



newsletter

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

This is the last column I write as your President. It's hard to believe that a year has flown by since our last meeting in warm Phoenix.

I enjoyed being GIS President. It has been a rewarding experience to work closely with the fine Executive Board over the past two years. Moreover, I have been amazed at the high productivity and motivation of many of our committees. Many members contribute tremendous amounts of time for GIS. Articles in Geotimes by our members, the very timely fact-gathering by Michael Noga's committee, the consistently-published and very newsy Newsletters, the enthusiastic response of so many of you to represent us at the AGI regional meetings are but a few examples of our

accomplishments, our enthusiasm and effectiveness in the earth science community.

I thank you for the honor of being the GIS President.

AGENDA

GIS Annual Business Meeting,
Monday, October 31, 1988, 6-10 pm,
Executive Tower Inn, Beethoven Room

1. Approval of minutes of 1987 Business Meeting as published in the December, 1987 GIS Newsletter.
2. Reports from Officers, Committees, Representatives. Reports will not be read in full, but rather will be reviewed by the appropriate representative and discussed by the membership.
3. Old Business.
4. New Business.
 - A. Should GIS use funds to help bring participants from third world countries to the 4th International Conference on Geoscience Information that will be held in Ottawa, 1990?
From the minutes of the 1986 annual business meeting in San Antonio:
"Dick Walker moved that GIS establish a fund to finance attendance at the 4th International Conference in Ottawa by third world conferees. The motion was seconded by Dedy Ward. Some discussion followed on the subject. It was estimated that a reasonable disbursement might be \$3000 to be shared by two people. Annette Bourgeois noted that Unesco and AGID are also possible sources of funding. GSC, the conference's sponsor, will pursue these possibilities. Dick Walker noted

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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. 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 December, 1988 issue of the GIS Newsletter should be received by the editors no later than ~~September~~ ^{November} 20, 1988. If possible, please send materials on disc (Workstar or ASCII format).

that the \$3000 from GIS could be used as a matching fund. Nancy Pruett wondered how the award recipients would be determined. Lois Heiser noted that in view of this year's membership downturn, perhaps we should put the money somewhere else, such as subsidized institutional membership. The membership votes, and the motion carried, with two opposed.

If you have any old or new business that you would like to bring before the members at this meeting, please notify me. I will need this information by the close of business EST on Wednesday, October 26 so that I can include it in the final agenda. Although old and new business will be accepted, time permitting, from the floor, previously scheduled business will be handled first.

*Be sure to check the final GSA program that you will get when you register in case there is a last minute change in location.

Jean Eaglesfield

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Helpful hints:

Denver is very spread out—bring comfortable shoes! Our activities are scheduled in the Marriott, the Radisson, the Convention Center, and the Executive Tower Inn; you may wish to mark your map. October/November can be rainy, cold, dry, hot, pleasant, or not-so-good, so your packing will not be easy.

Optional field trip opportunities will be discussed at the Business Meeting. These field trips may take place on Wednesday morning if enough interest is generated and if transportation can be arranged.

Good restaurants are all over Denver. For many, it is best if you can make reservations as you will be fighting crowds. Again, transportation may be needed for restaurants away from the Convention Center area.

Shopping seems to be better at the major malls of Denver. Uptown shops are interesting though, even if you are "just looking."

SCHEDULE

GIS Poster Session

Monday, October 31, 1- 5 pm, Convention Center, Hall A. Authors will be present from 2-4 pm.

Booth 21 Linda Newman, Susan Klimley*: Color photocopying as a medium for preservation of the geology literature

Booth 22 William B. Simmons, Andre M. Rog*, Alexander U. Falster: MINCAT—A mineral formula database program for use on IBM compatible personal computers

GIS Symposium:

INDIVIDUAL WORK STATIONS: INFORMATION SUPERMARKETS FOR GEOSCIENTISTS

Tuesday, November 1, 8-12 am, Radisson, Silver Room

8:00 am Donald B. McIntyre: PCs and computer workstations—Tools for the geologist

8:30 am Stephen A. Krajewski: GIS workstations, numerical databases and the consulting geologist—Facts and fictions

9:00 am William W. Hambleton*, John G. Mulvihill: GeoRef can enhance research capability in the geologist work-station environment

9:30 am John C. Butler*: The academic workstation

10:00 am Paul J. Yarka*: Components of a petroleum explorationist's future workstation environment

10:30 am David A. Hastings*, John J. Kineman, Carl C. Abston, John O. Kinsfather: Regional/global digital data for interdisciplinary use on workstations—A new opportunity for scientists and information managers

11:00 am John M. Cubitt*, Geoffrey Mathews: Integration—An essential ingredient in a geologic workstation

11:30 am John D. Unger*, Lee M. Liberty: Using workstations to develop digital models of the earth's crust along a transept through the northern Appalachians

GIS Technical Session:

NEW IDEAS FOR INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Wednesday, November 2, 1:30-4 pm, Radisson,
Silver Room

- 1:30 pm Julie H. Triplehorn*: Polar earth science collection at Scott Polar Research Institute Library
- 1:45 pm Janice H. Sorensen*: Library and archives—Working together to benefit scientists
- 2:00 pm Robert G. Corbett*: Field trip guide-books need not be gray literature
- 2:15 pm Barbara E. Haner*: The use of government documents by geologists as cited in the geologic literature and from a circulation study in a geology branch library

2:30 pm Julie Bichteler*, Dederick Ward: The quality of published geoscience information—Problems and perspectives from the geologist's viewpoint

2:45 pm Dena F. Stepp*: Searching the GeoRef (Geological Reference File) database on STN International

3:00 pm Allan B. Cox*: Application of a geographic information system for remediation of the Clark Fork River, Montana superfund sites

3:15 pm Elahe Tabesh*: Artificial intelligence techniques for merging qualitative and quantitative geological data bases

3:30 pm Bert N. Corwin*, F. Colin Burstall: Case history of an exploration project database—From mainframe to workstation

3:45 pm J. R. Bloom*, W. S. Meddaugh: Chevron's production workstation

FINAL AGENDA

Geoscience Information Society
Annual Meeting, October 30 - November 3, 1988

Sunday, October 30

1- 5 pm GIS Executive Board Meeting Marriott, Colorado C

Monday, October 31

1- 3 pm GIS Cost of Geoscience Literature Marriott, Colorado D
2- 4 pm GeoRef Beginners Workshop Marriott, Denver 3
1- 5 pm GIS Poster Session Convention Center, Hall A
5- 6 pm GIS Reception Executive Tower, Beethoven
6-10 pm GIS Business Meeting Executive Tower, Beethoven

Tuesday, November 1

8-12 am GIS Symposium Radisson, Silver Room
12- 2 pm GIS Luncheon Marriott, Denver 4
2- 4 pm GeoRef Advanced Workshop Marriott, Colorado A
4- 6 pm GeoRef Users Group Marriott, Colorado B

Wednesday, November 2

morning Optional field trips
1:30-4 pm GIS Technical Session Radisson, Silver Room

Thursday, November 3

9-11 am GIS Database Forum Marriott, C-D
1- 5 pm GIS Executive Board Meeting Marriott, Gold Coin

1:30 - Gary Ernst 'papers

8:55 Mary Reid 1CD, DCC

GIS Booth 711

ABSTRACTS
GIS Technical Session:
NEW IDEAS FOR INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Wednesday, November 2, 1:30-4 pm, Radisson,
Silver Room

**POLAR EARTH SCIENCE COLLECTION AT SCOTT
POLAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE LIBRARY**

TRIPLEHORN, Julie H., Geophysical Institute,
University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska
99755

With the renewed geologic interest in the Arctic and Antarctic, polar libraries are becoming increasingly important to support the research efforts in these areas. This paper will describe the unique collection in earth science at Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge.

