

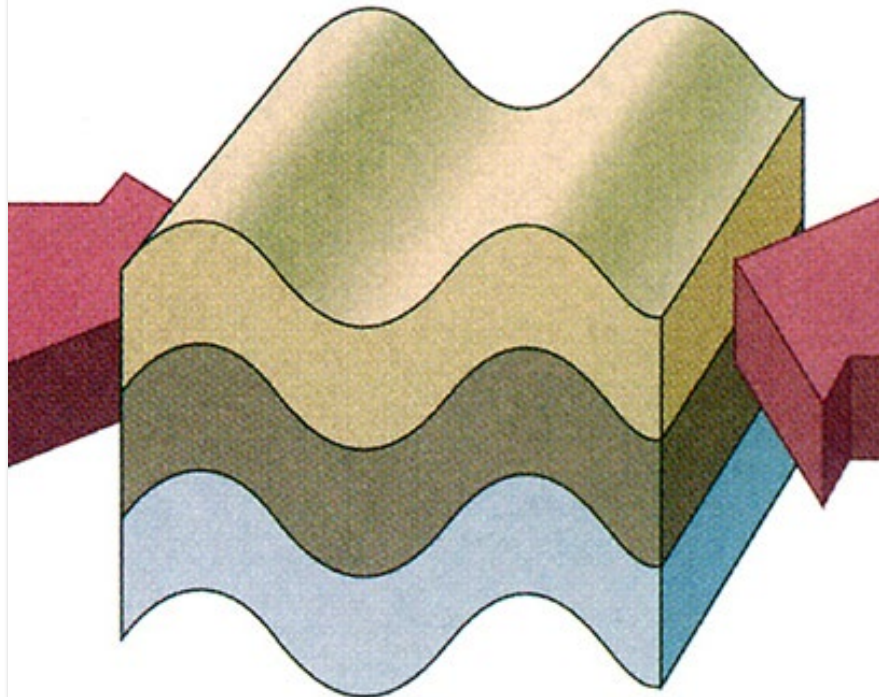


# How are you and your library coping with COVID-19?

Geoscience Information Society

Annual Meeting

October 30, 2020



What are the stressors?



# Challenges

## ONSITE

- ◆ Enforcing mask mandates.
- ◆ Changing policies re food/drink (and enforcing them).
- ◆ Enforcing new no-groups rules.
- ◆ Having to rearrange physical facility to meet new requirements.
- ◆ Taking time to clean regularly reduces time to work on other projects.
- ◆ Wearing masks means you must work harder to communicate.
- ◆ Changes in access to collections/services.
- ◆ Fear of getting sick

## OFFSITE

- ◆ Zoom fatigue.
- ◆ Sitting in front of computer all day is tiring.
- ◆ Being on camera in meetings is stressful.
- ◆ Forgetting to mute/unmute. (it's embarrassing).
- ◆ Technical challenges of remote work (stress of slow internet or losing internet).
- ◆ Lack of high-speed internet and other equipment at home.
- ◆ Loss of in-person interactions
- ◆ Remote work is more monotonous work.
- ◆ Balancing family needs.

# Challenges

## EVERYWHERE

- ◆ No print ordering (due to mail being held).
- ◆ Implication that physical library space is not needed.
- ◆ Processing backlogs – new receipts not being processed.
- ◆ User annoyance re time for materials to be quarantined.
- ◆ Changing rules for quarantining materials.
- ◆ Finding remote work for staff to do.
- ◆ Reduction in services to general public.

## EVERYWHERE

- ◆ Time to convert to teaching online instead of in person.
- ◆ Budget cuts – now and future.
- ◆ No salary increases. No new hires.
- ◆ Inequity of who works on site and who works from home.
- ◆ Inconsistency across library units (where we used to be consistent).
- ◆ Research on hold.
- ◆ Showing value when we are not ‘visible’.



What are the  
positives?



# Positives

- ◇ New process for issuing library cards remotely.
- ◇ Lots more online conferences and webinars.
- ◇ More wi-fi hotspots available.
- ◇ Seat reservation system.
- ◇ Curbside pickup.
- ◇ Centralized distribution for college (handing out kits, etc.).
- ◇ Remote access to microfilm.

- ◇ Administration is more understanding of work from home.
- ◇ Great time to do inventory!
- ◇ REALM project info about quarantining materials ([oclc.org/realm/resources.html](http://oclc.org/realm/resources.html))
- ◇ Easier commute.
- ◇ Learned new tech skills.
- ◇ Emergency access via Internet Archive and/or HathiTrust (ETAS)
- ◇ Fewer fees for users.



# What Does the Future Hold?

What will the library look like in Oct. 2021?

- ◇ Smaller budgets / fewer personnel
- ◇ Fewer branch libraries / library locations

What will your work be like in Oct. 2021?

- ◇ Will have to work harder to connect with faculty and departments
- ◇ More requirement to justify services/hours....
- ◇ How will professional conferences change?
- ◇ More remote instruction