



newsletter

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JUDY GEITGEY HAS MOVED!! Her new address is:

2222 S. W. Ek Road
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and phone: 503/638-5132

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

About 50 GIS members attended the Phoenix meeting, one of the most successful GSA conferences, with a total attendance of over 5,200. Our Symposium and Technical Session papers were excellent. As Symposium convener I am personally pleased that people from various geoscience constituencies--information, administration, history of geology--attended the symposium and heard what collection building means from the point of view of archivists, curators and historians of science. The Technical Sessions, workshops, and Database Forum were similarly well-attended. What a thrill it was to walk into Carol Messick's Beginners' GeoRef Workshop and see 37 geologists hard at work learning how to search, and to see Bichteler, Ward and Stoffer literally being mobbed at their poster booths by all of GSA! Those of us who heard the papers of this conference eagerly await reading them in the Proceedings. Based on the few that have already been received, I assure all readers that you are in for a real treat. Thanks go to all the many people who helped make the Phoenix conference a success.

Being a symposium convener and general program scheduler for all GIS activities has been a time consuming job but has given me the opportunity to make many new friends in GSA, with the GSA staff, and in GIS. I feel enriched and grateful for that. I left Phoenix with satisfaction that GIS is not only an integral part of the Conference but an impressive and well respected force in the geoscience community.

The year ahead

Committees should be off and running soon. Members who have been contacted to be on committees, please respond to me with your acceptance by mid-December so that the committee list can be printed in the February Newsletter.

We hope to clarify the liaison relationship with other societies--SLA, MAGERT and MOAG--so that GIS is clearly represented.

There is much to be done. Any member who would like to serve on a committee and has not yet been contacted should get in touch with me as soon as possible.

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expires December 31, 1987. Marilyn Stark
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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. Information reports, officer and committee reports, publication notices, job announcements, and other news items should be submitted to the News Gathering Editor.

Material for the February, 1988 Newsletter should be received by the editors no later than January 20, 1988.

EDITORS' COLUMN

This is a full issue-- We have lots of reports from the annual meeting in Phoenix: the minutes, a summary, and reports (and results) from the GeoRef Users Group, the RLG Earth Sciences Project, and the Costs of Geo-Science Literature meeting.

We also have articles on searching GeoRef and on reviewing software, and we have the review of the new University Microfilms products.

1988 looks to be an exciting year for GIS, culminating in the 100th anniversary meeting of GSA. But for now-- Merry Christmas to all, and to all a Happy New Year.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

It is with great disappointment (or pleasure, depending on your point of view) that the only vice I am able to report about is Jim O'Donnell's argyle socks.

However, in a more serious manner, GIS was meetings, informal meetings, small crises, the GIS Symposium, the GIS Technical Session, the GIS luncheon, the GIS reception, and more meetings. I am still exhausted but I wouldn't have wanted to miss any of it. The GIS Symposium and the GIS Technical Session presented very high quality papers and seemed to attract new faces. Now if the Symposium and Technical were wonderful then we'll have to call the luncheon up there with the winners as well. I have a very tough act to follow.

GIS is again looking at cooperative efforts with other organizations or groups for the 100th Anniversary meeting in Denver. Dedy Ward, Dan Merriam, and I are working on a symposium tentatively entitled, "The Geoscience Workstation: The Ultimate Information Supermarket for Individual Scientists" in conjunction with the International Association for Mathematical Geology. One of our favorites, Dan McIntyre, will be the convener.

There will also be a Technical Session, probably in association with NAGT, but we have not heard a reply yet. This will be

your opportunity to present your work or research to the rest of us. We also are planning the GeoRef Workshops, the Database Forum, and other committee meetings that are desired.

My first meeting with the Joint Technical Program Committee (JTTC) was quite interesting. Jean Eaglesfield also serves on that committee. This group discusses slides, slide projectors, basic presentations, the design of the meeting, the format of the meeting, and anything else that may be of importance so that GSA is as good as it can be. Next year, Monday morning will be only one mega-session. As that time is dedicated to this session, this will impact on the total number of additional sessions that will be held at that meeting. There is also a concern about how to handle late-breaking research and how to aid those researchers who are relatively new and find it difficult to be chosen to give papers because their reputation is not yet well established. I haven't heard solutions to these problems yet but the problems at least are identified.

Now for the good news: we have started some plans in motion for a GIS field trip. The field trips are some of the memorable times of our meetings (next to Jim's socks), so we can start anticipating.

MINUTES

Geoscience Information Society,
Annual Business Meeting, Oct. 26 & 27, 1987,
Phoenix, AZ

The first portion of the GIS Annual Business Meeting was called to order by President Bob Bier on Monday, October 26 at 2:10 p.m. Those attending were: Mary Ansari, Bob Bier, Marie Dvorzak, Jean Eaglesfield, Claren Kidd, Connie Manson, Dorothy McGarry, John Mulvihill, Jim O'Donnell, Hart Phinney, Miriam Sheaves, Marilyn Stark, Dena Stepp, Julia Triplehorn, Connie Wick, and Louise Zipp.

President Bob Bier presented the agenda, which was adopted, then turned the floor over to the Ad Hoc Committee on the Constitution and Bylaws (Jim O'Donnell, Chair; Connie Wick; Connie Manson). Jim moved and Connie Wick seconded that the proposed changes in the Bylaws and Constitution be presented to the membership at large via ballot. The motion carried.

Discussion commenced with Jim giving a history of why it was felt that revisions were needed: our present Constitution limits the number of people who can run for office by prohibiting institutional/corporate members from participating in this fashion; Treasurer Mary Ansari felt a need for more clearly defined Treasurer responsibilities in the document; it was desirable to name other standing committees in addition to the Nominating Committee; there was sentiment

toward allowing for a retired membership category. At the time the Ad Hoc Committee began their task of reviewing the Constitution and Bylaws, in 1968, these documents were 22 years old.

Jim then proceeded to review changes from the current Constitution. Louise Zipp asked if proposed Article XII would exclude other financing sources. After some discussion Dorothy McGarry offered a friendly amendment that the phrase "from sources such as" be added. Approved.

Bob Bier questioned whether in Article IX, Section III, B the phrase majority vote would become a problem if all ballots were not returned. Dorothy McGarry suggested the alternate phrasing "by a majority of the valid votes cast in a mail ballot". Hart Phinney moved and Bob Bier seconded this change. Motion carried.

Hart Phinney suggested changing the order in which occupations were listed in Article II, Section C, suggesting that librarians be listed first. Discussion. No motion. Miriam Sheaves moved that the order of purposes of the Society be reversed. Seconded by Jean Eaglesfield. Motion carried. Jim O'Donnell then reviewed changes from the current

Bylaws. Hart Phinney raised the question of the changes implied in proposed Article I, Section 6 and Article VI, Section 1, regarding who would receive the GIS Newsletter, the Proceedings, and the Membership Directory. Under the proposed Bylaws, those items would only be received as long as the person maintained his/her membership for the year in which the publications were issued. Discussion centered around whether this change was intended, to which Jim replied yes, saying it would solve the problem GIS has always had as to coming up with the appropriate mailing labels for the Proceedings, for people who used to be members, but no longer are. No motion was proposed.

Bob Bier asked if Article I should include dues information. Jim replied that it was included in Article XII of the Constitution. Bob then proposed that we add in Article II, Section 4, at the end of the paragraph the phrase "all disbursements shall require the signature of two officers". Jean Eaglesfield seconded the motion. Jim felt that this was not necessary and would slow up processing checks. Bob felt it would be good to have two signatures as a "checks and balances" safeguard. Marilyn Stark, as incoming Treasurer for 1988 expressed agreement with Bob. Hart Phinney offered that an alternative would be to bond the Treasurer. Jean Eaglesfield and Mary Ansari expressed confidence that the two signature system worked well this past year. Claren Kidd, speaking as a former President, said that having the President sign the checks helps keep him/her abreast of expenditures. Motion passed with 2 opposed.

Jean Eaglesfield proposed that we delete "and prepare a complete report....term of office". Motion carried. Claren Kidd asked if in Article II Section 4 the first sentence means that every disbursement has to be authorized each time. After some discussion Dena Stepp moved and Jean seconded that the word "only" and the rest of the sentence from "Executive Board" on be eliminated. Motion defeated. Jean moved and Jim seconded that the portion of the sentence after the word "disbursements" be struck. Motion passed.

Jean inquired whether we had intended to restrict an officer from being a committee chair. After some discussion Bob proposed that in Article II Section 7 we add "except as specified in Article II Section 1". Jim felt that this was not necessary.

Dorothy asked for clarification regarding terms of members of standing committees. Miriam moved and Louise seconded that the Directory of Geoscience Libraries Committee be struck from the section listing standing committees since it should not be a two-year term committee, but rather continue until the task is completed. Motion passed. Bob asked if we also should strike out Nominating Committee from that section since it has been a one-year rather than a two year committee. After discussion he so moved with Hart Phinney seconding the motion. The motion carried.

Dena expressed concern over the issue Jean had raised earlier of officers also being committee chairs. Claren agreed that there ought to be a provision to prevent this. After discussion, Dena proposed that the sentence "An officer may not chair a committee except under extraordinary circumstances, as approved by the Executive Board" be added to the end of Article II, Section 7. Motion carried.

Bob proposed that in Article II, Section I, the sentence "The President shall maintain and distribute guidelines for the officers and committee chairs" be added. Connie Manson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Hart returned to the issue of who was to receive GIS publications, particularly the Proceedings, as addressed earlier in discussions of Article VI, Section 1. He suggested several possibilities of alternative wording, one in the form of a motion which was not supported.