The library is in a state of transition from the old card catalog to a new computerized information retrieval system which was developed especially for this collection. All holdings since 1985 are listed on the new system with the rest being rapidly added. The computer retrieval system has a unique relevance feedback feature which improves search results. This database is the basis for Glaciological Citations and Recent Polar and Glaciological Literature which the Institute publishes and is also being utilized in an international pilot project on the indexing of polar materials.

Publications are arranged in subject and regional sequences in accordance with the Universal Decimal Classification for Use in Polar Libraries. This Classification also provides extra index terms for the information retrieval systems. The regional approach is especially valuable for geologists seeking material on a particular area, such as Svalbard or interior Alaska.

The Research Library Group Conspectus is being utilized to evaluate the earth science collection at the Institute. These results will be of interest to other geological and polar libraries.

**LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES: WORKING TOGETHER TO
BENEFIT SCIENTISTS**

SORENSEN, Janice H., Kansas Geological Survey,
1930 Constant Ave., University of Kansas,
Lawrence, KS 66046

In most library systems, the library and the archives are separated because of the materials

collected. The library is responsible for collecting published materials such as monographs and journals; the archives is primarily interested in unpublished manuscripts and the records of an individual or an agency. Scientists interested in obtaining information pertinent to their field of research usually begin their search at the library, where available data are confined within the boundaries of published materials. Information at the library can be located through the card catalog and by accessing specialized bibliographic databases. If the library specializes in geologic research, unpublished materials such as theses and open-file reports may also be available. Archival records are processed under different guidelines from published materials and not listed in the card catalog or bibliographic databases. Inventories of archival records are prepared by the archivist and located in the archives' reference room. Therefore, researchers need direction if they are to benefit from data contained in unpublished manuscripts, project files, and reprint collections stored in archives. Researchers can be directed to archival records through the library's card catalog, bibliographic databases, or a library information referral directory. For example, the Kansas Geological Survey's bibliographic database informs users of reprints available in the library's reprint collection and theses that are located in open-file. To assist users, librarians and archivists should develop guidelines for integrating references to archival records with the library's holdings.

**FIELD TRIP GUIDE-BOOKS NEED NOT BE GRAY
LITERATURE**

CORBETT, Robert G., Department of Geology, The
University of Akron, Akron, Ohio 44325

Field trip guidebooks from sectional meetings of professional societies typically are "orphans" or "gray literature." They have limited distribution, may not be shelved or catalogued, and, consequently, are difficult to find and cite. G.S.A. policy of sending copies to the U.S.G.S. Library only in part alleviates these difficulties.

Collaboration with one of 38 academies of science which publish at least annually a journal, bulletin or other volume can result in "immortalizing" valuable information. We have produced the March issue of the Ohio Journal of Science dedicated solely to field trips associated with the N-C G.S.A. meetings. This approach requires greater planning and cooperation than traditional of field guides. Meetings officers, academy board and editor, authors, and benefactors are essential in the effort. If cost of copies for the meeting can be 1/2 of the normal cover price, and considerably less than individually produced guidebooks, then it is reasonable to provide a copy to each registrant (not just field trip participants), charged to registration fees. Attendance is uncertain; therefore, a local benefactor (a Dean or a Foundation) is needed to stand behind possible financial loss. Costs include page charges, and printing and shipping charges for those copies for the meetings.

The academy board may welcome visibility and greater distribution of the journal, and possibly include a membership application in the issue. Obviously, wide-ranging research papers related to the field trips will make the issue more attractive to academy members.

Authors will welcome the greater impact of their work, but may be concerned about much earlier deadlines, more stringent review, and possible request to bear some page charges.

Our experiment was successful. Six research articles and 4 field guides appear as the March, 1988, issue of OJS. Cost to each registrant (from fees) was less than 50% of the non-member price of \$8.00.

THE USE OF GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS BY GEOLOGISTS AS CITED IN THE GEOLOGIC LITERATURE AND FROM A CIRCULATION STUDY IN A GEOLOGY BRANCH LIBRARY

HANER, Barbara E., Physical Sciences Library,
University of California, Riverside,
Riverside, CA 92521

Geology is unique among the sciences as a considerable amount of original research depends upon government publication issued by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and state geological surveys.

Citation analysis of seven core serials of the geologic literature for 1985, that contained over 25,000 reference citations, showed that government document citations averaged 15% of all reference citations. Five percent of these citations

were to USGS publications, 3% were to state geological surveys, 2% were to other federal government agencies, and 5% were to government organizations and agencies in other countries. Geological maps represented 2% of the government documents cited.

High citation rates in journals were found to significantly correlate with authorship and type of article. Articles in which over 40% of the citations were to government documents usually had at least one author who was a staff member of the USGS or a state geological survey. These articles frequently synthesized broad regional studies. In the category 30-40%, more than half the topics were on paleontology. The source journal used for paleontology, Journal of Paleontology, was the serial recording the highest number of citations per article, 19%.

A recent circulation study of a geology branch library at the University of California, Los Angeles, indicated that in the 'Top 50' list of intensively-used serials, 9 are government publications and comprise 23% of the total use in this group.

These studies show that geological research depends to a considerable extent upon government documents to form a stable core of literature for information. References to early geological literature from the nineteenth century, particularly in paleontology, indicates that early reports of the state geological surveys are also fundamental for research.

THE QUALITY OF PUBLISHED GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION: PROBLEMS AND PERSPECTIVES FROM THE GEOLOGIST'S VIEWPOINT

BICHTLER, Julie, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX 78712; WARD, Dederick, Geology Library, 233 Natural History Building, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801

As part of a project investigating methods and problems encountered by end users in retrieving and processing geoscience information, geologists commented on aspects of the quality of that information. Through a series of interviews and questionnaires they discussed how they judge the quality of a published paper, pressures and constraints encountered in the publishing process, and the quality of the end results—the public scientific record of geological research and development.

Major factors considered when judging the quality of a particular publication were related to data—its validity and quantity—and whether conclusions and interpretations followed from the data. Of almost equal importance was the reputation of the author.

Secondary considerations were the reputation of the journal and its publisher, analytical techniques used, quality of the abstract, and relevance and significance of the work.

Pressure to publish prematurely and in a repetitive, duplicative manner was unique to the academic environment. The other extreme—discouraging publication through state policy or lack of time allowed for writing—appeared in the private and governmental sectors. Other problems affecting quality surfaced in the gray (report) literature and in submission and publication of abstracts.

