



GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY

newsletter

* 25th Anniversary, 1965-1990 *

GIS Newsletter, Number 127, December, 1990

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The 25th Annual Meeting of the Geoscience Information Society was held with the Geological Society of American meeting in Dallas from October 29 through November 1. Over 70 GIS members attended this meeting. The weather was warm. The meeting went smoothly and GSA staff did an excellent job in handling the arrangements.

The symposium and technical sessions were well-attended and attracted a considerable number of non-GIS members. The poster session was an excellent example of the diversity of interests and presentations of GIS members. It was extremely well-received by both GIS and non-GIS members. The proceedings will include some information on the poster presentations. I hope to have the proceedings published by next spring.

The GeoRef workshops were quite informative, particularly about the reload of GeoRef on DIALOG. In the Database Forum many of us got our first chance to see the new CD-ROM version of GeoRef. The Collection Development Issues Committee presented data on increasing prices for publications. Mobil Oil staff provided an excellent field trip for more than 40 people.

The highlight of the meeting for me was the 25th Gala dinner. This was an opportunity to honor the original founders of GIS and the many members who have contributed so much to the organization over the last 25 years. It was wonderful to see again members who have not been to recent meetings. It was a great pleasure to commemorate the anniversary by honoring Harriet Wallace and Ruth Bristol (who was unable to attend).

Many thanks to the Executive Board of Mary Ansari, Joanne Lerud, Michael Noga and Janice Sorensen for all their advice and council. A special thanks to Jean Eaglesfield for her leadership and hard work in chairing the 25th Gala Celebration. A special thanks to Skip McAfee, the first Newsletter editor, who gave a talk on the early history of the Society. Thanks to all the committee chairs and members who gave so much of their time and energy to the activities of the Society. Welcome to the new members who attended the meeting.

The next Newsletter will contain committee assignments. For those of you who are chairing committees or will be new committee members, you will be hearing from me shortly. If you did not sign up for a committee at the meeting or didn't attend but are still interested in participating, please let me know. Even if you can't regularly attend GIS meetings, there are several committees in which you could participate.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to have been Vice-President in this, GIS's 25th year. The best part of the meeting is working with all of you. I look forward to continuing our efforts to reach out to the geoscience community on issues that are important to all of us.

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December, 1990 OFFICERS

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The GIS Newsletter is published bi-monthly in February, April, June, August, October, and December by the Geoscience Information Society. Subscription to the Newsletter is \$30 per year and is included in the Society's annual membership dues. All correspondence regarding dues, membership status, and address changes 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 February, 1991 issue of the GIS Newsletter should be received by the editors no later than January 20, 1991. If possible please send materials on IBM-compatible disc (Wordstar 3.3, Wordperfect, or ASCII format).

VICE-PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

As I pull these thoughts together, I'll bet I'm in the same position as many other GIS members fortunate enough to attend the GIS Annual Meeting in Dallas--still catching up, and just getting back to normal! All of us who were able to join in the 25th Anniversary Gala Celebration were treated to a truly wonderful selection of food and fun, and some very touching moments as well. And this was just one highlight of a very busy meeting! One tried to juggle a shift at the GIS exhibit booth (styled for the anniversary celebration) amid all the other great GIS activities Marie planned for us: Symposium, Technical Session, Poster Session, Business Meeting, workshops, a discussion of Collection Development Issues, GeoRef Users' Group, the GIS Database Forum, and a field trip to the Mobil Research Center. Whew!

At the Dallas meeting, Marie Dvorzak and I were able to join Mary Ansari at the GSA Associated Societies Presidents' Breakfast. I was also able to participate in the GSA Joint Technical Program Committee wrap-up of the Dallas meeting. One finds out quickly in these meetings that GIS isn't the only group concerned about the amount of material that is being published and what is happening to serials prices! I am very glad that GIS is associated with GSA: this puts us in a good position to integrate what we can do with what geoscientists need. I consider it a privilege to be able to serve on the Board of GIS, and represent you all in this capacity within the complex organization that is the Geological Society of America.