Mary Ansari suggested that the time for the Nominating Committee to mail the ballots and receive them be changed from 6 weeks and 2 weeks to 8 weeks and 4 weeks. Louise offered a friendly amendment that it be changed to mailed 12 weeks before the annual meeting and received by the Committee no later than 8 weeks before the annual meeting. In the discussion Jean expressed that this would allow for time for the newly elected officers to plan prior to attending the annual meeting. The motion passed 6 to 5.

Jim then concluded that the proposed Constitution and Bylaws as amended be brought to the entire membership in the form of a ballot. Connie Manson seconded the motion, which passed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m. to be continued on Tuesday, 10/27/87 with the rest of the Annual Business Meeting agenda.

Respectfully submitted,
Miriam L. Sheaves, Secretary

MINUTES
Geoscience Information Society,
Annual Business Meeting, Oct. 26 & 27, 1987,
Phoenix, AZ
[2nd session]

The second session of the Geoscience Information Society's Annual Business Meeting was reconvened by President Bob Bier on Tuesday, October 27, 1987 at 8:06 a.m. The minutes of the 1986 Business Meeting were approved. Bob requested that those in attendance sign the sheet being circulated.

Secretary's report - Miriam Sheaves reported that GIS currently has 231 members, down from last year by 27 members (net loss). Although 54 members did not renew, 24 new members were welcomed into the Society and 3 former members were reinstated. Dick Walker asked if we knew why the non-renewals. Miriam respon-

ded that she thought it was a combination of factors -- people moving into non-geoscience positions, signs of the economy, and several retired members not renewing. Miriam also reported on the new GIS membership database, from which the 1987 Membership Directory was printed, and thanked Jim O'Donnell for getting it printed and distributed.

Treasurer's report - Mary Ansari reported that since her report was published in the GIS Newsletter, GIS has expended \$1488 and has received \$604 income. The bill for the new Proceedings is not in yet and will be somewhere between \$1400 and \$1800. She thanked Marie Dvorzak for auditing her books.

Vice President's report - Jean Eaglesfield asked if there were any questions on the program. She was congratulated on her Symposium which was very well attended. Jean asked members to let her know which committees they would like to serve on.

Past President's report - Bob reported that Annette Bourgeois has had health problems and was unable to attend the Phoenix meeting. He said that GIS is working on getting out the 1985 Proceedings.

Newsletter Editor - Connie Manson requested that people send in any news, information on new publications, job changes, and announcements to the editors, and made a plea for more articles for the GIS Newsletter. She also reported that Judy Geitgey has moved and is expecting a new baby, but will continue as news-gathering editor.

Publications Manager - Jim O'Donnell reported that the 1986 Proceedings, compiled by Bob Bier, are now out and that 350 copies were printed. Only 157 copies of the Directory of Geoscience Libraries have been sold, which, at \$10.00 for GIS members, is a bargain members should take advantage of. Jim handled the printing and distribution of the 1987 Membership Directory and Bob's Proceedings.

President's report - Bob Bier thanked Jean Eaglesfield for the super program and the Executive Board for their long hours on conference calls and for being very hard-working and supportive. He thanked Louise Zipp and Julie Bichteler for their work on the Nominating Committee, and thanked all members of committees and committee chairs for their time and effort.

Exhibit Committee - Joanne Lerud said that after her report went in to the Newsletter, GSA notified us that GIS no longer gets two free registrations. The Executive Board approved to pay the registration of the student sitting at the booth for us during our Phoenix meetings, a Ph.D. student from Montana Tech. Next year, being the Centennial for GSA, will be a very important year for exhibits. Joannie has planned upgrades for physical appearance and lighter cases for cheaper transport of our exhibit. She mentioned that there are time slots to be filled for working at the GIS booth today and tomorrow and encouraged members to sign up.

Dvorzak said that people stopped by the booth and commented on how nice it looked. Joannie credited John Crissinger since she had made only minor changes from John's exhibit booth from last year.

GeoRef Users Group Steering Committee - Barbara Pearson reported that the Users Group meeting held on 10/26/87 was extremely well attended. Issues addressed were cost, currency, training updates, a possible user survey, and ideas to be published in the GeoRef Newsletter and the GIS Newsletter such as search tips. There were 5 new members on the Steering Committee this year and 5 members are rotating off now. Barb asked members to let Jean know if they are interested in serving on this committee.

GIS Editorial Review Board - Alison Lewis reiterated that we need articles contributed to the GIS Newsletter and that without them, there is no point in expanding to a bulletin or occasional paper format. GIS has received three books that we need to review. Alison asked members to let her know if they are interested and where their expertise lies. She can start a card file on people's expertise. The reviewer gets to keep the book (two of the three are from the GSA DNAG Centennial Field Guide series).

GSA Centennial Meeting Committee - Dedy Ward reported that the Committee chose to do an invited symposium for the centennial meeting. GIS will be combining efforts with the History of Geology Section for a GSA History of Geology exhibit. Theme for the symposium will be something along the lines of "The Geoscience Workstation: The Ultimate Information Supermarket" centering around geologists and their workstations. There is a possibility of working with the International Association for Mathematical Geology on an invited joint symposium. He also reported that Unni Rowell is investigating working with NAGT on a jointly sponsored program. Marie Dvorzak commented that people are really interested in review of software and in online utilities that they can download, for instance a gateway for OCLC. Dedy said that COGS (Computer Oriented Geological Society) has 1500 members and that perhaps we could interest some from that group. He explained that we want issues and examples, but no sales pitches, and also perhaps a look into the future. There will still be the regular technical session and poster session in addition to the invited symposium. Susan Klimley asked if this meeting was going to take two weeks. Dedy commented that because of the GSA Centennial that there would be the additional GSA exhibit.

Membership Committee - Dena Stepp thanked the members of the committee, Lois Heiser for designing and getting printed the lovely new membership brochure, and Connie Manson and Connie Wick who worked with Dena on getting out over 385 solicitations in this year's recent membership drive. Dena felt that next year's Membership Committee could work on people who have dropped membership to try to find out why.

Nominating Committee - Louise Zipp (for Annette Bourgeois) reported that the Committee's report and election results appeared in the October Newsletter.

Union List of Geologic Guidebooks Committee - Charlotte Derksen thanked all those who worked so hard to submit their holdings and asked those who had not yet submitted theirs to do so within the next two weeks. She thanked committee members Richard Spohn and Louise Zipp for their work on the geographic index and Dena Stepp and Cathy Pasterczyk for work on the stratigraphic index. Susan Klimley asked if the Union List would be done in the same way next year. Charlotte indicated that improvements were needed, and that her (5th edition) committee had turned up errors in the geographic index. The Executive Board had approved to hire someone to re-do the geographic indexing. If members know of an indexer with expertise in geography, let Charlotte know. Charlotte commented that GSA deserved our thanks for the Phoenix meeting guidebooks being available all in one volume at a price of \$20.00. Hart Phinney moved and Dena Stepp seconded that GIS send a letter of thanks to GSA.

A discussion regarding the distribution of GIS guidelines for field trip guidebook editors/compiler followed. Jean commented that we were unable to find a Standards Officer for this year to send out our guidelines but that it is a priority for the coming year. Claren Kidd said that our guidelines, on GIS stationery, should go out to anyone and everyone identified as an individual field trip leader for the annual and sectional meetings. Ros Walcott inquired if the guidelines have suggestions for distribution to which Claren responded yes. Joannie Lerud mentioned that a man stopped by the GIS booth wanting to make sure that his 12th INQUA Congress guidebooks are in our Union List. Charlotte concluded by saying that she has passed the word along to John Mulvihill that we need wider margins in the Union List for writing in the call numbers.

Ad Hoc Committee on Geoscience Publication Prices - Lois Heiser reported that her committee is holding an open meeting this afternoon for anyone wishing to attend and that the committee would have data to share on costs of serials, maps, monographs and state survey publications.

Ad Hoc Committee on the International Geological Congress - Reggie Brown reported on behalf of Trudy Sinnott that the Congress will be held in Washington, DC in July of 1989 and that John Price had suggested doing a publication on geoscience information resources in the Washington area. The Library of Congress has the database and would be willing to compile and update it. Would GIS want to be involved? John Mulvihill explained that it would be a subset of the geosciences and oceanography directory that the Library of Congress published. The Washington area subset would have approximately 100 entries and be about 10 to 20 pages, according to Reggie.

Jim O'Donnell suggested that we put a cover on it labeled "GIS's gift to you" and identify it as an LC publication. Unni Rowell inquired if we know yet if GIS will have a booth there. John Mulvihill thought that the publication would be a good handout to go along with a theme of GIS as the information providers for the geoscientists. Reggie asked for clarification on who would pay for it. Bob Bier said that the Committee needs to get all the information together and make a proposal. Jean Eaglesfield added that committees are supposed to make budget requests to the Executive Board by April, and that all committee chairs should plan ahead with that in mind. Dick Walker moved that we ask the Committee to pursue the matter of a GIS booth at the 1989 meeting and look into the list of geoscience information resources as proposed by John Price. Unni Rowell seconded the motion, which carried.

Dedy Ward said that the registration for the IGC in Washington was set at \$200.00 for approximately 10 days, with no daily registration price as it now stands. This includes the whole set of abstracts at approximately \$100.00, to which Jean noted that it was a bargain and a great opportunity for GIS to have visibility. Reggie mentioned that one idea was to have an exhibit of old maps and tours to acquaint people with new map technology.