The authors suggest possible improvements which could have an impact on quality, noting that they may come from the author, employer, publisher, and consumer of geoscience information.

SEARCHING THE GEOREF (GEOLOGICAL REFERENCE FILE) DATABASE ON STN INTERNATIONAL

STEPP, Dena F., Marketing & Corporate Development, Chemical Abstracts Service, P. O. Box 3012, Columbus, OH 43210

The GeoRef database, containing citations to the technical literature relating to geology and geophysics, will become available through STN International in the fall of 1988. GeoRef provides access to the geoscience literature from 1785 to the present. Through STN, searches can be done on authors and other bibliographic information, on subjects (using free text or controlled vocabulary from the GeoRef Thesaurus), and on a variety of other data contained in the file. Specific examples of online searching techniques illustrate the STN implementation, and identify many of the unique features available in GeoRef on STN.

APPLICATION OF A GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR REMEDIATION OF THE CLARK FORK RIVER, MONTANA SUPERFUND SITES

COX, Allan B., Montana GIS Project, Montana State Library, 1515 E. 6th Ave., Helena, MT 59620

A Geographic Information System (GIS) is an effective tool for the management of geoscience

information. A GIS is being developed by the state of Montana within the Natural Resource Information System of the Montana State Library. The initial function of the GIS is to support the cleanup of four EPA Superfund sites located within a small area at the headwaters of the Clark Fork River in Western Montana. The close proximity of these sites, together with the vast amount of data available for this general area, makes this an ideal site for cost-effective information management using geographic information system technology. This technology is being successfully used at other Superfund sites, but this project is unique in that the opportunity exists to develop a single GIS data base covering four separate Superfund sites.

Modeling and analytical applications of the GIS related to the planning for and the cleanup of the Superfund sites will be briefly described.

Also addressed will be the unique role of the GIS within the State Library, including a brief discussion of the benefits of operating the GIS within a non-regulatory, non-enforcement agency. The presentation will close with a discussion of the future role of this GIS project and the coordination efforts between GIS at the State Library and other GIS programs operating within state and federal agencies in Montana.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TECHNIQUES FOR MERGING QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE GEOLOGICAL DATA BASES

TABESH, Elahe, Geology Dept., Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY 13244-1070

Geology is a descriptive science as well as an experimental one that requires analysis of large volumes of numerical data in conjunction with qualitative field observation and knowledge. The goal of the geologist is to consider all the available information and derive an interpretation that can be supported by the geologic evidence. Geologists are constantly dealing with information in the form of numerical data, as well as qualitative field observations. The geologists' interpretation of qualitative and quantitative data requires specialized geologic training, knowledge and experience. Artificial intelligence techniques can be used effectively by geologist for the automatic interpretation of geologic data. An expert system, consisting of a knowledge base and a control unit, takes all the data as input and follows a logical path to derive a conclusion the same way a geologist interprets the data. Inherent in the development

of expert systems for geologic analysis and interpretation is the problem of dealing with the qualitative information in such a way that it can be digitally processed. Three techniques for merging qualitative and quantitative data are as follows: (1) Classification of numerical data into intervals that are assigned non-numerical codes that are compatible with the qualitative data base. (2) Categorization of qualitative information into numerical form. In this case each property is treated as a variable and inter-actively evaluated by the geologist. Based on the evaluation, a weighted numerical code is assigned to each variable. (3) The last method consists of the separate treatment of qualitative and quantitative for later combination using one of the techniques above. An expert system shell consists of a knowledge base containing rules or facts an inference engine for reasoning and decision-making; a working memory for storing qualitative and quantitative data; and a user interface for interactive communication with input and output devices. The expert system shell serves as the framework for the development of individual expert systems and is capable of logically implementing the merging techniques.

CASE HISTORY OF AN EXPLORATION PROJECT DATABASE: FROM MAINFRAME TO WORKSTATION

CORWIN, Bert N., Amoco Production Company, PO Box 3092, Houston, TX 77253 and BURSTALL, F. Colin, Amoco Production Research, PO Box 3385, Tulsa, OK 74102

Many workstation systems are inhibited by rigid data input formats and proprietary databases, making transfer of data from one application to another almost impossible. If data is transferred at all, it is manually typed from one system to another. Further, the use of an application is often hardware dependent due to database requirements.

An exploration project database has been developed to solve these problems. This relational database system, written in standard FORTRAN 77, allows portability of data and applications from mainframe to workstation. Each project file is self contained, comprised of 1) a data file, 2) an internal schema file, and 3) an indexing file. This design provides many advantages for users. Since the database definition is stored internally in the schema file, the project database schema is easily expanded as new data fields are desired. The indexing feature allows for fast

searching and sorting of any attribute in the file.

The principle strength of a common project file approach is the ability to integrate data from several different sources and applications. It is common to store formation tops, well logs, seismic velocities, gravity data, and core analyses in a single file. Various applications can then manipulate this project database. We hope this system will generate momentum toward defining a workstation database industry standard.

CHEVRON'S PRODUCTION WORKSTATION

BLOOM, J. R., COFRC, P. O. Box 446, La Habra, CA 90631; MEDDAUGH, W. S., Chevron Geosciences Co., P. O. Box 42832, Houston, TX 77082

In 1985, Chevron established what is known internally as the Production Workstation (PWS), in order to provide an environment for reservoir geologists and engineers to efficiently cope with the large amount of data necessary for detailed reservoir characterization studies or reservoir simulation studies. The PWS consists of a local MicroVAX CPU, local disk storage (0.5 - 1 Gbytes), and one or more high-resolution (1000 x 1000 pixels) graphics devices. To facilitate data transfer from central data bases and software maintenance, all PWS (22 at present), are attached to a corporate communication network (DECNET). As important as the workstation hardware is, it is the application software which actually "defines" the PWS. Chevron has created application software packages that enable the reservoir geologist to generate a reservoir characterization (well picks, maps, cross-sections, and fence diagrams), generate geologically-sound 3-dimensional reservoir models (200 x 200 x 400 cells), develop reservoir simulation models, run numerical reservoir simulators, and interpret simulation output. Except for the numerical simulators, the PWS software is graphics-intensive. Simple user-interfaces enable the PWS to be an effective tool for both computer experts and novices. An unplanned benefit of the PWS has been closer working ties between geologists and engineers.

ANNUAL REPORTS: OFFICERS

President

This year began dramatically with the adoption of new ByLaws (by mail ballot in January) and the creation of the Pacific Section. Thanks to Jim O'Donnell, Connie Wick and Connie Manson for drafting the new ByLaws and for conducting the marathon business meeting in Phoenix on the ByLaws.

The Executive Board held several conference telephone calls. The major issues discussed were:

- the interlibrary loaning of the U.S. Geological Survey libraries
- the decision to have an exhibit booth at the 1989 International Geological Congress--The Board decided against it because of expense
- the 4th International Conference on Geological Information--Julie Bichteler's Committee did a background report
- getting caught up on the publishing of the Proceedings.

