of Science and Technology, we will look at the process of collecting archive materials in the earth sciences, and curating paleontology and rock collections of various institutions such as universities, industry, government. We will look at thesis collections and gaps in thesis documentation. The possibility of establishing a discipline history center for the earth sciences will be discussed. [A fuller summary of this symposium is in the April, 1987 GIS Newsletter.]

The abstracts below appear in the order in which they will be given.

HELPFUL HINT #1: Only 2 hotels are within walking distance of the Civic Plaza (the Hyatt and the Hilton). All symposia, posters, exhibits, and technical sessions will take place in the Civil Plaza and everything else-- society meetings, forums, luncheons-- will take place in the Hyatt and the Hilton. Most of the rest of the hotels are 4 to 10 miles away from the Civic Plaza. If you want a convenient room location, book a room NOW in the Hyatt or Hilton (very few of the total number of rooms will be in these 2 hotels) and be prepared to pay big bucks. There will be a shuttle bus between the other hotels and the Civic Plaze. Of course, shuttle buses stop at the end of the day and cabs are few in Phoenix-- the grapevine says that renting a car will be the name of the game. There are few restaurants within walking distcance of the Civic Plaza.

We hope to have more Helpful Hints in the October GIS Newsletter.

GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY
1987 Annual Meeting, Phoenix, Arizona
October 25-October 29, 1987

AGENDA

Sunday, October 25

2 pm - 5 pm	1987 Executive Board	Hyatt--Remington A

Monday, October 26

8 am - 12 noon	GIS Symposium: Collections for the Future	Phoenix Civic Plaza--Tucson 43
12 noon - 2 pm	GIS luncheon (Speaker: Stephen J. Gould)	Hyatt--Regency Ballroom D
2 pm - 4 pm	Special meeting on By Laws	Hyatt--Phoenix West
4 pm - 6 pm	GeoRef Users Group	Hyatt--Phoenix West
7 pm - 9:30 pm	GIS Reception/Cocktail Party	Hyatt--Russell C

Tuesday, October 27

8 am - 10:45 am	GIS annual business meeting	Hyatt--Sundance Room
8 am - 12 noon	Technical Session: History, Archaeology, Information, and Education	Phoenix Civic Plaza--Tucson 43
2 pm - 4 pm	Meeting: Costs of Geoscience Literature	Hilton--Mojave Pima
2 pm - 4 pm	GIS/AGI GeoRef Beginners' Workshop	Hyatt--Remington C/ Russell A
4 pm - 6 pm	GIS Data Base Forum	Hyatt--Regency Ballroom A

Wednesday, October 28

8 am - 12 noon	GIS/AGI GeoRef Advanced Workshop	Hyatt--Cowboy Artists Room
1:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Poster Session: History, Archaeology, Information, and Education	Phoenix Civic Plaza--Exhibit Hall C
6 pm - 10 pm	GIS Executive Board	Hyatt--Board Room

1987 GIS SYMPOSIUM: COLLECTIONS FOR THE FUTURE--Abstracts

ARCHIVAL DOCUMENTATION OF THE HISTORY OF GEOLOGY

DAY, Deborah C., Archives of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego, Mail Code C-075C, La Jolla, CA 92093

This paper describes the historical and scientific research value of earth science archival and manuscript collections. The author concludes that it is necessary to selectively collect records of geoscience organizations, departments, programs and personal papers of individual geoscientists in order to fully document the growth and achievements of the field and support research on the history of geology.

The author describes unique characteristics of the field of geology which affect its documentation: the employment patterns of geologists, their international communications patterns, and the unique and enduring value of earth science data. The author reviews earth science documentation strategies suggested by the work of historians including Aldrich, Frankel, Porter and Schroder and geologists including Greene, Odishaw and Schrock. The author describes archival theory and methods employed by archivists to select collections of enduring value from among the massive paperwork generated by scientists and scientific organizations. The work of Brichford, Elliott and Warnow are discussed, and the achievements of the Joint Committee on the Archives of Science and Technology are highlighted. The author concludes that archivists, historians, geologists and other scholars must work together to identify primary resource material documenting earth science, to develop, support, strengthen and advise archives that collect and preserve geoscience collections and to encourage research on the history of geology.