I am learning very quickly that for the GIS Vice President, there isn't much time to "get back to normal." Deadlines are already approaching as we plan for next year's annual meeting! Since our next annual meeting is on my mind, let me share some tidbits with you now. In 1991 we'll head west for San Diego, and a brand new beautiful convention center on the edge of San Diego Bay. The San Diego Convention Center has (I understand) plenty of room with lots of close-by shops and restaurants, and the headquarters hotel is attached (thank goodness!). The theme for the GSA 1991 conference will be "Global Perspectives." Planning is already underway for a GIS Symposium tentatively entitled "International Initiatives in Geoscience Information" in support of the global theme. There will be a Technical Session and a Poster Session as well, so put on your thinking caps. Get ready to submit an abstract on those projects and issues you've been wanting to share with the rest of us! We're considering a CD-ROM workshop on Sunday afternoon before the GSA Welcoming Reception, and we're also working on a field trip, but I think I'll save the details of that for later. For those of you chairing committees, I would appreciate your letting me know early (it's not too early even now!) about what you would like to see in the way of rooms

and time frames. And for anyone in GIS, I'd appreciate hearing the ideas you have for the 1991 GIS program, and hearing about other issues of concern to GIS as well.

MINUTES GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY Annual Business Meeting Monday, 29 October 1990 Hyatt Regency Hotel, Regency Ballroom A Dallas, Texas

The GIS Annual Business Meeting was called to order by Mary Ansari, the President, at 1:30 PM Central Standard Time.

Awards Presentation

Usually the GIS awards are presented at the GIS luncheon. This year, the awards were presented at the Business Meeting, because the luncheon was replaced by the Gala 25th Anniversary Reception and Dinner.

Best Geoscience Paper Award - Amanda Masterson, Chair of the Best Geoscience Paper Award Committee, presented the 1990 award to Julie Bichteler and Dedy Ward for their article, "Information-Seeking Behavior of Geoscientists." The article was published in the Summer 1989 issue of Special Libraries, v.80 (3), pp. 169-178.

Best Geoscience Reference Book Award - Barbara Haner presented the 1990 Best Geoscience Reference Award to George Robert Rapp, Jr. for the Encyclopedia of Minerals, 2nd edition, published by Van Nostrand Reinhold in 1990. He paid tribute to the other editors: the late Willard Lincoln Roberts; Thomas J. Campbell; and Wendell E. Wilson. Each will receive an award.

Best Guidebook Award - Claren Kidd, Chair of the Guidebook Standards Committee, presented the first GIS Best Guidebook Award to Charles Chapin and Ziri Jidek for Field Excursions to Volcanic Terranes in the Western United States, Memoirs 46-47, New Mexico Bureau of Mines & Mineral Resources, 1989. The award was accepted by Dr. Frank E. Kottowski, the Director of the New Mexico Bureau of Mines & Mineral Resources.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes from the 1989 Business Meeting, as published in the December 1989 GIS Newsletter, were approved.

Introductions

Mary Ansari introduced the officers. Then she introduced the new officers: Dena Fracoli, the new Vice President; and Judie Triplehorn, the new Secretary.

The President asked new members and visitors to introduce themselves. They included Anne Krum, Steve Hiller, Linda Radcliffe, Liz Frebold, Lois Pausch, and Skip McAfee (a founding member).

Reports of Officers

Secretary - Michael Noga noted that 4 new members have joined since the Annual Report was submitted, bringing the total number up to 259. During this time, he did some extra programming for the GIS Membership Database.

He also mentioned that the Secretary produces mailing labels for all the Society's publications. Members should send any address changes to the Secretary.

The Membership Database and its programs are written in dBASE III Plus. A copy of dBASE was purchased for the GIS Secretary to use the Membership Database. This software will be transferred at the end of each Secretary's term.

Finally, he noted that the Business Meeting marked the end of his term and handed over the GIS seal to Judie Triplehorn.

Treasurer - Janice Sorensen mentioned that copies of the GIS financial report were available to interested members. It was published in the October GIS Newsletter. Since her Annual Report was submitted, she transferred \$500 into the GIS checking account and developed a new reimbursement form. The form was presented at the 1990 Executive Board Meeting.

Editor - Connie Manson announced that several people have offered to do new columns in the GIS Newsletter. She stressed that submission deadlines are important. She can receive submissions by FAX, but prefers to receive them by mail. Disc is preferable, especially for long texts. Connie can handle ASCII files, Word Perfect files, or Wordstar files.

Publications Manager - Louise Zipp updated her Annual Report. Proceedings vol. 16-18 are going out of print soon. The remaining copies of the Membership Directory have been shipped to Judie Triplehorn. The printing cost of the Membership Directory were higher than expected, because we used special colors for the 25th Anniversary of GIS. The printing quality was uneven. Consequently, other printers are being investigated. A printer in Wisconsin may be used in

the future. The search for a new printer may delay the publication of the next Proceedings.