This summer, I requested the American Geological Institute invite selected GIS members to be observers at the regional meetings on earth science education that are being held this fall (see the June issue of the Newsletter). The proposal was accepted by AGI and 12 GIS members were sent invitations. Many thanks to those who have agreed to attend these meetings.

It is anticipated that at the 1988 Annual Business Meeting, we will discuss the upcoming international meetings and clarify GIS's role in these events.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Eaglesfield

Vice President

This year has passed very quickly. I have enjoyed the duties of the Vice-Presidency as our President is very organized which makes all work that much easier. I would especially like to thank Dedy Ward and Dan Merriam for their fine efforts in putting together the Symposium. Their efforts went even further as I feel interest in that Symposium generated other abstracts which gave us a great Technical Session as well.

Arrangements for the meeting seem to be falling into place, perhaps a little more slowly than in other years as Jean Kinney is not with GSA this year and others are learning her responsibilities. It was great fun to read the abstracts--one learns to become a regular horse-trader. It was also very rewarding to work with the Executive Council. Our small Society continues to attract (and put to work) those who are of very high caliber professionally and personally. I am starting planning for next year and I do need support for Committee work. "No" is not an answer. I thank the Membership for allowing me this opportunity to participate in the governance of the Geoscience Information Society.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Lerud

Secretary

We currently have 243 members. Although we have lost several members this past year, we have gained about as many new members as have not renewed. Since new members keep trickling in and inquiries about membership have been frequent lately, I will give a full report and membership breakdown at the Annual Meeting in Denver. That report will appear in the December Newsletter. My activities this year have primarily involved correspondence about membership, responding to surveys on behalf of GIS, forwarding mail to officers, and maintaining the membership records and new membership database.

Respectfully submitted,
Miriam Sheavns

Publications Manager

GIS Proceedings: Sales Activity was high this fiscal year, primarily because of the publication of volume 17 late last year, and, this year, of volumes 16 and 18. So far this year, in addition to standing order shipments, we have sold 17 copies of volume 17; 5 of volume 16; 4 of volume 15; 2 each of volumes 2 and 3; and 1 copy each of volumes 4, 6-10, and 12-14.

Standing orders for the Proceedings now total 48, the highest ever. Both volumes 16 and

GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY - FINANCIAL REPORT
 JANUARY 1, 1988 - AUGUST 31, 1988

Balance from 1987	Checking Acct	Savings Acct	Total
	\$25,600.63	\$9,031.59	\$34,632.22
Income:			
Dues - Individual	4,890.00		
Dues - Corporate	1,300.00		
Publications			
Newsletter subscriptions	765.00		
Proceedings	4,376.00		
Library directory	520.00		
Interest	868.80		
Miscellaneous	8.00		
Total Income	12,727.80		
Expenses:			
AGI dues	163.00		
1987 Annual Meeting	938.70		
1988 Annual Meeting	383.42		
GIS officers	220.41		
Committees			
Publications	30.58		
Nominating	145.67		
CUAC Representative	435.22		
AGI Representative	305.78		
Field Trip Guidebook			
Indexing	2,272.75		
Publications			
Newsletter	1,464.99		
Proceedings	5,420.69		
Total Expenses	\$11,781.21		
Balance on August 31, 1988	\$26,547.22	\$9,031.59	\$35,578.81

Submitted by *Marilyn Stark*
 Marilyn Stark, Treasurer

Date *9-15-88*

18 were published at Caltech, and the cost for printing and postage for both totaled approximately \$4476. Since the 48 standing orders bring in about \$1680 per volume, it costs the Society only \$500 per volume to provide members with their personal copies of the Proceedings.

Once again, Aphrodite Mamoulides made the job of Inventory Manager look easy, and certainly made my job much easier. Many thanks to her for her invaluable assistance.

Newsletter: We currently have 25 subscriptions to the Newsletter.

Directory: Sales of the Directory of Geoscience Libraries continue. We sold 47 copies this year, but we still have not even sold enough copies to account for all the listings in the volume. We have plenty of copies on hand for sale, but it is probably time to begin thinking about a revision: the information in the current edition is now more than three years old, and by the time a new edition can be ready, will be considerably older. While members of the Society can use their annual Membership Directory to update personnel and service information, the target audience of the Directory cannot.

Membership Directory & Mailing Labels: The 1988 Membership Directory is being printed at the time of this writing, and should be mailed out to members by the end of September. We are no longer selling copies of the Membership Directory to non-members. Instead, we are selling sets of mailing labels to interested parties who wish to reach our members and subscribers. This year, we have sold 4 sets, generating income of \$120.

Careers Brochure: Distribution of "Careers in Geoscience Information" continues, with 3 or 4 requests a month from high schools and colleges. No attempt to market the brochure has been made since the original edition in 1984, but it was revised and updated in 1986, and another batch was printed last year.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim O'Donnell

Newsletter editors

The GIS Newsletter has 2 important functions: to report the society's activities and to keep the members informed of important new developments in geoscience information. 1988 has been a busy Newsletter year for both.

Since the last annual meeting, 6 issues of the Newsletter have been published and mailed in a timely manner.

We've published the usual society materials: reports from the officers, representatives, and committees; minutes of the meetings; the agenda and abstracts for the annual meeting, and other GIS business.

We've also published notices on publications, products, job openings, and the new feature for 1988— book reviews. We've had 4 book reviews so far in 1988, and, as you'll see by Alison Lewis' report [this issue], we're slated for 2 more.

CD-ROM was the "hot" topic in 1987— but 1987 was only the beginning. We recently (#113, p. 8) reported on the first CD-ROM product just for us— OCLC's Earth Science Series, slated to be out this fall. Can GeoRef on CD-ROM be far away? We're keeping a close eye on geoscience CD-ROM products and we'll keep you informed.

In 1988 geoscience information news revolved around budget problems.

Journal prices have escalated rapidly in recent years, and because our journal budgets haven't, many libraries have been forced to make drastic cuts in their subscriptions. We've been reporting this issue: by publishing geoscience library cancellation lists, Michael Noga's list of journal cost changes, and various notes on the impact this issue is having in other areas of the geoscience community. This issue is far from resolution and it's getting increased attention. We'll keep you informed as this saga unfolds.

The USGS Library in Reston had some dreadful budget problems this year which severely impacted their staffing and the services they could provide. We reported on the reasons, the status, and the resolution of those problems. The Newsletter provided important communication: knowing the reasons for their problems, we could sympathize and support.

Progress in these, and many other issues, is one of the most important jobs of our society. Our officers and members have worked hard this year. Their reports and the news, published in the Newsletter, reflect their efforts and results.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Manson and Judy Geitgey,
co-editors

Guidebook standards officer

The guidebook standards need to be widely distributed and used. In an effort to do so, Julie Jackson put the guidelines developed several years ago into an early 1988 issue of Geotimes. The last time they were published there, it was in the letters section. This time they appeared with a dark background at the top of a page.