FOR THE RECORD: FEDERAL GEOSCIENTISTS AND THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

THIBODEAU, Sharon G., Special Assistant for Archival Automation, Office of the National Archives, Room 20W, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC, 20408

Since the early nineteenth century, federal geoscientists have displayed a commitment to the careful creation of record material. Recognizing the value of this material, their employers quickly established mechanisms for accumulating and organizing it, but did not always succeed in protecting it from loss by fire.

The constant threat of fire inspired support for construction of a suitably safe "national archival depository" to house government records having continuing value. Such a building was finally authorized in 1934 with the passage of the National Archives Act. Soon after its establishment, the National Archives began to accept transfers of some of the earliest records of federal geoscience.

In recent years, as funds for keeping records have failed to keep pace with funds for creating them, the importance of retaining valuable geoscience information seems to have been overshadowed in the minds of many by a recognition of the need to eliminate information considered superfluous. The National Archives must cooperate with agencies involved in federal geoscience to balance these twin records-related concerns and to communicate clear records disposition instructions to present-day federal geoscientists who share with their nineteenth century colleagues a propensity for careful records creation.

NATIONAL COLLECTION OF ROCKS AND ORES — Nº 134963

MELSON, William G., Div. Petrology and Volcanology
Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C. 20560

The Smithsonian rock and ore collections had their origins in the mid-nineteenth century, during the time of the early surveys of the American west, such as the 40th Parallel Survey collection. The collections were dormant during the Second World War, were reactivated about 1964 and now consist of about 180,000 samples. The collections (1) document major discoveries and/or are relevant to major problems of current interest e.g. G.J. Wasserburg collection of isotopically studied 3 + billion year old west Greenland, rocks from the deep-sea floor, and secular sequences from active volcanoes, (2) include genetic groups, e.g.layered complexes, ultramafic nodules, especially of such collections assembled by petrologists who have specialized in particular groups of rocks or ores e.g. The Dale Jackson Collection; the Cross, Iddings, Pirsson and Washington Collection – CIPW classificaton, (3) document the approaches of well-known early geologists (late 19th and early 20th centuries, such as Barrell's Marysville collection re magmatic stoping, some early collections of Waldemar Lindgren) and (4) samples that cannot be readily re-collected e.g. Comstock lode mines, Miyaquez and Uvalde drill cores and (5) collections relevant to applied geology. During the period 1980-86, 2375 samples were loaned to outside investigators. The future of the collections depends on donations of "meaningful" (likely to be used) samples from researchers. Samples described in the geologic literature that bear on topical problems are particularly valued.

EXTENT AND LIMITS AT STATE GEOLOGIC SURVEYS — Nº 134969

SOCOLOW, Arthur, A., 26 Salt Island Road, Gloucester, MA 01930

The fifty State Geological Surveys vary in institutional designation, size, funding, and scope of missions. Yet they all have in common that each is a government agency which functions at the interface of basic research and public service. This dual function creates unique opportunities as well as delicate responsibilities.

As research agencies, State Geologic Surveys acquire vast amounts of quantitative and qualitative data as well as reference collections of minerals, fossils, and stratigraphic units. The challenge of research calls for effective integration, analysis, and interpretation of accumulated data.

As service agencies, the State Geologic Surveys has an obligation to make their data available and accessible to the public in a timely and meaningful format. Aside from the limited capability that many of the State Surveys have to cope with the accumulated data, a serious problem exists with the need to protect the confidentiality of certain critical data. For a governmental service agency, operating under right-to-know laws, this possess a dilemma, for future data acquisition often depends upon respecting confidentiality.