Cartographic Users Advisory Council (CUAC) - Charlotte Derksen reported that there are now 12 members on CUAC, with Nancy Pruett as President. A report of the meeting in Washington appeared in the Newsletter. Charlotte has been monitoring publication rates and reported that U.S.G.S. Open File Reports have dropped at a dramatic rate. This year 9 floppy disks came out as Open File Reports and Charlotte received only one on deposit. Carol Messick reported that one of these OFR's that had a floppy was not even received at the U.S.G.S. Library in Reston. Charlotte reported that Gary North had said that the U.S.G.S. is intending to finish the topographic mapping by 1991, and that they are moving toward CD ROM but it will be about 5 years before we see it. Jean commented that they are cutting down on their print runs so that maps are going out of print more quickly. Unni Rowell said that the distribution of topos has been hurt by Gramm-Rudman as evidenced by the two months it took EXMIN to get 2,000 maps they ordered. Jim O'Donnell remarked that the price list and availability of U.S.G.S. publications is out, and inquired who received it. Charlotte asked that we contact her on matters of concern to us relating to CUAC so that she can take up the issues at the CUAC meeting in March. She also mentioned the letter that CUAC sent to the U.S.G.S. thanking Charlie Bennett for all his help to the map community.

Member Society Council of AGI - Bob Bier reported that Annette was our designate and had attended the meeting in June, but that we have not yet received a report from her. She is now replaced by Claren who will attend tomorrow's meeting.

SLA - Petroleum & Energy Resources Division - Marilyn Stark introduced the past President of this division, Linda Hill, who was attending the GIS Business Meeting. They are hoping to get out a bibliography of petroleum resources as compiled by Barbara Pearson.

Bob Bier took a moment to recognize and welcome John Hutley, from the South Australian Department of Mines & Energy, who is attending the GIS Annual Meeting and representing the AGIA (Australian Geoscience Information Association). He is currently on sabbatical, studying at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Library and Information Studies. Claren Kidd spoke of how much she enjoyed her time in Australia and how cordial and fun their group was.

OLD BUSINESS

4th International Conference on Geological Information - 1990 - Bob Bier has learned from Annette that the tentative dates for this conference are June 22-24 in Ottawa and requested that people inform Annette of possible conflicts. Julie Bichteler asked if it could be pushed back to May due to ALA and SLA meetings. Dorothy McGarry agreed that June would be a bad month.

Dedy Ward suggested the end of May from the standpoint of those from academic institutions. Midge King informed members that May 24 is a Canadian holiday. Barbara Haner said that we have to consider our international members attending. She was impressed to see Australians at SLA, who were trying to tie in several meetings and opportunities while here. John Hutley suggested a day of breather in the middle for local field trips. Dick Walker agreed that people would want to see Ottawa. Charlotte agreed that three days seemed too short and that much of the value of these meetings is in interacting with other attendees. Julia Triplehorn commented that a sightseeing bus is a nice way to get to know people. John Hutley remarked that we need to take jet lag into account for our international attendees. Barbara Haner went to IFLA and advised that the tours be before the meeting to provide an opportunity to get to know people first.

Bob commented that we need to be funneling information to Canada and that representatives are needed from England, France, Australia, India, Brazil, South America and Africa. Dick Walker asked who is sponsoring the 4th International meeting. Bob replied the Geological Survey of Canada with GIS and London's GIG (Geologic Information Group) as co-sponsors. Dick said that he did not think that GSC should sponsor the meeting, that in London it was sponsored by GIG and GIS. Dedy Ward and John Hutley commented that in Australia it was the sponsors who provided the funding (AFM, BMR, IMM, AGR, Quantus). Susan Klimley said that it has been a different flavor with each of these meetings and it might be interesting to see what happens in Ottawa. Unni Rowell made the distinction that there are two different levels of sponsorship - financial and planning. Midge King said that GSC would provide meeting rooms and a financial basis for the day-to-day paying

of bills. Dick Walker concluded the discussion by saying that he would like GIS to be better informed than we presently are. Bob added that a flyer will hopefully be available in 1988.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposal to establish reduced dues for student / retired members - Bob explained that if the proposed new constitution and bylaws are approved by the membership, the Executive Board would like to set the student and retired membership rate at \$15.00. Dedy Ward moved and Hart Phinney seconded that this rate be approved. Motion carried.

Proposal for a Database Forum for the 1988 meeting - Bob said that a man from NOAA had approached us about public domain databases and our forum for next year. He asked Barbara Pearson to give details on this year's Database Forum. Barb encouraged members to attend the forum which would consist of representatives from Geobase, Geode Pascal, Petroleum Abstracts, Chemical Abstracts, and GeoRef describing their products. She said that several producers of hard-data databases inquired if they could get into our forum, but that it was too late for this year. Charlotte Derksen remarked that more and more databases would be coming out and that, as information professionals, we need to be learning about them.

Future of Society Representatives - Bob emphasized that we need to know who our representatives are and have the corresponding societies know that they are official GIS representatives. Jean wants to know of members who regularly attend the meetings and belong to the various sections of ALA and SLA (etc.) for appointment purposes. Linda Hill suggested placing it on our form for membership renewal. Miriam Sheaves said she was not sure if it would fit, but would try, if possible.

Petition to Establish a Pacific Section of GIS - Bob gave the history of the request, reported on a letter he received from MaryAnn Whitney citing her reservations, and introduced Julie Rinaldi from UC Berkeley, who had written to the Executive Board on behalf of the Pacific constituency, requesting that the group become an affiliate of GIS. Phil Stoffer remarked that it was a good idea and that he and others were thinking of starting a similar group in Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio. Peg Marshburn asked if it needed to be in coordination with GSA's Cordilleran Section. Dena Stepp responded that other societies have affiliated sections different from GSA. Claren Kidd wondered whether people in the Pacific Section would stop coming to the GIS annual meeting. Julie responded that the Pacific Section annual meeting was set up to coincide with the GIS annual meeting.

Unni Rowell asked why it was necessary and couldn't the Pacific coast constituency meet informally. Jim O'Donnell said that several of them had already been working together on regional cooperative projects such as collec-

tion development and that they needed some sort of affiliation to get money from their institutions. He sees it as a way to breathe life into a portion of GIS. Hart Phinney highly recommended that it be approved. Bob replied that the Executive Board had already approved it. Charlotte Derksen said that GIS already had two new members here at the annual meeting due to the possibility of forming a GIS Pacific Section. Marie Dvorzak and Sue Palmer expressed strong opposition, fearing a fragmentation of interest and commitment. Louise Zipp suggested that the Pacific members could do local problem solving without GIS's name, that if they are not making an intellectual contribution to GIS, they should not be affiliated with GIS.

Connie Manson commented that she hoped the Pacific Section could serve as a model for other regional GIS member affiliations. Phil Stoffer talked about the need for regional activities and cooperation, for example in collection development. John Mulvihill stated that he thought it was a very exciting prospect, asking why not have them work together within GIS rather than outside GIS. Linda Hill asked what proportion of our members come to our annual meetings, saying that if it's not a majority, that this is where the work of the Society is done, locally, like SLA. She thinks it's great.

Sue Palmer moved that the issue of a Pacific Section be brought before the whole membership for a vote. Dick Walker seconded the motion. Jim O'Donnell said that if one reads our current Bylaws, the Executive Board is empowered to establish local or regional chapters. He reiterated John Mulvihill's comments and added that members like Charlotte Derksen, Michael Noga and himself would still continue to come to the GIS annual meeting, regardless of where in the country it were held, as they now do and that GIS will add additional new members due to the Pacific affiliation. Sue Palmer said that she had not signed the petition requesting Pacific Section affiliation with GIS because she was not in favor of it, therefore she had not responded to Julie Rinaldi's letter. Julie had received 16 favorable responses (persons wishing to form a GIS Pacific Section) prior to the Phoenix meeting. Julia Triplehorn spoke in favor of a Pacific Section saying that it was a way for regional people to get together. Connie Manson, as the only Washington GIS member [present] agreed. Linda Hill suggested that the motion was out of order if the Executive Board is empowered with the authority to approve regional chapters. The motion was defeated.

Other New Business - Unni Rowell expressed her deep concern and the embarrassment to the Society that volume 16, 1985 of the Proceedings still has not been published. Discussion centered around efforts made by the Executive Board to obtain the camera-ready copy. Unni moved that the Executive Board take whatever practical measures are necessary to get the camera-ready copy and publish the 1985 Proceedings. Dick Walker seconded the motion, which carried.

Announcements - Dena Stepp announced that a professor in Ohio has a contact in Zambia and that anyone who would like to donate books to Zambia should contact Dena. Charlotte Derksen also has a contact in China for the same purpose. Janet Rudd announced a map position open at the University of California-Santa Barbara.

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Miriam L. Sheaves, Secretary

List of Attendees

GIS Annual Business Meeting, Oct. 27, 1987

- Mary Ansari
- Debbie Arens
- Julie Bichteler
- Bob Bier
- Reggie Brown
- Charlotte Derksen
- Dona Dirlam
- Marie Dvorzak
- Jean Eaglesfield
- Barbara Haner
- Linda Hill
- John Hutley
- Claren Kidd
- Midge King
- Susan Klimley
- Carolyn Laffoon
- Joanne Lerud
- Alison Lewis
- Connie Manson
- Peg Marshburn
- Dorothy McGarry
- Clara McLeod
- Carol Messick
- John Mulvihill
- Jim O'Donnell
- Sue Palmer
- Cathy Pasterczyk
- Barb Pearson
- Hart Phinney
- Julie Rinaldi
- Carter Robinson
- Unni Rowell
- Janet Rudd
- Jon Sellin
- Miriam Sheaves
- Janet Sorensen
- Richard Spohn
- Marilyn Stark
- Dena Stepp
- Phil Stoffer
- Nancy Thurston
- Rosalind Walcott
- Dick Walker
- Margy Walsh
- Dedy Ward
- Elaine Watson
- Connie Wick
- Louise Zipp

The 48 people listed above were at the GIS Annual Business Meeting on October 27, 1987. There may have been others present who did not sign the attendance sheet.