Members of the AGI Member Society Council have been informed that guidebook standards do exist and suggested that they make that fact known to their membership. The guidelines have been sent to several organizations that were identified as having future field trips and which might not have seen the guidelines. A copy was sent to AGI for inclusion in the forthcoming edition of the Union List of Geologic Field Trip Excursions of North America. A copy was sent to the Association of Earth Science Editors for inclusion in their BlueLine. It has been over 4

years since they initially appeared in that newsletter. Copies of the guidelines were also provided to AGI for their distribution.

Respectfully submitted,
Claren Kidd

ANNUAL REPORTS: REPRESENTATIVES

GIS Representative to the AGI GeoRef Advisory Committee

The GeoRef Advisory Committee (GRAC) met twice this year, on May 16 at AGI headquarters in Alexandria, VA, and on September 10 at the Dallas Fort Worth Airport Marriott Hotel. The Committee is comprised of representatives from industry, government and academia: **William Hambleton** (Chair), Kansas Geological Survey, Lawrence, KS; **John Aaron**, U.S.G.S., Reston, VA; **Julie Bichteler**, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Texas at Austin; **Donald McIntyre**, Department of Geology, Pomona College, Claremont, CA; **Lou Parris**, Exxon Production Research Co., Houston, TX; **Miriam Sheaves**, Geology Library, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; **William Stanley**, retired (formerly with AMOCO), Kerrville, TX; and **Clarence Sturdivant**, Marathon Oil Company, Littleton, CO. **John Mulvihill**, Director of GeoRef Information Systems, is ex officio member.

I was appointed by President of AGI, Dr. Peter Flawn, to serve a three-year term on the GeoRef Advisory Committee, having been first asked by GIS President, Jean Eaglesfield, to represent GIS in this way. The meeting at AGI headquarters served as a good introduction for me by allowing the opportunity to meet AGI and GeoRef staff, talk with the indexers, and tour briefly the GeoRef work station area. The following is a summary of the issues discussed at the two meetings.

The biggest news is by now known to most of you: the release of GeoRef on STN, projected for late September, and the 50% discount on DIALOG, ORBIT, and STN to academic users who subscribe to Bibliography and Index of Geology. The academic discount price for GeoRef usage through these three vendors is set at: \$43.50 per connect hour; \$0.22 per offline print and \$0.20 per online print. Speaking personally from the academic

perspective, I have long been in favor of some kind of academic discount and was very pleased that GRAC members passed this recommendation at the May meeting and that the AGI Executive Committee approved our recommendation.

The under-utilization of GeoRef has been a concern of the Committee for several years. This summer Julie Bichteler and I surveyed by telephone and electronic mail 24 academic librarians, all members of GIS, on their use of GeoRef (or lack thereof). We reported back to the Committee on September 10th the problems and suggestions that many of you passed along to us. The Committee is hopeful that the 50% academic discount will improve the disproportionate amount of searching among academic institutions as compared with industry.

Another motion passed by GRAC in our May meeting (and later approved by the AGI Executive Committee) was to recommend the acquisition of new hardware to modernize the production process. Purchase of a new scanner and 11 new workstations over a period of about two years, and development of the necessary programming during that time, will allow major improvements to the production process and the database itself. The new system will allow for quicker data entry, make online editing easier, and has the potential for machine-aided indexing, all of which will ultimately reduce the amount of time an indexer must spend per citation. It will practically eliminate duplicate citations from current GeoRef input and detect gaps in journal issues in current GeoRef input. It would also make possible future enhancements to GeoRef such as the addition of abstracts and a "previews" database of bibliographic citations prior to full indexing.

A major concern of the Committee is the high level of turnover among the GeoRef indexing staff due in large part to poor salaries. Although much progress has been made by AGI in improving the base pay of indexers in the last year or two, the salaries need to become more competitive for the Washington, DC area in order to retain good people on the indexing staff.

In addition to considering the issues mentioned above, and budgetary matters, the Committee also looked at products offered by other companies with an eye toward future directions of GeoRef. Although there is nothing to report regarding any future possibility of the GeoRef database on CD ROM, GeoRef has been working with

the U.S. Geological Survey to develop for them a CD product of the publications of the USGS. Be watching for later announcements of the availability of this product, once it has been tested and put into use by the U.S. Geological Survey.

It has been a very interesting year. I have appreciated very much the opportunity to serve on the GeoRef Advisory Committee and to represent GIS in this important way.

Respectfully submitted,
Miriam Sheaves

Report of GIS Representative to AGI Member Society Council

The American Geological Institute (AGI) is a federation of 19 national and international societies representing a total of more than 75,000 members. AGI serves as a national focus for the geosciences, it publishes a broad range of educational, bibliographical, and public interest materials, and coordinates and encourages the public understanding of the earth sciences.

The AGI Member Society Council (MSC) serves as an advisory board to AGI. It has a representative from each of the member societies who report their society's concerns and activities to AGI and report AGI's plans and activities back to their societies. The MSC meetings are also attended by the AGI Executive Board and by representatives from the Geological Survey of Canada, the International Geological Congress, the National Academy of Sciences Board on Earth Sciences, and the U.S. Geological Survey.

I am serving the last 2 years of a 3-year term as the GIS representative.

MSC meetings are held twice a year, at the annual meetings of GSA and AAPG. I have attended 2 meetings: GSA in Phoenix, Nov. 1987, and AAPG in Houston, March 1988. During the first 2 hours of the meetings the Executive Committee and the MSC meet; then they split for separate meetings and reunite about noon for a summary. After the meeting call to order, a roll call of the member societies is conducted, the agenda of the meeting is approved and each member of the Executive Committee makes an oral report. The Treasurer provides a handout summarizing the AGI financial situation and the director of each AGI department reports about their activities. Questions and

discussion normally follow. As examples, Julia Jackson, Head of Publications, reported on the goals, marketing plans, format changes, and status of pending AGI publications, and Nick Claudy, Director of Development, described the 1988 hiring survey and referred to the North American Survey of Geoscientists.

At each meeting, one AGI department gives a comprehensive presentation of their activities and the other departments give summaries. At the Houston meeting, John Mulvihill, GeoRef Director, gave a comprehensive presentation on the present and future of GeoRef. John's informative and substantial presentation assumed that the MSC members knew very little about GeoRef. He described its origins, purpose, products and services, the size and scope of the database, and a typical citation. Did you know that 51% of the 1987 revenues were received as a result of the sale of the Bibliography and Index of Geology [BIG] and 23% from online search and tape licenses for GeoRef? The remaining 26% are derived from: Special bibliographies, 11%; Industry surcharge, 9%; Publications, 3%; Document delivery, 3%. He provided statistics to show coverage by subject, by document type, and by language. Of the 768 subscribers to BIG, 65% are in the U.S. and 82% are academic organizations; 75% of the 1987 online searches are done in the U.S. and 44% are from the petroleum industry. He closed with 5 goals:

- 1) To process items into GeoRef faster
- 2) To make GeoRef more comprehensive by adding state and provincial databases;
- 3) To develop exchanges with Australia, China, and other countries similar to those with France (CNRS) and with Germany (BGR);
- 4) To utilize new microcomputers to improve production, and
- 5) To implement a program of human resource development.