Auditor - Bob Bier could not attend the conference. Mary Ansari reported that the financial records for 1988 and 1989 were in good order.

Past President - Joni Lerud gave a paper on GIS and education at the NAGT Symposium, which occurred at the same time as the Business Meeting.

President - Mary Ansari remarked that her term as President has been the high point of her career. She was glad to serve in the GIS 25th Anniversary year.

Vice President - Marie Dvorzak mentioned that GIS paid extra money to receive early announcements about the GSA annual conference. The Executive Board hoped to give members a good chance in getting the least expensive hotel rooms for the conference. She heard one complaint that the announcement was not received early. She would like any members that did not receive announcements in a timely fashion to contact her.

Marie announced that she would be making committee appointments soon. Members should notify her about their committee interests.

Reports of Representatives

The following representatives announced additions to their annual reports in the October GIS Newsletter.

AGI Member Society Council - The meeting this year was held on Monday morning. Joni Lerud attended. She noted that AGI was continuing its emphasis on education. In fact, one of the member societies, the National Association of Geology Teachers, was holding a session on education at the same time as this Business Meeting.

Joni asked the Member Society Council to consider the question of which person in each society should receive a copy of the GIS Newsletter. She thought that the issue might be discussed at the AGI Member Society Council meeting in March 1991, when the Council would consider communication.

Other issues that were discussed include global change and public policy, and the money left over from the 28th International Geological Congress.

Association of Earth Science Editors Representative - The Association of Earth Science Editors (AESE) met in Tulsa earlier in October. AESE is a separate society, and it does not hold its meetings with a larger organization. AGU used to handle AESEs membership services, but AESE will start handling that itself.

AESE is concerned about the education of geologists who write articles for the public. The Association wanted to reach geologists by offering workshops at GSA, AAPG, and other geoscience societies. AESE also would like closer ties to GIS.

Cartographic User Advisory Council Representative - Charlotte Derksen asked that members contact her or Connie Wick if they have problems. Charlotte works with the USGS and Connie Wick works with the National Geophysical Data Center.

Map Online User Group Representative - Rich Soares reported that MOUG met with SLA in Pittsburgh in June 1990. EPIC and Geodex were discussed. The MOUG Newsletter has been delayed. MOUG will meet next in June 1991 at the ALA Annual Conference in Atlanta.

SLA Geography and Map Division Representative - Lynne Fortunato could not attend the GIS meeting. Michael Noga gave a report. SLA met in Pittsburgh. Some highlights were: a special session on road maps; a talk on the engineering geology of interstate highway construction in Pittsburgh; and a talk by the chief cartographer at Rand McNally.

SLA Petroleum Division - Marilyn Stark noted that the Petroleum Division was very active. The Division's program in Pittsburgh focused on the role of librarians as part of a project team. There was also a field trip to Oil City, where the petroleum industry began.

WAML Representative - Michael Noga reported that the Fall Meeting in Denver was a great success. It culminated with a field trip to Rocky Mountain National Park, which was celebrating its 100th Anniversary. The Spring WAML Meeting will be held at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Charlotte Derksen added that she might organize a meeting of California geoscience librarians for the Spring WAML Meeting.

Reports of Committees

The following committee chairs or members announced additions to their annual reports in the October GIS Newsletter.

Best Geologic Reference Book Committee - Barbara Haner asked that members send best reference book suggestions to the Committee.

Digital Data Committee - Charlotte Derksen announced that the program for the Database Forum had been changed. She passed out new flyers.

Exhibits Committee - Elaine Watson noted that her term ended with the Dallas meeting. She wanted to know who the new Chair would be in order to coordinate the storage of the GIS exhibit.

GeoRef Users Group Steering Committee - Barbara DeFelice announced that the Advanced GeoRef Workshop was going to include updates on Orbit and STN, tips on searching for petroleum literature, and a presentation on the Dialog reload of GeoRef.

Guidebook Standards Committee - Claren Kidd announced that the new guidelines for guidebooks were available at the GIS exhibit booth. She encouraged members to distribute them at their institutions. She has been sending them to field trip leaders, but they have to receive the guidelines six months before the field trip, for them to be effective. Unfortunately, it is hard to find out about new field trips that far in advance.

Membership Committee - Lois Heiser noted that the new membership brochure has been sent to each participant in GeoInfo IV that was not already a GIS member.