GIS 1987 ANNUAL MEETING
SUMMARY

1987 Executive Board Meeting (10/25/87)

The Board:

--Approved spending \$850 to upgrade and ship the Exhibit Booth and to pay for two student registrations so that students could sit at the GIS booth during GIS events.

--Approved guidelines for the Executive Board and Committee Chairs.

--Agreed that liaison members to other societies would report relevant news to GIS both in the Newsletter and at the annual meeting, would convey news of GIS to the other societies, and would be generally alert to issues of mutual interest.

--Decided to appoint a committee for the 6th edition of the Union List of Geologic Field Trip Guidebooks, that the 1988 committee would investigate better ways to compile the union list, and to publish in perhaps more than one format. The Board approved the hiring of an indexer for the 5th edition.

--Approved the establishment of a Pacific Section of GIS.

--Approved a student/retired membership rate of \$15 if the proposed Constitution and Bylaws are approved by the Membership.

--Agreed to ask AGI to have a GIS representative on the AGI GeoRef Advisory Committee.

1988 Executive Board Meeting (10/28/87)

The Board:

--Clarified type of sponsorship of representatives to CUAC meetings.

--Discussed how to produce volumes 16 and 18 of our Proceedings.

--Discussed the next steps in GIS involvement in the 4th International Meeting on Geoscience Information.

--Announced that the ballot on the proposed Constitution and Bylaws will be mailed by the Secretary and will be due back by mid-December.

--Decided that the data base forum manager-organizer will be an appointment separate from the GeoRef Users Group Steering Committee chair.

--Announced that our membership database is up and running on a personal computer and that bugs are being worked out.

--Agreed to investigate electronic mail for officers.

--GIS will pay dues to AGI, based on AGI requests.

--Discussed sales of the GIS membership list; exhibits at sectional meetings; having a field trip committee; establishing a founder's award.

--Approved sending a courtesy Newsletter to the Executive Directors of GSA and AGI and no other courtesy memberships.

[For explanations or more details on any of the above, contact Jean Eaglesfield.]

Luncheon (10/26/87)--Speaker: Stephen Jay Gould

Jean Eaglesfield thanked many people for helping put the conference together and gave

special tokens of thanks to Unni Rowell and Connie Manson.

Stephen Jay Gould, who teaches geology, biology, and history of science at Harvard University, gave a delightful talk called "The case of the creeping fox terrier clone" about his research on how evolution is treated in high school textbooks. Gould found that the effects of external pressures were minimal in comparison to internal pressures generated by current publishing practices. His thesis is that intellectual diversity has become lessened by thoughtless copying of material, and to demonstrate this he traced the comparison in size of Eohippus to a fox terrier, a comparison that is commonly used in biology texts.

GeoRef Users Group (10/26/87)

This meeting, organized by the Steering Committee, gave valuable comments to GeoRef.

Costs of Geoscience Literature (10/27/87)

This open meeting was highly attended. Committee members had gathered interesting facts on price escalation in serials, monographs, state publications, and maps. It was decided to compile a serials cancellation list which any GIS member could participate in.

For copies of the handouts or a detailed summary of the meeting, contact Michael Noga, committee chair.

The Data Base Forum (10/27/87)

This was a first-time event for GIS: a show and tell pitch from 5 database producers. It was instructive for the geoscience community and was attended by 60 people. Organized by Barbara Pearson, a long-time member of GIS and Chair-Elect of the Petroleum Division of SLA.

The Advanced GeoRef Workshop (10/28/87)

Featured presentations by Marilyn Stark on coordinate searching; Elaine Watson on searching for USGS publications; Sharon Tahirkheli on the online thesaurus; Phil Stoffer on limiting. Organized by Joanne Lerud.

The Beginner's GeoRef Workshop (10/27/87)

Conducted by Carol Messick.
Both Workshops were heavily attended and quite successful.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

PHIL STOFFER has moved. He is now with the Kentucky Geological Survey. His address is:

Geological Science Library
University of Kentucky
100 Bowman Hall
Lexington, KY 40506

GEOREF USER GROUP MEETING,
GIS ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Phoenix.

John Mulvihill announced purchase of a micro-computer system, including COMPAQs, a Novell network, Advanced Revelation (database program), Ventura Publisher, and a laser printer. Special bibliographies can then be produced. GeoRef will be up on STN next year, with additional refinements in the database loading. AGI knows that the 102 core journals should be indexed quickly, and the goal is to index January publications into the database by March or April.

About 85,000 items will be indexed this year, down slightly from the 87,000 last year. A new GeoRef Thesaurus will appear next year. Sharon Tahirkeli was promoted to Chief Editor of GeoRef, when Ghassan Rassam left.

User Group members expressed concern over database costs, with the \$0.45 cost per hit as high, especially since AGI does not include an abstract as part of each citation. Many searchers wanted to exclude abstracts as a document type, however, again because of the \$0.45 cost per hit. Academic users asked if AGI could subsidize academic searches, and John Mulvihill said that an academic discount will be considered, but not to the level of the American Chemical Society's 90% subsidy for Chemical Abstracts.

The User Group asked about a CDROM product; none is planned now, but the first would probably be USGS publications. Users asked for stored searches, such as non-English, no abstracts, and USGS publications, so searches could easily combine those categories to their own subject searches. This is possible, and the User Group was asked to notify GeoRef of searches needed. Other requests:

- 1) Add GeoRef to OnTap Files in Dialog. Users should ask Dialog to do this.
- 2) Do another user survey.
- 3) Include the AGI 800 number in the Bibliography and Index of Geology
- 4) Publish a form for corrections to GeoRef in the GIS Newsletter, so corrections can easily be sent to GeoRef. Dialmail is another way to send messages to GeoRef.
- 5) List monographs separately from technical reports in the Bib, so book selection will be easier.

As the requests demonstrated, the GeoRef User Group has wide-ranging interests in both GeoRef and its print equivalent, the Bibliography and Index of Geology.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Stark

[Editor's note: This report was left out of the October issue. Our apologies.]

ANNUAL REPORTS: GIS Editorial Review Board

The 1987 GIS Editorial Review Board members are: Barbara Christy (Library of Congress), Sarah How (Research Libraries Group), Alison Lewis, chair (Florida Geological Survey), and Richard Walker (University of Wisconsin). Newsletter editors Judy Geitgey (University of Oregon) and Connie Manson (Washington Division of Geology and Earth Resources) continue as ex-officio members.

In the past 5 months, the Board has worked with 2 manuscripts submitted for publication. One is currently under revision; the other was published in the June issue of the GIS Newsletter.

The idea of developing an "Occasional Papers" series for GIS seems to be receiving mixed reviews. Some people remain enthusiastic about the idea, while others find it premature. The bottom line is: "Do we have enough popular support, in the form of professional, well-researched papers, to support this project?" With only 2 or 3 manuscripts being sent to the Review Board per year, the answer appears to be "No."

Some possible alternatives to an "Occasional Papers" series which we might wish to reconsider are: 1) Changing the name of the GIS Newsletter to something other than "newsletter" (any suggestions?); 2) Continuing to upgrade the quality and production of the Newsletter, possibly adding front and back coverstock covers. This would increase the costs of production and mailing, but would upgrade our image and in the long run be less expensive than a separate series.

Membership involvement will be the key to success for any publication upgrades and(or) expansions in the future. Members are encouraged to send any comments, suggestions, and ideas (as well as manuscripts!) to the attention of the Chair.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison M. Lewis, Chair

REPORT OF THE RLG EARTH SCIENCES PROJECT
MEETING AT GSA, October 25, Phoenix, AZ

by

Barbara DeFelice
Dartmouth College

A comprehensive earth sciences collection within the Research Libraries Group, Inc. (RLG) is the goal of the RLG geology librarians who met during GSA to work on a pilot project involving coordinated collection of materials for 5 Latin American countries. Although geology librarians have long discussed the difficulties of acquiring earth sciences materials from foreign countries, results from the RLG's Conoco Project in German Literature and Geology (supported by a grant from Conoco, Inc.) provided the impetus for this pilot project.

The Conoco Project investigated selection decision making as related to willingness to share collections, collection overlap, and the costs and benefits of sharing collections. One of the results of the study indicated that, based on the perceived needs of their users, the geology selectors were willing to forego purchase and share over 50% of the items listed (a random sample taken from the 1982 Bibliography and Index of Geology). 18% of the sample items were not held by any of the participating libraries, and 21% were held by all the participating libraries. For more information on the Conoco Study, contact one of the people listed below, and(or) see the papers by Klimley (1986, 1987).

The objective of the pilot project, informally named RLGeo at the meeting at GSA, is to create a model for a cooperative collection development project that is designed, implemented, and monitored by the librarians most closely involved in the actual work of acquiring materials. The indigenous earth science materials from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile and Columbia were selected for the pilot project for several reasons. This material exhibits characteristics that are common to much geoscience literature, such as a regional as well as a subject focus, and a wide variety of formats and publishers. The areas of collection responsibility can be defined by place, such as geographical region or political body, or by subject, such as paleontology. They can also be defined by format, such as maps, data files, photographs, serials, or monographs, and by publisher, such as private societies, government agencies, and commercial companies.