At the November meeting, AGI's Education Department gave a presentation. AGI is striving to dramatically improve precollege earth science education through the development of teaching tools, a curriculum, methodologies, inclusion and integration of the subject into the K-12 curriculum, and the development of more and better earth science teachers.

At the March meeting, the nominating committee described the nominations for AGI awards and the nominations of MSC officers. The MSC chair made an oral report and then the MSC representa-

tives reported on the concerns and activities of their societies.

—AAPG's representative expressed concern about student enrollment in geology, and about the number of unemployed petroleum geologists and the efforts to find jobs for these people in hydrology and water management.

—AIPG pleaded for cooperation and understanding between and among the societies.

—AESE described the problems and opportunities of desk top publishing and concern about journal costs.

—SEPM reported on the amiable separation of SEPM from AAPG and their positive financial condition.

—SEG was concerned about the number of unemployed and under-employed geoscientists

—SME reported on the decline in their membership since 1981

—Other representatives described their societies

—As GIS representative I expanded on the journal costs issue, and described our sharing of lists of cancelled titles, the GIS Committee, and its well-attended Phoenix meeting. I urged stronger support for GeoRef to increase its timeliness and comprehensiveness and gave a spiel about guidebooks, their lack of standardization and their importance to the earth science community.

When the two groups reconvened at noon, the MSC chair summarized the recommendations and concerns of the MSC to the Executive Committee (as taken from the draft of the minutes):

1) That the MSC approve the Nominating Committee's slate of nominees

2) Because of its importance, AGI, with support from its member societies, should continue forecasting employment trends, and should develop common standards for such forecasts.

3) GeoRef's timeliness and comprehensiveness are critical and need attention and support from member societies.

4) Journal costs are escalating rapidly. AGI should work with other societies to publicize the problem.

5) Support precollege education in the geosciences, with member societies showing broad support and understanding of its importance, of AGI's leadership role, and that employment with the geosciences depends upon educating the precollege students and the general public.

6) Role of geosciences in new areas of employment, such as toxic waste, ground water, etc., is being threatened by engineers moving in where geologic training has been the traditional field of preference

7) Employment patterns are cyclic and changing; we need to respond to that in education and public policy

After the meeting adjourned, the Executive Council and the MSC enjoyed lunch together. Discussion of the topics continued far into the afternoon in an informal setting. GIS can make its concerns made known to a much wider geoscience audience through participation with AGI and the MSC. Our interests and concerns are genuinely sought by AGI and communication with our umbrella organization is open.

Respectfully submitted,
Claren Kidd

Special Libraries Association Liaison

The 1988 SLA Annual Conference, "Expanding Horizons: Strategies for Information Managers," was held in Denver. Petroleum and Energy Resources Division sponsored a wide variety of programs such as managing information as a resource and energy and the environment. One session on special libraries in the Denver area featured the Denver Earth Resources Library, USGS Field Records Library, Denver Association of Petroleum Landmen Library, and the Coalbed Methane Western Region Information Center at Colorado School of Mines. Early morning roundtables were well attended, as usual, with lively discussions on such topics as searching for downstream information. The Division is still planning to publish a petroleum bibliography. An SLA general session on plateauing in your job and what to do about it was a big hit, as were sessions on the future and an creativity.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Stark

ANNUAL REPORTS: COMMITTEES

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee for 1988 makes the following report:

The 1988 Nominating Committee consisted of Robert A. Bier, Jr., chair, Rosalind Walcott and Claren Kidd. The Committee got together a slate

of candidates consisting of Mary Ansari and Dana Stepp for the office of Vice President/President Elect and Michael Noga and Janice Sorensen for Secretary. Ballots were sent to all eligible voting members. The results were that Mary Ansari was elected Vice President/President Elect and Michael Noga was elected Secretary.

The Nominating Committee wishes to congratulate the winners and to wish them good luck in their respective offices. In addition the Committee would like to thank Dana Stepp and Janice Sorensen for their interest in the Society and their willingness to run and serve in these offices. We hope that they will continue to serve the Society as they have done in the past.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert A. Bier, Jr., chair

Membership Committee

The Committee solicited membership in 4 categories this year:

1. Libraries of U.S. academic institutions which grant degrees in geosciences
2. Library schools in the U.S. and Canada
3. Non-U.S. geological governmental agencies
4. Libraries of non-U.S. academic institutions which grant degrees in geosciences.

Over 500 brochures were sent out. It is recommended that next year the brochures should be sent to earth science-related companies, corporations, and associations. An attempt should be made to identify those which have libraries and [or] research centers, or designated information specialists.

In addition, a new printing of the brochure is in press. It will contain the revised membership dues structure and a statement on how to make non-U.S. payment. This will be available for distribution in Denver. The brochure should be re-designed next time they are needed.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Heiser, chair

GIS Exhibit Committee

The Geoscience Information Society exhibit booth will parallel the Society's 1988 symposium theme: "Individual Workstations: Information Supermarkets for Geoscientists." The display is from the perspective of the USGS geoscientist.

In addition to the traditional display of GIS publications, a prize drawing for a copy of Directory of Geoscience Libraries and "freebies" will be a part of the centennial celebration of GIS' booth #711 in Currigan Exhibition Hall.

It was not possible to incorporate the demonstration of online database systems from various vendors because GSA regulations state that, "No exhibitor shall assign, sublet or apportion the whole or any part of the space assigned or have representatives, equipment, or materials from firms other than his own. One exhibiting company is permitted per booth."

According to Kathy Ohmie, GSA Exhibits Manager, GIS is not charged a rental fee for its booth, rather, the booth is complimentary because GIS is an associated society of GSA.

The purchase of 2 director's chairs and a non-electric carpet sweeper will prove cost efficient in the long run since GIS will no longer incur these rental/service fees.

As the Executive Board approved payment for 2 student registrations, local university departments of geology have been contacted soliciting student help to staff the Exhibit Booth during GIS events. GIS members are needed to staff the Exhibit Booth 9 1/2 hours:

Sunday, Oct. 30, 6 - 9 pm

Monday, Oct. 31, 10 am - 12 noon

Wednesday, Nov. 2, 8 am - 12:30 pm

Members should contact me (303/236-1002, or, FTS 776-1002) if they can help on the booth during any of these times.

As Exhibit Chair through December 1989, I need input on planning for the November 1989 exhibit (St. Louis). Should the St. Louis exhibit:

- revert to an upgraded version of the exhibit which I inherited (Phoenix)
- remain the same as the 1988 exhibit (Denver)
- parallel the Society's 1989 symposium theme
- parallel each years' symposium theme
- rotate between existing displays
- become a permanent display
- other??

Too, as a newcomer, I need to know what level of funding the Exhibit Committee receives annually.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Watson, chair

GIS Editorial Review Board, submitted by Alison Lewis, chair

The 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 and Connie Manson [Washington Division of Geology and Earth Resources] are ex-officio members.

No new manuscripts were received for editorial review during 1988. The Board recruited reviewers for 5 books which publishers sent to GIS. Three reviews have appeared in the GIS Newsletter so far, and two more are in preparation. Two copies of each review were sent to their respective publishers, along with a cover letter explaining the make-up of GIS's membership and offering to consider other books for review.