Retirements and staff turnover also impose a data management responsibility upon State Geologic Surveys. Individual project records and notes must be maintained and filed in an accessible and usable manner for the benefit of continuity, future research, and public utilization.

GEOSCIENCE PROJECT DOCUMENTATION: ARCHIVAL ACCESSIONING AND PROCESSING PROCEDURES OF U.S. INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH RECORDS — Nº 134965

STURDIVANT, Clarence A., Marathon Oil Company, Exploration and Production Technology, P.O. Box 269, Littleton, Colorado 80160-0269

One hundred ninety-five profit making corporations conducting geosciences-related research at approximately 245 laboratory sites in the United States have been identified. Because of the nature and ends of this research work, most of the records and reports generated as a result of it (legally defined as "intellectual property") are closely held and are never published or otherwise made available outside these companies.

Ironically, this closely-held geoscience information receives substantial attention internally and is frequently cared for very systematically by information management specialists who are more likely to be held accountable for what they can retrieve than lose and for what they preserve than for what they destroy.

Interestingly, the present day industrial environment of mergers and down-sizing resulting in personnel layoffs, early retirements, etc., is creating major documentary deficiencies in this information, and, in the future, access to it will no longer simply be a problem of the outside world but also of the company that paid for it.

GEOSCIENCE DISSERTATIONS FOR THE FUTURE: A CASE STUDY FROM THE UNITED STATES — Nº 142756

WALCOTT, Rosalind, Earth and Space Sciences Library, SUNY at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, NY 11794-2199

Dissertations occupy a special niche in the geoscience literature. Because of the descriptive nature of much of geoscience, geoscientists cite dissertations more often than other scientists do. Geoscience dissertations are often circulated and requested for loan, even though they are not as readily accessible to the researcher as published materials. Bibliographic identification of dissertations is sometimes difficult, although access to Dissertations Abstracts Online can solve most problems. Many dissertations are not cataloged, and therefore do not appear in national bibliographic databases. Not all dissertations are included in GeoRef. Of a recent sample of 150 dissertations, randomly chosen from all doctoral dissertations in geoscience submitted 1981-1985 in the U.S., 15% were not indexed in GeoRef. Microfilm copies or xerographic copies of most, but not all, geoscience dissertations are available from University Microfilms International, (UMI). Of 1,864 doctoral dissertations in geoscience submitted 1981-1985 in the U.S., 7.5% are not available from UMI. Copies from UMI are relatively expensive, and present technology does not allow clear, colored reproduction of important plates, diagrams, and maps. Obtaining the original dissertation from the relevant institution is often time-consuming, and many dissertations are simply not available for loan. The descriptions in geoscience dissertations are useful for many decades. Therefore all geoscience dissertations should be integrated into our databases, and there should be a circulating copy of all dissertations available for loan.

WHAT HAS MILLIONS OF PIECES, WEIGHS HUNDREDS OF TONS AND CAN'T TAKE CARE OF ITSELF? A PALEONTOLOGY COLLECTION. — Nº 142759

GOLDEN, Julia, Dept. of Geology, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242

Paleontology collections (invertebrates, vertebrates and plants) housed by museums, universities, state geological surveys and industry serve for studies that include systematics, biostratigraphy, paleobiology and paleobiogeography. Type specimens are usually isolated, and industry and smaller institutions are encouraged to reposit their types in larger facilities. General collections, large suites of non-type specimens, are stored as research and/or teaching collections. Curatorial procedures reflect the way in which the collections are used. In taxonomic collections, each specimen or specimen lot is identified and/or catalogued, whereas in stratigraphic collections, large lots are stored by age or geographic area with few individual specimens catalogued.