Although material from these countries is of high interest to some geoscientists, at most institutions is it not considered to be part of a core geoscience collection. Therefore, most librarians are not taking large risks by trusting in a cooperative effect to have access to it. Assuring access to a wider range of the world's geoscience literature is the main advantage of this pilot project. Some savings in staff time and effort may

also be realized, but savings in actual money spent on materials are not anticipated, due to the low cost of these materials.

The pilot project's organization and monitoring system was developed in detail at the meeting at GSA. A representative from each participating institution, probably the geoscience bibliographer or librarian, will be the institutional coordinator. This person will choose the regions, subjects and collecting levels that make up the collection responsibilities for the pilot project. The revised RLG Physical Geography and Earth Sciences Conspectus, which includes an expanded regional section, will be used to record the collection responsibilities. The institutional coordinator will be responsible for keeping the Conspectus up to date, selecting the materials, and facilitating access to them.

A system of tracking the progress of the project was developed. Basic statistics on acquisitions and interlibrary loan of materials in the collecting areas will be recorded at the beginning of an institution's commitment. These statistics will be updated periodically, and will be accompanied by a short narrative report about the effects of the project. A presentation on the project will be given at the next GIS annual meeting.

Five institutional coordinators are serving as the pilot project's Coordinating Committee. They will provide information and assistance to anyone interested in participating in the project. The coordinators and their duties are:

Charlotte Derksen, Branner Earth Sciences Library, Stanford University: Coordinating Committee Chair, RLG liaison and logistics
Louise Zipp, Geology Library, University of Iowa: Data collection and management
Claren Kidd, Geology Library, University of Oklahoma: Program supervision and training
Susan Klimley, Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory, Columbia University: Institutional coordinator, trainer for the East Coast
Barbara DeFelice, Kresge Physical Sciences Library, Dartmouth College: Publicity and information

All RLG geoscience librarians are welcome to participate. Benefits for the individual selector include assistance from other RLG librarians with acquisitions, cataloging and interlibrary loan of foreign geoscience materials for the institution, as well as a broader level of coverage of the world's literature in U.S. libraries. This should

have positive impact on the quality of geoscience collections and therefore benefits for the geoscience researchers served by these collections.

References cited

Klimley, Susan, 1986, Strengthening geology libraries through cooperative collection development. In Shelley, E. P., editor,

Proceedings of the 3rd International Conference on Geoscience Information, Adelaide, South Australia, 1986, v. 1, p. 100-110.

Klimley, Susan, 1987, Taking the next step-- Directions and requirements for cooperative collection development among academic geology libraries: Geoscience Information Society Proceedings, v. 17, p. 69-76.

TIPS ON SEARCHING GEOREF by Phil Stoffer

Expanding a search

Use the GeoRef Thesaurus to find related terms.

Print several full records to evaluate additional descriptor terms.

"OR" related terms. Example: oil or gas or petroleum or hydrocarbon? (Remember: "big terms" eat processing time!)

Leave out unnecessary linking terms. Example: crystal(w)structure and millerite. "crystal(w)structure" isn't effective because what few articles exist on rare minerals are probably important.

"?" - truncate where possible. Example: "Phosphoria?" instead of "Phosphoria Formation"

Use more geographic terms. Example: Wind ()River()Basin or (Fremont Co? and Wyoming)

Use the "back door approach". Example: (permanian and Wind()River?) or Phosphoria? This might give you other names for formations in an area.

Use broader or more general terms. Example: carbonate? or limestone? or dolo?

Use "EXPAND" command to check spelling variation or pick up additional terms.

Be thoughtful of punctuation and spelling. Example: St Genevieve or Ste Genevieve or St. Genevieve or Ste. Genevieve or Saint Genevieve or Sainte Genevieve.

Be aware of geographic duplication. Example: Columbia River, Columbia River basalt, Colombia, District of Columbia, Columbia, Georgia.

Remember you can always use the BREAK key. SEARCH OTHER DATABASES.

(Relax and have a cup of coffee before you go on line to give you and your patron a chance to think more about your search.)

A long distance phone call is cheaper than going online.

Emphasize to patron that an online search is just a start.

Limiting a search

"Between 50 and 100 articles is a reasonable target"?

Use "AND" and "NOT" and "(nW)" commands.

Examples: (Pleistocene and East()Africa?) not (homo? ? or man); Dakota F? not (hydrology or groundwater)

Use the GeoRef Thesaurus for additional or related terms or scan the blue sheet.

Print out several citations for titles and descriptors.

Limit search to title terms: /TI, or descriptor terms: /DE, or both.

Use "LIMIT 1/ENG". 70% of articles in GeoRef are English language.

Use "LIMITALL/ENG" to limit all search statements to English language.

"LIMIT/MAJ". Why bother?

Use coordinates? This doesn't work well on land or for old literature.

Try some of these:

"...NOT (ab or abs or abst or abstr?)"

"...NOT (guidebook/DE or DT=map?)"

"...AND review?/ti,de*

Add "big words"/TI (but avoid "dummy words" like "methods"). Example: Geochemistry/TI and clay. Don't use the word "geology" (unless you have lots of time and \$\$\$).

Use "SH=" - code for section headings (1975 and on)

Use the EXPAND command to see if you are really getting what you want.

Print out 50 most recent citations(?)

Limit to specific journals?

Limit to document type "DT=SERIAL"

"BL=ANALYTIC"

Limit geographic area, geologic age, scope of search?

Use the "SAVE/TEMP" command so you can come back later.

ASK FOR MORE MONEY.

University Microfilms Products:
A Review

compiled by Connie Manson
Washington Department of Natural Resources
Division of Geology and Earth Resources

University Microfilms International (UMI) is the sole commercial source for copies of most dissertations, especially for recent North American dissertations.

About 1/4 of dissertations include original geologic mapping. For these theses, it is the maps that are the heart of the thesis, and quite the most important part: frequently, the text is only an explanation of the map (TW--see list of reviewers, below). For these, it's important to have a legible copy of the text, but it's critical to have a good copy of the map. But before now, the UMI copies of the maps were simply horrid: poorly copied and chopped up-- basically, destroyed.

Many dissertations also include photographs, and here again, the copy quality is vitally important. And again, the UMI copies of photographs were too-frequently worthless.

To compound this problem, many university interlibrary loan departments will not loan recent dissertations, nor allow them to be photocopied, citing their availability from UMI.

The extremely poor copy quality of these illustrative materials in UMI products has long been of concern to the geoscience community. Recently, UMI announced the availability of high-quality dissertation illustrations (GIS Newsletter, no. 105, p. 11). This is an exciting development, but we needed more information, and so this review was undertaken.

We contacted UMI. They were enthusiastic about our intended review, and very cooperative. Delphine S. Lewis of UMI located a suitable dissertation (received at UMI since 1986, with oversize maps, and complex photographs), and provided complimentary copies of the various products. A copy of this review will be sent to them.

The reviewers are all on the staff at the Washington Division of Geology and Earth Resources (WDGER) in Olympia, Washington. The WDGER serves as the Washington State geological survey. We produce various geologic maps and reports, completely in-house. We are currently fully involved in the preparation and production of the new geologic map of Washington, to be issued in 4 quadrants. The first of these (the southwest) is now in its final stages: all of the 1:100,000 quadrangles have been completed and have been released as black and white open-file reports; all the 1:100,000 mapping has been compiled to scale 1:250,000; the full cartographic work on that colored 1:250,000 map has been completed (including 72 separate sheets of peel-coats); that map will be available in December, 1987.

The mapping was compiled in-house, by our staff, using all available sources, with additional field work and original mapping, as needed. Most of our professional staff has been fully involved in this project since 1983, and will be, well into the 1990's. Thus, the WDGER staff is well-qualified to review these UMI products.

Obviously, our people are very busy, and I was not able to get consistent, in-depth reviews of the UMI products from everyone (mostly, I snagged them in the library, and asked, "Hey, what do you think of this?"). The principal questions were: Are these products good enough for you to use? Why? Why not? How?

The reviewers:

Don Hiller (DH)--Cartographer II; Masters in Geography; 10 years professional experience; cartographer for the 1:250,000 full-color state map.

Kitty Reed (KR)--Geologist II/Editor; Bachelors and Masters in Geology; 15 years professional experience; lead editor for the state map.

Bonnie Bunning (BB)--Geologist IV; 14 years professional experience; has been a major guiding force in the state map project.

Tim Walsh (TW)--Geologist II; 7 years professional experience; the lead author on the southwest quadrant 1:250,000, and author of 5 of the 1:100,000 maps; very picky about quality.

Jerry Thorsen (GWT)--Geologist IV; 25 years professional experience; in-depth experience in a broad spectrum of geology (both hard rock and dirt); has not been directly involved in the state map project, but is always a most valuable resource; very picky about quality.

Connie Manson (CM)--Senior Librarian; 12 years professional experience.

The Products

THE ORIGINAL DISSERTATION

The thesis reviewed was Geology and genesis of the Waterloo and Langtry silver-barite deposits, California, by Darby Ian Fletcher, Stanford University, Doctor of Philosophy, 1986.

An original copy of this thesis was borrowed from Stanford.