Although the GIS Editorial Review Board has not been over-worked during the past 2 years, I feel it is important to have a review mechanism in place for the GIS Newsletter. While many GIS members are finding publishing outlets elsewhere, there is still the occasional need for a professional peer review for manuscripts submitted to the Newsletter. The coordination of book reviews is also an important function of the Board, as it can serve as a useful liaison between the GIS Secretary and the newsletter editors. The Board should also continue to take the responsibility for making sure that copies of reviews are sent to the publishers.

I have enjoyed working with the Board for the past 2 years, and thank everyone for their cooperation.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison M. Lewis, Chair

GeoRef Users Group

The major project this year was to participate in the evaluation of the STN implementation of the GeoRef file. After the idea was initially raised at the 1987 meeting, volunteers were solicited using the GIS and GeoRef newsletters as well as personal contacts.

The evaluation group consisted of Charlotte Derksen, Barbara DeFelice, Jim O'Donnell and my-

self and we worked closely with Dena Stepp at STN and John Mulvihill at AGI. We were given unlimited access to the file for 3 weeks in July and had an opportunity to test searching techniques as well as the improved features, including enhanced thesaurus and coordinate searching. We also provided comments on the preliminary documentation. More details about the features will be available when the file is publicly released [currently scheduled for late September] and as part of the Advanced Workshop during the 1988 meeting. STN was most appreciative of the input we were able to provide.

Respectfully submitted,
Mergy Walsh, chair

Best Reference Book Award

The Best Reference Book Committee has selected Carl Seyfert's The Encyclopedia of Structural Geology and Plate Tectonics for the 1988 award. The high quality and limited reference book alternatives in this subject area made Seyfert's book a unanimous choice. However the committee felt it also wished to acknowledge the overall commitment that Rhodes Fairbridge has shown as editor of The Encyclopedia of Earth Sciences series, the series in which Seyfert's volume appeared. After discussion with you and the committee, we agreed that a "Special Recognition" award should be given to Dr. Fairbridge. Barbara Defelice, Lynn Fortunato and I felt the Seyfert book and the special award to Fairbridge give the award a good start recognizing high quality reference books that frequently fail to be recognized by the research community.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Klimley, chair

Best Paper Award Committee

Extensive literature searches were conducted in January and May 1988. Committee members read and rated a wide array of literature on geoscience information. Six papers were nominated for the 1986 award, and three were nominated for the 1987 award. The winning papers were recommended to the Executive Board which authorized presentation of the awards at the GIS luncheon November 1, 1988.

The citations have been prepared and framed, and receipts have been forwarded to the GIS Treasurer for reimbursement to the Chair. After the awards have been presented, announcements will be sent to Geotimes, C&RL news, GSA News and Information, and the news services of the winners' respective institutions.

On behalf of the Committee, I thank GIS for the opportunity to serve the Society in such a stimulating undertaking. We are very pleased to note the high levels of scholarship and writing skills that characterize the literature of our profession.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise S. Zipp, chair

Ad Hoc Committee for the 28th International Geological Congress

The Ad Hoc Committee for the 28th International Geological Congress in Washington, D.C. from July 9-19, 1989 consists of Trudy Sinnott (chair), Elizabeth Behrendt, Regina Brown, Virginia Major, John Mulvihill, John Price and Henry Zoller. Although there has been enthusiasm in GIS for participation in the exhibits sections of the Congress, economic and practical realities finally dictated the decision not to take on the considerable expense and effort involved in setting up and maintaining a booth.

However, ways to "have a GIS presense" at IGC continue to be explored. Procedures to update, edit, and reproduce in quantity a directory of geoscience organizations and libraries in the Washington, D.C. area are still under consideration. AGI has indicated a willingness to display and distribute GIS publications and information at its booth.

Respectfully submitted,
Trudy Sinnott, chair

Progress report: 4th International Conference on Geologic Information

When: During the week of June 20, 1990. The number of days (3 or 5) is yet to be determined.

Where: Ottawa (location being determined, Fall, 1988)

Sponsoring organizations: Geological Survey of Canada; International Development Research Corporation; Canadian International Development Agency.

Tentative theme: "Making technology work for us"
Schedule: The rough outlines of the program are being drawn up, Fall, 1988. The first circular and call for papers will be Spring, 1989. Abstracts will be due Fall, 1989.

GIS will be asked to help bring participants from third world countries to this conference. (See GIS Newsletter, Feb. 1987, p. 5 for 1986 discussion on this issue.) This will be discussed at 1988 GIS Annual Business Meeting.

For further information, contact Annette Bourgeois, Chairperson for the Conference and Head, Library Services, Geological Survey of Canada 613/995-4163.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Eaglesfield,
per Annette Bourgeois

Ad Hoc Committee on Geoscience Publication Prices

The Committee has gathered data to indicate trends in geoscience publication prices. The data will be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Geoscience Information Society in Denver. Each member of the Committee worked on a specific project.

Michael Noga and Lois Heiser have gathered price data for serials. These data were added to a dBaseIII+ database that includes serial titles, publishers, prices for the years 1985-1988, and countries of publication. Reports from this database show changes in price by year, by country, and by publisher. The 1987/1988 price changes for several of these serials were reported in the GIS Newsletter.

Julie Rinaldi has developed a Lotus 1-2-3 database to look at the price of commercial monographs. She included over 500 titles published from 1982 through 1987. Reports from this database show changes in price per page by year, by country of publication, and by publisher.

Marie Dvorzak has gathered price data on monographic serials that are published by professional societies. She has looked at the number of volumes issued in each series per year,

the price per volume, and the total price of each series per year. The data have been added to a separate dBaseIII+ database on monographic serials.

Connie Manson has looked at price changes for state geological survey publications. She looked at different data for older publications from a couple different surveys. Price data for older publications at the time of publication were scarce. However, enough data were available to draw some conclusions on the volume and pricing of state survey publications.

Susan Klimley has developed a database of cancelled serial titles from the lists of several libraries. These lists were first published in the GIS Newsletter. Reports from the database indicate patterns of serial cancellation.

The Committee is scheduled to expire after the Annual Meeting. Three options are apparent:

- 1) The Committee would not continue
- 2) The Committee would expire at this time, but it could be re-established in a few years to update the data collected by the current members
- 3) The Committee would continue for two more years.

The current members feel that the Committee's work has been useful and that at least the serials data should be updated. Libraries are still affected by the increasing cost and volume

of geoscience information. Also, other projects related to the price of geoscience information might be undertaken by a continued Committee. For example, members might study the cost of Journals with respect to number of characters and the impact factor measured by Science Citation Index. Nevertheless, the value of continuing the Committee might best be decided after the Committee presents its data at the Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Noga, chair

Ad Hoc Committee on the Union List of Geologic Field Trip Guidebooks, 6th edition

The Guidebooks Committee, 6th edition, has been relatively inactive this year. Data collection for the 6th edition of the Union List should be simplified when we have copies of the 5th edition in hand. I have been collecting information, data and ideas for the 6th edition since the Phoenix meeting. The Committee will be meeting in Denver to discuss data collection methods, alternative formats and other issues relating to the 6th edition. The Committee could use an additional member either from the North Central or Southeast area. Ideas from the GIS membership are always welcome.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Spohn

ANNOUNCEMENTS

USGS ILL IN FULL SWING AGAIN!