Ad Hoc Committee on the 5th International Conference on Geoscience Information - Dick Walker commented that GeoInfo IV was well done. GeoInfo V will be held in Prague. He noted that the Czech organizers had already booked hotels in Prague by the opening of GeoInfo IV. A three-country field trip was planned.

Collection Development Issues Committee - Julie Rinaldi announced that an open meeting would be held the next day.

Ad Hoc Committee on the Union List of Geologic Field Trip Guidebooks, 6th Edition - Richard Spohn mentioned that the Guidebook Committee met on Saturday and Sunday. They were developing a usable checklist to send to contributors. They gathered data on new guidebooks from several libraries, and at least one library reported a guidebook for each organization in the Union List for each year in the update period. Dorothy McGarry and Richard Spohn will meet with AGI in early 1991.

Ad Hoc Committee on the Gala 25th Anniversary Celebration - Jean Eaglesfield announced that souvenirs will be mailed to former officers who could not attend the Gala 25th Anniversary Dinner. She still needed to locate a few past officers.

Directory of Geoscience Libraries Committee - Jim O'Donnell announced that a new Chair was being sought. Regional editors will be appointed, and the Annual Report will appear in the next GIS Newsletter.

Pacific Section - Connie Manson remarked that the Section was continuing its role as a communication forum. The Section would meet for dinner on Monday night.

Old Business

GeoInfo IV - David Reade, the Secretary-Treasurer of GeoInfo IV, gave a short report on GeoInfo IV. GIS contributed \$3000 to support participants from developing countries. An individual from China, one from Uganda, and one from Tunisia were supported. Money was allocated to support a Brazilian participant, but he could not come. The unspent funds were returned to GIS.

316 participants from 41 countries came to GeoInfo IV. It was the largest meeting of its kind. David remarked that he made many new contacts from other countries at the meeting. Three highlights for him were the spontaneous meetings that occurred during free time, the good talks by GIS members, and the banquet and visit to the Pinch Mineral Collection. David expected that the Proceedings would be ready by Christmas. It will be sent to all participants at no charge. Information on ordering extra copies will be available.

At GeoInfo IV, participants were told that they would receive a CD-ROM disc. It should be available later this year. The disc will contain the Geological Society of Canada Library catalog and some demonstration databases from the USGS. David remarked that the disc should be especially useful for international participants in their efforts to obtain CD-ROM equipment from their organizations.

GeoInfo IV made money. The organizers hope to use the extra funds to sponsor participants from developing countries at GeoInfo V.

Compass Special Issue - Joni Lerud has received all but 3 papers for the special issue of the Compass.

New Business

After a 15-minute recess, new business was discussed.

Clarification of Award Names and Dates - During the last year, the list of past GIS awards and recipients were needed for the Membership Directory and the 25th Anniversary brochure. The Executive Board had discussed whether the award names should be changed to clarify what was being considered. Did the "Best Geoscience Paper Award" imply that any geoscience paper would be eligible, instead of just papers on geoscience information? Was the Best Geoscience Reference Book Award too restrictive, because some reference works were produced in other formats, e.g. compact disc? The Executive Board asked the two award committees to make recommendations.

Amanda Masterson, Chair of the Best Geoscience Paper Award Committee, reported that most Committee

members wanted to use the name "Best Paper in Geoscience Information Award." Some wanted to keep the name "Best Geoscience Paper Award." There was some discussion, and Mary Scott moved that we use the name "Geoscience Information Society Best Paper Award." She suggested that several societies name their awards in this way. There was a vote on the motion, and it carried, with 5 members opposed.

Barbara Haner discussed the issue of changing the name of the "Best Reference Book Award" to include other formats. Connie Manson suggested that the Digital Data Committee could propose its own award for reference works in electronic formats. Dick Walker suggested that the name "Best Reference Tool" could be used. Another suggestion was "Best Published Reference Resource." No change was made.

Mary Ansari said that there was also some confusion on which date should be used in the award title. Should the date be the date of eligibility or the year in which the award was given? The latter was decided; so the awards that were given earlier in the Meeting were the 1990 awards.

Electronic Bulletin Board/Listserver - Earlier this year, Bob Heidlage had suggested to Marie Dvorzak that GIS set up a listserver. A member could log into a GIS bulletin board and send duplicate lists to members at once. Connie Wick investigated setting up a listserver at Harvard. A cost might be charged by the computer center, and monitoring the bulletin board might be time-consuming. Midge King remarked that she could set up a listserver at the University of Calgary, and it could be free. She would be willing to be the manager of the bulletin board. However, she thought it might be better to set one up in the United States, because, otherwise, users would have to dial to Canada.