The maps

The original thesis has 5 oversize maps:

1. colored, geologic map 21" x 21"
2. colored, geologic map 26" x 22"
3. colored cross sections 15" x 24"
4. colored cross sections 26" x 35"
5. B & W cross sections 13" x 30"

The cartographic quality of the original geologic mapping is good: on a standard (USGS topo) base, nicely screened so that the base information shows but does not overwhelm; the drafting and labeling is very good; it was evenly colored in light shades. The quality of the cross sections is similarly high.--DH, CM

The Photos

The original thesis includes color photographs of thin sections. The nuances of color and detail are especially important in photos of thin sections (GWT)-- that's how you identify the minerals present. The copy quality of these photographs is excellent, both for coloration and detail--GWT, BB, CM.

THE UMI STANDARD PAPER TEXT

The Full Text

This is exactly as bad as it was before; there are no changes as all: same reduced size; same blobs of photos; same chopped up maps. You would, however, need to purchase this full text in order to know exactly which pages and plates to get usable copies of. CM.

The Maps

The copy quality is as wretched as we've come to know and hate. The maps are poorly copied, the original nuances of color and contact are lost, the maps are chopped up, with no guide to the order, and then bound into the book. They are unusable for compilation, scale-stability has been lost, they're not even useful as an illustration, since you can't figure out where you are. They're worthless (KR; BB; GWT; TW; CM) and having paid \$35 for the copy, an insult (KR; BB; CM)

The Photos

The copy quality is as wretched as we've come to know and hate. These are photos of thin sections, and generally come out as gray blobs. No details can be distinguished at all, and this is particularly frustrating because here the details are so important, and because the original copies were so good. These copies are worthless (KR; BB; GWT; TW; CM) and having paid \$35 for the copy, an insult (KR; BB; CM).

BB thought that surely with the copy technology currently available that the photos in the text should be higher quality. BB thought that UMI did not even try to provide good copies of the photos in the text, and that that was "inexcusable." Why is the copy quality so bad? UMI does a good job on the page prints (see below), so why can't they do a usable job in the text?

THE NEW UMI PRODUCTS

The silver prints of the maps

Overall, the copy quality is quite good, and vastly superior to the UMI text copy. "It's quite good for continuous tone copy"--DH.

The map is given in full, on one sheet. It is a photograph and is probably scale stable (DH), and therefore can be used for compilation (unlike a paper copy). The nuances of the base information show (in some areas, the base seemed to fade out, but that was also true on the original map; it's not a problem with this reproduction--DH).

This is a continuous tone print (which shows shades of gray, as opposed to a half tone print which breaks shades of gray into dots). We thought it could not reproduce [by photocopy or photography] as well as a half-tone print (DH), so we photocopied a corner of the silver print for comparison. It copied quite well. We also tried colored pencil: the color holds, so it could be hand-colored.

The original was hand-colored and so not absolutely every unit is labeled (the coloration was probably intended to distinguish many of them). This works for the original, but causes a problem in any black and white copy. Some of the colors are only subtly different (a nuance that is often lost in the black and white copy) and some of the contacts between units are hard to distinguish.

This is not UMI's fault: they can only copy the map as it is. Many reviewers urged the graduate departments to require higher quality in the map products: that the map be fully reproducible in black and white (GWT); that standards be set-- and met-- for all geology theses (KR; BB); that if color is used, that those colors be distinguishable in a black and white copy (KR). GWT thought that UMI should make a full-color copy available for a colored map.

The scale of the copy is different than the scale of the original. The original maps were different sizes (see list, above); the silver print copies are all 17" x 23". Therefore, each map was enlarged or reduced to fit that final size. So watch out: the scale bar might not tell the truth (CM).

Other comments:

"Color is pretty critical, but for a black and white reproduction it's fine-- better than nothing, and better than sliced to ribbons" DH

"The silver print is superior to regular photocopy, where you copy it and tape it together." CM

The page prints of the photographs

High quality, vastly superior to the UMI text copy. For black and white copies, these are quite good. Most of the details come through quite well. There are shades of gray in these photos, and that's good: if the photos are ever completely black-or-white, that means detail has been lost (DH). But the originals were in color, and without color, for some purposes they are not terribly useful (GWT).

The 35mm slides of the maps and photos

High quality, vastly superior to the UMI text copy. These have even slightly higher crispness and clarity than the prints (CM). Of course, slides are worthless in the field (BB), but a mylar or paper copy could be enlarged from the slide (DH). The slides are quite cheap: \$ 1.00 each as compared to \$10 each for the map prints and \$5 each for the page prints.

Other comments

TW thought that the mylars of the maps and the negatives of the photographs should be filed with UMI, and that UMI should make any copies from those reproducibles. Mylar-to-mylar copies are relatively cheap (and as scale stable as a photograph), and mylar-to-paper copies are even cheaper.

PRICES

Got a lot of complaints here. The paper copy is \$35.00 (you would always have to get the full paper copy); the map prints are \$10 each,

the page prints are \$5 each, the slides are \$1 each. The full copy of this thesis, with all products, would cost \$150-- far more than a real copy of the original, obtained from the author would be, with mylar or paper prints from the mylars, and copies from the photo negatives.

BB said "You have to spend a fortune to make an unusable product usable."

SUMMATION

The quality of the UMI text copy is exactly as bad as ever. The copy quality of the new map and photo products is quite good, and would be very usable. They would be much more useful if they were in color. (And why not? Surely the technology is available.) The price for all the products is much too high (and, of course, color products would be even more expensive).

All in all, we are pleased that these new products are available. Obviously, UMI is trying. They're headed in the right direction, although they're not there yet.

GEOLOGY LIBRARIAN'S ROLE IN EVALUATING SOFTWARE

by

Susan Klimley
Library
Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory
Palisades, NY 10964

As I sit here getting my paper together for the fall meeting of GIS, I realize I have a lot more to say about using a computer to manage reference lists or reprint collections than I will have time to say it in October. Since I've enjoyed evaluating software for the researchers at Lamont-Doherty and learned a lot from it, I thought I might share some of my experiences to encourage other librarians to try working in this area.

Lamont is very much a Macintosh-oriented place. Although there are still a lot of IBMs in offices and Sun workstations are being used to manage our big data base Geo-Base, Macs have been the personal computers of choice, even when they only had 128K. Researchers, students and the Library have faithfully purchased upgrades over the years and it's now estimated that there are as many as 500 Macs throughout the facility.

The Library was in on this from the beginning. I had purchased a Mac at home early on and because of some special funds that were available to my library, we purchased a Mac and upgrades. The Mac was set up right at the circulation desk and patrons frequently asked us about software we were using--our applications being somewhat different from their scientific applications. A questions which was asked with increasing frequency

was: Did we know of a software program that could help management of references?

I was already familiar with the work of Camille Wanat in the Physics Library at Berkeley, who had organized a very successful seminar series on managing reprint collections on personal computers (Wanat, 1985). I took the interest in the Mac software as an opportunity to try something similar to what Camille had done. It took a while to finish up some loose ends, particularly on the Conoco Project that I had been working on for some time. But I eventually started looking at different data base management software for the Mac. Fortunately, early on, I sat down with a researcher and went over my findings. It was then that I realized that he wasn't interested in managing a reprint collection at all, but rather formatting his references. I spoke with others who said formatting references was the most important issue to them as well. Lamont researchers, typical or not, seemed to have given up on their reprint collections. The time-consuming process of adjusting their citations to fit the requirements of all the different publications they write for was the pressing issue.

With this new focus for my examination, I worked my way through three software packages

using a researcher's vita, and in February I gave a presentation illustrated with transparencies of screen dumps. The audience was enthusiastic but not large--6 researchers, 2 graduate students, and 2 library clerks. A little disappointed, I wrote a summary of what I had found for the Lamont Log, our internal newsletter.

To my pleasant surprise, many people commented to me on the article over the next few months. They asked me if I had found a better solution yet, came to talk to me, and asked for advice. I subsequently found that many of them followed my advice. I have continued, as much as time and money permits, to try out other software that people have suggested or that sounds like it might work for this purpose.

The experience has been a very positive one. The researchers and students at Lamont have a better understanding of what familiarity with all those "library things" really means. I have become involved in other computer projects at Lamont. Through my increased knowledge of computers and data base software, I feel I am able to show patrons why using any software for this purpose doesn't necessarily work, using specific examples for the software I've used.

I personally have learned a great deal about data base software. I've evaluated six different software programs for this purpose. I am familiar with these and other database software available and how they work. I have much more confidence in my ability to evaluate a piece of software--I've begun to find out what a piece of software "feels like." If the instructions aren't clear, I know it's the fault of the manualwriters, not my abilities, because I have used other software that works easily. I understand the capacity of Macintoshes much more clearly.

If there is a down side to this, it is that my traditional library workload is as heavy as ever, limiting the time I can spend trying new things. Initially, the seminar was a lot of work. Also having the Mac at home is a mixed blessing. I spent one four-week period working nights and weekends non-stop trying out software. But since that initial blitz, I have found testing to be much less time-consuming. I can put up a data base on a piece of "good" software in a couple of evenings. If it takes longer, my feeling is it's going to take too long for one of my researchers to learn it.

I always seem to have a crisis two weeks before a presentation, including the one I will be doing in Phoenix. I find that some of the software I'm evaluating has been upgraded, which may change its appropriateness for references, or that a new software package is being released. There is always a panic as I try to order a piece of software and test it at the last minute.

Fortunately, the market isn't flooded with Macintosh data base management software. I also have limits to the software I can either

borrow or buy, so it's fairly easy to keep up with the new types. Despite the odd crisis of confidence, I've realized that for this particular application I do know a lot, if not everything, about software of this type and Lamonters are interested in my taking responsibility for keeping an eye on developments.