Before the pervasive access to computers, collections were catalogued manually, and cross-indices were rare. Modern database management techniques have been adopted by curators to accession, catalogue and inventory collections. Related files can be used to augment basic catalogue information with information on accompanying data (e.g. presence of maps, field notebooks, correspondence, etc.). Previously, this kind of information was buried in ledgers or stored with the specimens. Printed catalogues, out-of-date before they are published, are now obsolete. Bibliographic data, taxonomic synonymies, large faunal studies, and huge tables of measurements are easily stored and retrieved for synthesis. Specimen information is beginning to be shared between institutions through networks.

All of these exciting applications, however, depend upon paleontology collections that are well-documented and maintained. Each institution must be committed to adequate storage and funding for curatorial staff if these collections are to continue to serve future paleontologic needs.

CENTER FOR THE HISTORY OF GEOLOGY — Nº 142760

FRIEDMAN, Gerald M., Dept. of Geology, Brooklyn College of the City University of New York, Brooklyn, NY 11210 and Northeastern Science Foundation, Inc., Rensselaer Center of Applied Geology affiliated with Brooklyn College of CUNY, Box 746, Troy, NY 12181-0746

A Center should be established as an independent not-for-profit corporation in conjunction with a university to preserve geological material of historical interest, to discover and disseminate information about historical geological resources, and to encourage scholarship, research, and popular writing in the history of geology. This Center should locate and preserve publications, manuscripts, and archival records of geologists, societies, geological surveys, and companies important in the history of geology, and organize a program of interviews and oral histories. The Center's collections should include extensive photographic archives, including portraits, and relevant memorabilia.

The Center should be involved in research projects in the history of geology and hence serve geologists, historians, archivists, and librarians. It should also spread to the public a knowledge of the achievements of geologists. Its staff should include specialists in the history of geology, in oral history, in library and records management, and in exhibits and the public understanding of geology.

The functions of the Center should compare with those of the Center for History of Physics of the American Institute of Physics and the Center for the History of Chemistry. It should not compete with existing facilities such as libraries, nor with home institutions such as universities or geological surveys which preserve their own archival material.

GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY - FINANCIAL REPORT
January 1, 1986 - December 31, 1986

	Checking Acct.	Savings Acct.	Total
Balance from 1985	$12,393.82	$11,744.40	$24,138.22
Income:			
Dues - Individual	6,780.00		
- Corporate	1,630.00		
- Sustaining	100.00		
Publications			
Newsletter subscriptions	1,132.50		
Proceedings	1,757.50		
Membership directory	30.00		
Library directory	360.00		
Interest			
Home Sav. 1-yr. Certificate (2d Int.Conf.Geosci,Inform.)			
Virginia Account	96.04	987.56	
California Account	813.88		
San Antonio Field Trip	216.00		
Miscellaneous	239.31		
Total Income	$13,155.23	$ 987.56	$14,142.79
Expenses			
AGI dues	$ 448.00		
GIS - 1985 Annual Meeting	443.65		
- 1986 Annual Meeting	309.76		
- San Antonio Field Trip	324.00		
- Vice President	53.02		
- Secretary	128.83		
- Treasurer	53.87		
- Publications Manager	82.93		
- Careers Brochure	144.36		
- Best Paper Award	40.00		
Publications			
- Newsletter	1,594.50		
- Guidebook Union List, 4th ed.	619.14		
- Guidebook Union List, 5th ed.	4.16		
- Library Directory	2,015.07		
Returned checks/adjustment for bank error w/foreign checks	203.00		
3d Int.Conf.Geosci.Inform.	4,400.00		
Miscellaneous	$ 153.66		
Total Expenses	$11,017.95		$11,017.95
Balance as of December 31, 1986	$14,531.10	$12,731.96	$27,263.06

Submitted by Mary B Ansari Mary B. Ansari, 1986 Treasurer (4/1/87)

Audited by Marie Dvorzak 6/1/87 Marie Dvorzak I have examined the records of the Society and to the best of my knowledge the figures given in this report are true.