The U.S. Geological Survey Library in Reston, Virginia is pleased to announce its reinstatement as a supplier on the OCLC Interlibrary Loan Subsystem, effective September 3, 1988.

With staff shortages now alleviated, normal ILL service has been resumed. However, please note the following general policy change that brings us into closer conformance with the National Interlibrary Loan Code guidelines encouraging primary use of local, state, and regional sources:

Out of the local region (DC, MD, and VA) and the federal library network, U.S. Geological Survey Library, Reston, will serve as an ILL source of last resort; for example, our symbol [GIS] must be entered last in the OCLC lender string, or unsuccessful local attempts to obtain be noted on the standard request form.

The Survey Library appreciates the cooperation and understanding of its interlibrary loan partners during our OCLC ILL suspension. If you have questions, comments, or suggestions, please contact Henry Zoller, Interlibrary Loan Supervisor, on 703-648-6092 or FTS 959-6092.

TRANSLATIONS AVAILABLE

The U.S. Geological Survey Library in Reston, Virginia has a limited quantity of book translations available free on a first come, first served basis. Most of the books are Russian translations, and all were translated overseas for the Department of the Interior through the Special Foreign Currency Science Information Program.

Requests will be accepted through December 31, 1988 and will be filled in order of receipt, in January 1989. Please send requests to:

Carol H. Messick
U.S. Geological Survey Library
950 National Center
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, VA 22092

The following items are available:

- Davydova, N. I., editor, 1975, Seismic properties of the Mohorovicic discontinuity. 138 p.
- Galkin, I. N., 1975, Seismic modeling of the earth's crust. 151 p.
- Ivshin, N. K., 1983, Upper Cambrian trilobites of Kazakhstan; part II, Seletinian horizon of the Kuyandinian stage of central Kazakhstan. 432 p.
- Koczmarek, Zdzislaw, 1977, Statistical methods in hydrology and meteorology. 319 p.
- Kasatochkin, V. I., editor, 1976, Structural chemistry of carbon and coals. 401 p.
- Kovalevskii, A. L., 1979, Biogeochemical exploration for mineral deposits. 136 p.
- Lyel'ko, V. I., 1981, Calculation of heat and mass transfer in the earth's crust. 150 p.
- Lyapichev, P. A., 1975, River runoff regulation and water-management calculations. 292 p.
- Maksimov, V. M., 1979, Guide for hydrogeologists, volume 2.
- Medvedev, S. V., 1976, Seismic zoning of the USSR. 539 p.
- Naboko, S. I., editor, 1982, Hydrothermal mineral forming solutions in the areas of active volcanism. 295 p.
- Pata, E., 1971, Baltic oil shales, chemistry and technology, a bibliography 1791-1967. 352 p.
- Perel'man, A. I., 1977, Geochemistry of elements in the supergene zone. 266 p.
- Peter, Pavel; Votruba, Ladislav; Mejzlik, Ladislav, 1977, Reservoirs and dams. 511 p.
- Petrov, V. P., 1973, Perlite and vermiculite. 217 p.
- Raaben, M. E., editor, 1981, The Tommotian stage and the Cambrian lower boundary problem. 359 p.
- Rozova, A. V., 1984, Biostratigraphic zoning and trilobites of the Upper Cambrian and Lower Ordovician of the northwestern Siberian Platform. 243 p.
- Sadovskii, M. A., editor, 1985, Physics of the earthquake focus. 250 p.
- Saks, V. N., editor, 1975, The Jurassic-Cretaceous boundary and the Berriasian stage in the boreal realm. 391 p.
- Savarenskii, E. F., 1975, Seismic waves. 281 p.
- Savitskii, E. M.; Tylkina, M. A., editors, 1978, Study and use of rhenium alloys. 255 p.
- Serdyukova, A. S.; Kapitanov, YU. T., 1978, Radon isotopes and short-lived products of their disintegration in nature. 379 p.
- Shebalin, N. V., 1978, Focal regions of strong earthquakes in the territory of the USSR. 124 p.
- Tolmachev, A. I., 1982, The Arctic Ocean and its coast in the Cenozoic era. 564 p.
- Yurovskii, A. Z., 1974, Sulfur in coals. 455 p.
- Zelenin, N. I.; Fainberg, V. S.; Chernysheva, K. B., 1976, Chemistry and technology of shale tar. 437 p.

PALEONTOLOGY MATERIALS AVAILABLE

The Florida Geological Survey Library has duplicate copies of some classic works in paleontology which they would like to make available to another research library. These works are available for the price of postage or on an exchange basis.

For a complete listing of items available, contact:

Alison Lewis, Librarian
Florida Geological Survey
903 W. Tennessee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32304
904/488-9380

JOURNALS

A Journal Cancellation: Reaction and Reply

Reaction

"JGR Subscriptions in Trouble?"

The U.S. library community is alarmed by the price of journals, particularly scientific ones; Columbia University has cancelled [its duplicate subscription to] JGR! JGR could be targeted for more cuts simply because its total price is over \$1000. What is overlooked is that JGR costs less than 7 cents per thousand words of science. All members should be alert to the potential problem and to take steps to assure that JGR remains in libraries where it is accessible to geophysics students and potential geophysicists in the chemistry, physics, math, and engineering departments. The librarian at Columbia University sent AGU a form letter saying that they had cancelled JGR and complaining about the costs and pricing practices of scientific publishers. Members at the university are working to have this decision reversed. Other universities may have cancelled without warning us. Please be alert to what is happening at your institution."

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Reply

September 14, 1988

Judy Holoviak
Director of Publications
American Geophysical Union
200 Florida Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20009

Dear Ms. Holoviak:

As you can imagine I have heard quite a response from the Director of Lamont about the library's

decision to cancel Journal of Geophysical Research. I gather you have received the information that the letter that had been sent from Anthony Ferguson's office failed to mention the key bit of information: the copy cancelled was the duplicate subscription to JGR, not the sole subscription.

I would like to point out that cancellation of the campus copy of JGR was not an easy decision. The decision was made at Lamont by a library committee, not unilaterally by myself or the library system. The unanimous consensus of the library committee was that it was more important to retain subscriptions to publications for which we have only one subscription, than to maintain duplicate subscriptions. A formal system of providing access to materials held only at Lamont-Doherty has been in place for many years (95% of the 450 serials received at Lamont are not duplicated on campus) and researchers on campus will have access to JGR as needed.

I thought the library committee's decision was well thought out and judicious in view of the fact that the university has not yet responded in full to the library system's case for greater funding to meet rising information costs. I hope this information on how our decision was reached will clarify the Lamont decision to "cancel JGR".

Yours truly,
Susan Klimley
Geological Sciences Librarian

[editor's note: This letter is reprinted with Susan Klimley's permission.]