I think there are many geologists beyond Lamont and users of other types of computers, particularly IBM and IBM compatible, who would find a librarian's attention to the area of "bibliographic management" on personal computers of great interest. While I was getting my GSA paper together, Nancy Pruett sent me a copy of an article she had written for Online detailing her experiences in helping the researchers at Sandia Laboratories select a bibliographic data base management system for their IBM-based systems (Pruett, 1987). I hope others will work on other aspects of this area in the future. Working in this area gives us an opportunity to become intelligent users of computer equipment and as well as show off the skills that make us good librarians.

References cited

Pruett, N. J., 1987, Using Ask Sam to manage files of bibliographic references: Online, July, 1987, p. 46-52.

Wanat, Camille, 1985, Management strategies for personal files--The Berkeley Seminar: Special Libraries, Fall, 1985, p. 253-260.

COSTS OF GEOSCIENCE LITERATURE

As elsewhere reported in this issue, the Costs of Geoscience Literature meeting (held October 27, at the annual meeting) was well attended.

It's not just GIS that is concerned with this issue. Price escalation, especially of serials, is the subject of a recent *Eos* editorial (v. 68, no. 41, p. 803), a recent letter to *Science* (v. 238, no 4827, p. 597-598), and it was the subject of the Presidential Address of Paul Rippe, of the Mineralogical Society of America, given at GSA.

Serial prices have been rising higher and faster than our serial budgets. Many of us have had to cancel subscriptions.

In order to inform the membership, we will publish these cancellation lists. Members are invited to submit their serials cancellation lists for publication in the Newsletter.

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
Geology Library Cancellations--1986

	\$	Geomicrobiology journal	78
		Geoscience contents	29.50
		Geothermics	285
		IMM abstracts [and] IMM abstracts, index	129.20
Acta micropaleontologica sinica [replaced by gift]	37	Industrial minerals	103.28
American Mining Congress journal [replaced by gift]	50	International geology review	475
Bibliography and index of micropaleontology	60	International journal of rock mechanics and mining science & geomechanics abstracts	385
British geological literature	59.64	Journal of coastal research: JCR	60
Bulletin--West Texas Geological Society	15	Lithology and mineral resources	645
Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy [CIM] Bulletin	73.01	Marine geophysical researches	74.25
Canadian mining journal	55.30	Mineral and energy resources	18
Clay sciences	24.30	Mines magazine	20
Eclogae geologicae helvetiae	164.23	Mining engineering	40
Engineering geology abstracts	35	Moscow University geology bulletin	415
European science editing	19.72	Natural history [1 of 4 copies]	21
First break	149.39	Northern miner	26.32
Geo-marine letters	99	Occasional Papers of the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy	20.12
Geochemistry (Beijing, China)	54.50	Oceanus	45
Geochemistry international	525	Paleobiologie continentale	46.50
Geological Society of America bulletin [replaced by gift]	80	Paleontological journal	216
Geologische rundschau	157	Pure and applied geophysics	319.18
Geologisches jahrbuch. Reihe A-- Allgemeine und regionale Geologie br Deutschland und Nachbargebiete. Tectonik, stratigraphie, paleontologie. [replaced by gift]	207.30	Schwizerische mineralogische und petrographische Mitteilungen	96.31
Geologisches jahrbuch. Reihe B-- Regional Geologie Ausland [replaced by gift]	87.31	Scientific American [1 of 9 copies]	24
Geologisches jahrbuch. Reihe C-- Hydrogeologie Ingenieurgeologie [replaced by gift]	14.43	Sipes bulletin [not invoiced]	
Geologisches jahrbuch. Reihe D-- Mineralogie Petrographie, Geochemie, Lagerstaettenkunde [replaced by gift]	94.63	Soviet geology and geophysics	515
Geologisches jahrbuch. Reihe E-- Geophysik [replaced by gift]	73.73	Special Libraries Association, Geography and Map Division Bulletin [1 of 2 copies]	17
Geologisches jahrbuch. Reihe F-- Bodenkunde [replaced by gift]	30.77	Tertiary research	31.65
Geology [replaced by gift]	55	Uranium (Amsterdam, Netherlands)	90.56
		Vulkanologia i seismologia. English.	358
		Zentralblatt fuer Geologie und Palaeontologie. Teil I--Allgemeine angewandte, regionale und historische Geologie	242.48
		Zentralblatt fuer Mineralogie. Teil I--Kristallographie und Mineralogie; Teil II--Petrographie, technische Mineralogie, Geochemie und Lagerstaettenkunde	512.07

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
Geology Library Cancellations--1987/88

AusIMM bulletin and proceedings	78.11
Developments in economic geology, v. 20, 1986. ("We'll order individual numbers as needed")	51.58
Geocarte information	508
Geothermal world directory	59.93
Handbook of binary phase diagrams	76
International oil and gas development review	350
Latin American petroleum directory	45
Marine mining	76
Society of Petroleum Engineers of AIME, Transactions	59.93
Tsunami Society membership (includes: Tsunami dialogue [and] Science of Tsunami Hazards)	100
U.S.A. oil industry directory	98.53

"In addition, monograph purchases will be cut back to accrue a total savings of \$3000. Map purchases will also be reduced."

EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCES LIBRARY,
SUNY AT STONY BROOK, FALL 1987

	\$
AESIS QUARTERLY (AUSTRALIAN EARTH SCIENCES INFORMATION SYSTEM)	141
ASTM STANDARDIZATION NEWS (AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR TESTING AND MATERIALS)	19
ABHANDLUNGEN AUS DER HAMBURG STERNWARTE	40
ACTA UNIVERSITATIS CAROLINAE. GEOLOGICA	38
ADVANCES IN WATER RESOURCES	152
ANNALES. SOCIETE GEOLOGIQUE DE BELGIQUE	51
ANNALES. SERIES A. III. GEOLOGICA-GEOGRAPHIA. (SUOMALAINEN TIDEAKATEMIA)	17
ANNALES DE LIMOLOGIE	52
ANNALES DE PALEONTOLOGIE	208
APPLIED OCEAN RESEARCH	152
ARCTIC	50
ASTRONOMISCH-GEODAETISCHE ARBEITEN	52
ASTRONOMISK TIDDSKRIFT	29
ASTRONOMY AND ASTROPHYSICS MONTHLY INDEX	211
ATLAS PHOTOMETRIQUE DU SPECTRE SOLAIRE	73
ATOMIC ABSORPTION AND EMISSION SPECTROSCOPY ABSTRACTS	138
BEITRAGE ZUR GEOLISCHEN KARTE DER SCHWEIZ	19
BULLETIN. BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY	68
BULLETIN. FINLAND. GEOLOGINEN TUTKIMUSLAITOS	53
BULLETIN. SOCIETE BELGE DE GEOLOGIE	39
BULLETIN DES CENTRES DE RECHERCHE EXPLORATION-PRODUCTION ELF-AQUITAINE	22
BULLETIN OF THE CRIMEAN ASTROPHYSICAL OBSERVATORY (TRANSLATION)	166
BULLETIN OF THE SPECIAL ASTROPHYSICAL OBSERVATORY-NORTH CAUCASUS (TRANSLATION)	90
CAHIERS GEOLOGIQUES	30
CANADIAN GEOGRAPHER	36
CHRONICLE. INTERNATIONAL UNION OF GEODESY...	30

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CURRENT CONTENTS: PHYSICAL SCIENCES	272
E/MJ ENGINEERING AND MINING JOURNAL	25
FOSSILIMUM CATALOGUS I AND II	96
FREIBERGER FORSCHUNGSHEFTE. REIHE C	158
GEO ABSTRACTS ABCDEFG ANNUAL INDEX	69
GEOBIOS	76
GEOFISICA INTERNACIONAL	50
GEOGRAPHICAL ABSTRACTS A, B, E	215
GEOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS. GEOPHYSICS AND TECTONICS ABSTRACTS	106
GEOLOGICAL, MINING AND METALLURGICAL SOCIETY. QUARTERLY JOURNAL	42
GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF JAPAN. JOURNAL	104
GEOLOGY TODAY	88
GEOMAGNETISM AND AERONOMY (TRANSLATION)	413
GEOPHYSICAL DIRECTORY	32
GEOPHYSICAL PROSPECTING	109
GEO-PROCESSING	50
GEOTEKTONISCHE FORSCHUNGEN	50
GIORNALE DI GEOLOGIA	46
ICE	15
IRREGULAR SERIALS AND ANNUALS	142
JOURNAL OF GLACIOLOGY	110
KRYSTALINIKUM	29
LITHOLOGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES	715
MARINE TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY JOURNAL	50
MINING ENGINEERING	60
MITTEILUNGEN. HAMBURG. ZOOLOGISCHES MUSEUM UND INSTITUT	38
MITTEILUNGEN DER OSTERRESCHISCHE GEOLOGISCHE GESELLSCHAFT	45
NPN NATIONAL PETROLEUM NEWS	61
NIPPON KAIYO GAKKAI-SHI. JOURNAL OF THE OCEANOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF JAPAN	148
NORDIC HYDROLOGY	38
OCEANOLOGY	340
OFFSHORE	48
OILWEEK	52
PALAEONTOLOGRAFIA ITALICA	94
PALEONTOLOGICAL JOURNAL	216
PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY	95
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POLAR RECORD	60
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PROCEEDINGS. EARTH AND PLANETARY SCIENCES. INDIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES	79
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REVISTA DE GEOFISICA	38
REVISTA ESPANOLA DE MICROPALEONTOLOGIA	114
REVUE DE GEOMORPHOLOGIE DYNAMIQUE	35
RIVISTA ITALIANA DI PALEONTOLOGIA E STRATIGRAFIA	68
SCOTTISH GEOGRAPHICAL MAGAZINE	20
SENCKENBERGIANA MARITIMA	51
SOIL SCIENCE SOCIETY OF AMERICA JOURNAL	65
SOUTH AFRICAN MINING, COAL, GOLD AND BASE MINERALS	22
STEREO ATLAS OF OSTRACOD SHELLS	68
STUDIA GEOFISICA ET GEODAETICA	307
ULRICH'S INTERNATIONAL PERIODICALS DIRECTORY	140
WORLD OIL	18
ZEITSCHRIFT FUR GLETSCHERKUNDE UND GLAZIALGEOLOGIE	118

TOTAL \$8,165

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GIS PACIFIC SECTION ESTABLISHED

At the 1987 Executive Board meeting, held Sunday, October 25, the Board formally established the Pacific Section of GIS.