GIS COMMITTEES

CHARGE OF THE
AD HOC COMMITTEE ON GEOSCIENCE PUBLICATIONS PRICES

Name of Committee: Ad Hoc Committee on Geoscience Publications Prices.

Purposes:

1. Identify the titles and/or publishers that have raised the prices beyond what is reasonable.
2. Publish appropriate information and/or data in the GIS Newsletter.
3. Check with other societies and groups to see what they are doing about the problem.
4. List the options and recommendations for actions that GIS as a Society can take to combat these price rises.
5. List options that others might wish to take independently of the Society.
6. To carry out any actions that may be appropriate for the committee to do.

Scope of Publications: Any geoscience publications, whether monographs, serials, or maps, in which it is felt by the committee have prices that are unreasonable or have increased unreasonably within the last few years.

Term of Committee: The committee will submit its recommendations to the membership at the 1988 annual meeting, at which time the membership will be asked to vote on whether to implement the recommendation(s). If the members approve any action that would properly involve the committee, the committee will carry out those actions. If no other action is required of the committee, the work of the committee will be considered finished and be disbanded.

Background on the Problem: Prices of publications, particularly from foreign sources, appear to have increased unreasonably in the last few years. It is felt that the Geoscience Information Society should take an active role in examining this problem.

CHARGE OF THE
AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE
INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS

Name of Committee: Ad Hoc Committee on the Internation Geological Congress

Purpose: To provide ideas on how the Geoscience Information Society can participate in the 28th International Geological Congress to be held in Washington, D.C. on July 9-19, 1989; and to make whatever arrangements necessary to carry out those ideas approved by the membership and/or the Executive Board, and to coordinate and/or work with any other committee(s) of the Society that would have an interest.

Term of the Committee: The committee will disband with the conclusion of the IGC meeting, or after all necessary activities involved with the Society's participation have been properly completed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1986 EMPLOYMENT OF GEOSCIENTISTS

Dr. Marvin E. Kauffman, Executive Director, American Geological Institute, reported on employment figures from AGI's 1986 North American Survey of Geoscientists.

In that report, slightly more than 4% of the entire geoscience profession categorized themselves as "unemployed". However, more than 20% of the geoscientists directly related to the energy industry showed "devastating effects" from the recent downturn in employment and were either "abjectly unemployed" or "functionally and professionally unemployed". It was noted that such figures within the energy industry rivalled those of the Great Depression of the 1930s.

The full final report of the AGI Survey is expected to be published in August.

STEPHEN J. GOULD SPEAKS TO NSTA MEETING

A videotape of a speech by Dr. Stephen J. Gould of Harvard University is now available from AGI.

The speech, "The Central Role of the Earth Sciences in the Understanding of Science", discussed scientific method and "creation science". It was given to 5000 science educators at the 1987 annual meeting of the National Science Teachers Association.

Dr. Gould has published extensively on biology, geology, paleontology, and the history of science. He has a monthly column in Natural History, and has written articles for American Scientist and Science.

The videotape is available in both VHS and Beta format, and sells for $15.00 (including shipping and handling) from:

American Geological Institute
Customer Service Department
4220 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22302

MAPS ONLINE IN LIBRARIES

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CANADA

LETTER FROM AUSTRALIA

by Claren Kidd

Editors' note: Claren is back in Oklahoma now, but she sent this letter before she left Australia.

March, 1987
Perth, Western Australia

This will be my final letter from Australia as my sabbatical year is nearing completion. It has been an educational and fun-filled year during which I thihk that I learned a little about Australian libraries, geological education, the nation, and its people. The following observations are based upon many conversations, perusal of university handbooks, and opinions based upon the theses that I have seen over the last fine months.

Education in Australia is a combination of the traditional British system with a few characteristics of the American system added. Usually in uniform from head to toe, a child begins Primary School at age 6 and progresses to Grade 10. At that time compulsory attendance ceases and the student decides whether she/he wants to go on to Year 11 and 12 (called high school or "college"). If they choose not to continue, they become "school leavers" and go to work, enroll in a College of Advanced Education (CAE) or College of Technical and Further Education (TAFE), live with their parents doing whatever, or go on the "dole". Entry into "tertiary education" (higher education) is competitive based upon a test at the end of Year 12. Cost of the student's education is paid from the hefty Commonwealth taxes assessed on personal incomes. Fees are charged for memberships to campus organizations and there is a controversial new $250 "Administration Fee" assessed for each year term or semester. When one begins tertiary education, one has probably decided upon life's work and becomes a member of a "Faculty" (read College, such as a College of Geosciences) at a "uni". Most students attend the "uni" in the same city in which they grew up and probably live at home. The full-time student studies three years to complete the geological or geophysical degree and upon successful completion, the student is called a "graduate". University study done after that is called "post graduate". If the student excelled, she/he may go on for a 4th year, or Bachelor of Science with Honours degree. The degree is composed of a year spent writing a "research paper" or "thesis" which ususally involves field work on a specific site. The number of pages and quality vary greatly as the supervisor does not evaluate the paper until it has been submitted. Geological "theses" are bound by the department and are usually kept under lock and key within the department. The current trend seems to be to side-step the Master's degree and its thesis and to commit years to achieving the Ph.D. Some course work may be required for the Master's program but it is unusual for a Ph.D. student to have to enroll in any courses. Their time is spent writing the dissertation and perhaps having some publications related to the work, published in the international geological literature. The dissertation is evaluated by international reviewers and then the degree is confirmed. A person with a Ph.D. usually works in a university or government. Very few earth scientists are in industry as there is no earth science R&D carried on in Australia.

Between December 1, 1986, and April 15, 1987, I traveled over Australia, collecting information about geology, mining, mineral resources, and metallurgy BSc Honours, MS theses, and Ph.D. dissertations for the Australian Mineral Foundations' database, Australian Earth Science Information System (AESIS). In order to provide information for full indexing, a complete bibliographic citation and collation information were

obtained for each title. The title page, abstract and/or conclusion, and locality map were photocopied. The pages, diagrams, plates, figures, tables, appendices, maps, etc. were counted and the numbers were written on the title page. Place of availability was also noted if it was not the library.

Beginning along the east coast of the continent at Newcastle, I went north to Armidale (Ros Walcott's petrological BSc Honours thesis was seen here at the University of New England and was included in the database), and then to the University of Queensland and the Queensland Institute of Technology. It was now almost Christmas, the universities were closing, and I was ready for a three-week "holiday" with my husband along the southeast coast from Brisbane to Melbourne. That enjoyable period was followed by three weeks of intense work in Melbourne at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, the University of Melbourne, LaTrobe University and Monash University. The all-night ferry across the Bass Strait carried me to the island state of Tasmania. This 10-day visit included a bus trip around Tasmania and five days working in the capital city of Hobart at the University of Tasmania. Back on the "mainland", I drove along the Great Ocean Road with its steep cliffs, stacks, arches, and associated coastal geomorphology, and then took a bus to Adelaide for a few days with the AMF. On the subsequent week-long trip to Perth, the bus drove along the Great Australian Bight where there were many scenic views of the Southern Ocean. I crossed the Nullarbor and "90 mile straight" and then I visited the Eastern Goldfields' gold mining towns of Kalgoorlie and Norseman. South to a small resort town of Esperance (with the most beautiful beaches and water of any place on the continent), and a day-trip around the southwest corner of the continent through the stately, tall eucalypt called the Karri, concluded my trip to Perth. Life in Perth at the University of Western Australia was relaxed and I spent many hours with friends made in Adelaide and with their friends and families. Between all cities I have taken the time to go by coach or rental car in order to spend a few days in some of the smaller cities and to see the countryside, visit historical sites, museums, galleries, and the beaches. There are many beautiful white sandy beaches with the clearest, cool sea water I have ever seen. Most of these beaches have no people enjoying them!