Minutes: Pacific Section 1987 meeting

The first meeting of this newly formed Pacific Section (PS), was held October 27. Attending were: Sue Palmer, Julie Rinaldi, Dorothy McGarry, Charlotte Derksen, Connie Manson, Mary Ansari, Barbara Haner, Julia Triplehorn, Michael Noga, Ed Jestes, and Jim O'Donnell. (Dona Dirlam was unable to attend but was, she said, there in spirit.)

A motion was made and carried to adopt the proposed Pacific Section Constitution and Bylaws (C&B). Sue Palmer suggested that the C&B be reviewed, with suggested changes forwarded to the GIS Executive Board before their 1988 meeting.

Officers were elected. Jim O'Donnell was elected Chair by acclamation. Ed Jestes was elected Secretary by acclamation.

The direction of the PS was discussed. A number of PS projects were discussed, including regional notification of cancelled journals, and a survey of regional collection holdings, policies, and loan policies. Time being short, these issues were not fully resolved and the meeting was adjourned.

NOTICE: REVIEWERS NEEDED
WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD PEOPLE!

The GIS Newsletter needs book reviewers.

We occasionally receive COMPLIMENTARY copies of books from publishers, sent to us for review. We need qualified people to review them. If you have expertise in an aspect of geoscience, in regional geology, or in some aspect of information science (including maps or computer applications), and you're interested in reviewing, contact Alison Lewis, Florida Geological Survey.

Remember: if you review the book, you get to keep it!

WANTED: JOURNAL OF PALEONTOLOGY, 1927-1973

The Kansas Geological Survey library is interested in obtaining the Journal of Paleontology, v. 1 - v. 47, 1927/1929 - 1973. Send information about available issues (including partial sets) to:

Janice Sorensen
Kansas Geological Survey
1930 Constant Avenue
University of Kansas
Lawrence, KS 66046

SHORT COURSES ANNOUNCED

"Engineering geology of karst terranes": Feb. 1-5, 1988, Orlando, Florida.

A short course for engineers, geologists, and planners. Hydrogeology, pollution, sinkholes, lineaments, geophysical exploration, foundation and reservoir engineering, special engineering techniques, field demonstrations. For additional information, contact:

Florida Sinkhole Research Institute
College of Engineering
University of Central Florida
Orlando, FL 32816

305/275-2875

"Soil Dynamics and Foundation Engineering": Feb. 22-26, 1988, Rolla, Missouri.

This course will cover dynamic soil structure interaction, retaining structures, mat and pile foundations, liquefaction of soils and selection of design soil parameters. Emphasis will be placed on behavior and design of structures. Workshop sessions will be devoted to problem solving both with the computer and my manual methods.

"Foundations for Machines": Feb. 29-March 1, 1988, Rolla, Missouri.

This course will cover behavior, analysis and design of reciprocating, impact and rotary (turbogenerator) machine foundations, embedded block foundations, pile supported machine foundations, floor mounted machines, foundations on absorbers, and vibration transmission and isolation. Determination of dynamic soil properties and selection of design parameters will also be discussed. Workshop sessions will be devoted to problem solving both with the computer and by manual methods. No prior knowledge of the subject is required.

GSA FOUNDATION APPOINTS TWO TRUSTEES

F. Beach Leighton, 63, and Brian J. Skinner, 59, have been appointed to the board of trustees of the Geological Society of America Foundation.

Dr. Leighton is chairman of the board and chief executive office of Leighton and Associates, an engineering geology consulting firm located in the Los Angeles area. He is well known for his work in engineering geology, and is a recognized leader in the rapidly expanding application of geology to urban environment.

Dr. Skinner has been professor of geology and geophysics at Yale University since 1966, serving as chairman of the department for 6 years during that period. He is a well-known expert in economic geology and the geochemistry of ore deposits.

CONFERENCE: RESTORING THE EARTH--1988

The first national gathering to consider the restoration of all natural resource types and the redesign of urban areas will be held on January 13-16, 1988 at the University of California, Berkeley. The conference is organized by the Restoring the Earth project of the Tides Foundation, San Francisco, and co-sponsored by the College of Natural Resources

and the Center for Environmental Design of the University of California, Berkeley. It will bring experts in natural resource restoration and management together with a broad selection of academic, government, industry, foundation, labor, public health, and environmental representatives. Participants will help create new solutions to the nation's environmental problems, through restoration of damaged resources.

PUBLICATIONS

The Guidebook for the 51st annual Tri-State Geological Field Conference on Environments of deposition of the Carboniferous System along the Mississippi River from Burlington to east of Muscatine, Iowa land Strip-mine reclamation, is now available for purchase. The conference was held at Iowa City, Iowa on October 16-18, 1987, sponsored by the Department of Geology, University of Iowa. It sells for \$8.00 (U.S), which includes postage and handling. Prepayment is required. Make your check payable to the Department of Geology, and order from:

Department of Geology
University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa 52242

The International Council of Scientific Unions Year Book: 1987 is available for sale. The Year Book is a directory of 1,700 decision-makers, representatives of academies, and scientific officers. (ISSN 0074-4387; ISBN 0-930357-11-6) It sells for \$25 (U.S.), and is payable in U.S.\$, Ffr, DM, Sfr, or pounds. Order from:
The ICSU Press
P. O. Box 016129
Miami, FL 33101-9990
USA

GEOLOGIC MAP OF WASHINGTON--SOUTHWEST QUADRANT NOW AVAILABLE

As of mid December, 1987, the color, scale 1:250,000 Geologic map of Washington--Southwest Quadrant will be available for sale. Both flat and rolled copies will be available. For information on price and availability, contact:

Publications
Washington Division of Geology and Earth Resources
PY 12
Olympia, WA 98504

206/459-6372

The various black and white geologic maps of the 1:100,000 quadrangles for the southwest quadrant area are also available as open-file reports. For a full list with prices, write to the address above.

A NOTE TO...

ELLEN MONTGOMERY:

Just a simple question... Which is better--
living in Houston or being pregnant?
(Congratulations!)

Curiously yours,
P. Stoffer

1988 GSA Centennial Meeting

Founders Exhibit

The Geological Society of America (GSA) is planning an exhibit highlighting the 13 founders. They would like help in locating material that they could use for this exhibit. Certainly photographs, preferably candid, would be major items for display, though they would be interested in any items directly related to the individual founders that they could find, such as a compass, rock hammer etc. If you have any materials, or know of someone that does, please contact June Forstrom at GSA; 3300 Penrose Place; P.O. Box 9140; Boulder, Colorado 80301; (303) 447-2020. The 13 founders are the following:

Herman L. Fairchild - University of Rochester
James Hall - State Geologist of New York
Charles H. Hitchcock - Dartmouth College
James F. Kemp - Cornell University
W.J. McGee - U.S. Geological Survey
Henry B. Nason - Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
John J. Stevenson - University of the City of New York
Israel C. White - University of West Virginia
Henry S. Williams - Cornell University
J. Francis Williams - Salem, New York
Samuel G. Williams - Cornell University
Alexander Winchell - (no location given)
Newton H. Winchell - State Geologist of Minnesota

Please contact them as soon as possible, but no later than the end of January, 1988. Secure exhibit space will be provided for the artifacts displayed.

THE HIGH PLAINS DRIFTER

The High Plains Drifter actually drifted all the way to Phoenix for the GIS activities. Phoenix is a very long way from the High Plains. Actually, the High Plains Drifter was hoping the membership would rise to its feet and demand the column desist or that a Low Plains Drifter or Pacific Coast Drifter or New England Drifter would step in to show what good writing is all about. But nooo...

Today's subject is art. How many college, university, government, or company libraries are also the art depository? This correlation may make sense if we were assured that all libraries were temperature and humidity controlled, but we know better. This correlation would also make sense if we knew that the library had more traffic than any place else on campus, thus making the art collection more accessible to the public. I'll match traffic in the library to traffic in the cafeteria or student union any day, and we both know who would win. Ah yes, but the risk of food around the art! Considering the places I have found gum, pop cans, sandwich wrappers, and chewing tobacco spit in my library, I feel the risks are about the same. Libraries are known as centers of knowledge and culture. It only makes sense to place works of art in that setting. Show me a School of Mines library, a geology library, or a petroleum or mining company library, and we'll discuss the fine points of culture and art in that setting.

The more I think about this, the more I have to assume that a library generally has wall space and an atmosphere of serenity which is certainly more conducive to viewing art. Also, libraries are generally cooperative, can receive gifts graciously, and know how to make room for just one more. So, bring on the art collection!

* * *

Alas, no joke this month. But I do wish you all Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.