Within the university or special library, a U.S. librarian would feel at home. Reference books and collections are similar with more emphasis on Australia, the Pacific, and the United Kingdom. When classes resume, the university library is overwhelmed with questions and lines to use the online catalog, which usually contains only a portion of the total collection. Computers are quite evident and the usage is similar. Some libraries use the Australian Bibliographic Network (ABN) and some, for various reasons (cost, cataloguing standards, etc.) choose not to participate in the national cataloguing system that contains MARC records. ABN is also heavily used for ILL. Only a few of the geological libraries are staffed wtih persons who have an earth science and a library science background. Usually there are only one or sometimes two persons to operate the library. Post-graduates and staff (read faculty) all have keys to the library. Temperature and humidity control usually do not exist in the University branch libraries that are located within the geology departments. Ordering and processing of materials is done centrally. DIALOG, SDC, and Australian databases have usage patterns similar to those in North America. Rarely does the end user in either the special or the university pay for database searching.

One difference is in the preparation of Australian librarians. Many have worked in libraries prior to going into a three-year undergraduate program, after completion of which they are awarded a graduate diploma. (It is probably most comparable to the manner in which U.S. librarians were trained when we had Bachelor's degrees in the library world.) There are two graduate diplomas that can be earned in a year or two of study. One of these is for persons who have a Bachelor degree in subjects other than librarianship, and the other is called a "Graduate Diploma in Advanced Information and Library Studies". A Master of Applied Science Degree can also be earned, and often it requires a written thesis. For para-professionals, a two-year course is available to persons who have completed "Year 10" and meet other qualifications. Library and information science courses are typically offered by the CAE's or the TAFE's that are found in the cities and the larger country towns.

The Aussies have been a hospitable and friendly group of people. Their English is unique and some "Strine" can be a bit difficult to understand. There are words that I recognized, but which have a different meaning, e.g., jumper (sweater), jelly (jello), ladder (a runner in a nylon hose), rubber (eraser), crook (sick), bum (the posterior of the human anatomy), railroad sleeper (railroad tie), etc. The Aussies enjoy numerous holidays and people who work on holidays and Sundays receive, by law, one and a half to two times the normal wage. The Liberal Party holds conservative political, economic and social views,

whereas, the Labour Party holds liberal views.

As is probably evident from the three letters sent from Australia, I have enjoyed my sabbatical and believe that it has enhanced my knowledge of geoscience information in and about Australia. I hope that others in geoscience information will have similar opportunities and will take advantage of them. The experience is challenging, stimulating, fun, and socially and professionally worthwhile.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

ELEANORE WILKINS, charter member of GIS, retired from the USGS in December, 1986. She served as Secretary of GIS in 1968 and as President in 1969. In her 34 years with the USGS, she oversaw the development of the Survey's Western Region Library. Previously, she worked with NASA and Safeway Stores, Inc. Her retirement is split between service with a conservation consortium and interest in politics, a lovely house, and 4 cats.

THE HIGH PLAINS DRIFTER

Every library used to have at least one intense, short-sighted, filing-cards-flying-in-all-directions bibliographer who was always working on a subject near and dear to a specialized population of scientists, social scientists, musicians, or other group. Occasionally, if you chose to interrupt this person, you received ramblings of the past and present, this subject and that, along with a rapid blinking of the eyes so they could focus on a person rather than print. These people have slowly disappeared! I'm wondering if computers are taking over this function, or if the literature is just too voluminous, or if people are no longer choosing this sort of intensive work, preferring instead to ski, hike, or surf. Maybe researchers are no longer being trained to be encouraged to produce bibliographies (which is different than References or References Cited, but that could be a topic for another column).

I hope the bibliographers return--I miss the card files, p-slips scattering in all directions, ILL requests that are a true challenge, but most of all, I miss the help the bibliographies were to the reference question.

Connie Manson - Editor
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