There was a general discussion of the desirability of a listserver. Bitnet charges nonacademic users thousands of dollars to join, and GIS has several members outside of academic institutions. There was agreement that GIS would want to provide access to all members, not just those on Bitnet.

Michael Noga was asked about the amount of time involved in publicizing new names on the geonet. He said that the time was not too much of a problem, because he would add the names to his geonet directory anyway. Much effort was not required to send new addresses to current geonetters.

Some members were concerned about the amount of time involved in monitoring an electronic bulletin board. Others questioned whether the bulletin board needed much monitoring; censorship might become an issue. There was also a suggestion to have several discussion monitors, analogous to regional editors.

Bob Heidlage recommended that the Executive Board consider the issue.

Ad Hoc Committee on Meeting Arrangements - Mary Ansari mentioned that Marie Dvorzak had assistance with program planning this year from the Gala 25th Anniversary Committee. She suggested that the Vice President could use assistance, especially with local arrangements. Jean Eaglesfield recommended the appointment of an ad hoc committee to organize field trips. Dick Walker suggested that the Vice President could have the prerogative to make an ad hoc meeting arrangements committee. However, he did not think that the Vice President's duties have increased greatly. Marie Dvorzak noted that arrangements have become more complicated, because the GSA conference has so many concurrent sessions. This year, the poster session had to be scheduled at the same time as the Technical Session. The Banquet had to be moved to Tuesday night because of meeting conflicts, and no shuttle busses were operating then. She said that it would be helpful to have a committee help with things such as making sure that the room was large enough and ordering coffee. Then the Vice President could concentrate on the program. There was additional discussion. Finally, two former Presidents, Unni Rowell and Joni Lerud, endorsed the idea of letting the Vice President appoint an ad hoc local arrangements committee.

New Projects - Dorothy McGarry moved that the Executive Board be requested to establish an ad hoc committee to investigate and report on the feasibility of a grant program that would provide awards to GIS members for the preparation of a geoscience reference tool outside the applicant's home country, and that the report be submitted in time for discussion at the next annual GIS conference.

Dorothy made the motion for three reasons. GIS might have some money to accomplish new projects. The Society would make an international contribution with the proposed grants. Finally, other organizations provide awards to members for international work. The proposed committee would investigate criteria, set up a timeline, and determine whether enough funding would be available to make awards.

Janice Sorensen noted that the Society had not paid yet for the Dallas meeting expenses or for the Gala 25th Anniversary Reception and Banquet; so the big figures in the Treasurer's report might be misleading. Moreover, she questioned who would monitor the awards and whether someone would visit sites to see that the awards were being spent properly.

There was further discussion, and then the motion was put to a vote. The vote was tied at 21 pro and 21 con. The President broke the tie, and the motion carried.

New Section - David Reade announced that he was interested in forming a new Canadian Section of GIS. The proposal would be discussed at the 1991 Executive Board Meeting.

1991 GIS Annual Meeting - Dena Fracolli announced that "global perspectives" would be theme of the Annual Meeting next year in San Diego. She invited members to discuss ideas for talks with her.

Announcements

David Reade announced that the next International Geological Congress will be held in 1992 in Kyoto. David Reade and Ghassan Rassam will be organizers of a geoscience information symposium. The theme will be "management of geoscience data: tools and techniques." Ten presentations are planned.

David Reade announced that Geoscan has signed an agreement with GeoRef to exchange records. Geoscan indexes Canadian federal government publications quickly. He hoped that the provinces would be interested in exchanging records with GeoRef as well.

David Reade announced that there will be a seminar on computer applications in geology in Hanoi in 1991. Finally he announced that the Geological Survey of Canada has a new Chief Librarian.

Connie Manson announced that the John Fry Award was just presented at the Association of State Geologists meeting. This award for best environmental publication was given to the Washington Division of Geology and Earth Resources for Information Circular 85, "Washington State Earthquake Hazards."

Mark Finnegan noted that Petroleum Abstracts will be celebrating its 30th Anniversary year with free training sessions in 1991. Interested members should call 1-800-247-8678 to set up sessions.

Barbara Chappell announced that the new Chief Librarian for the USGS Denver-Central Region Library is Marilyn Stark. She will start work at USGS on November 19. Also, she noted that Bob Bier is moving to Reston to become the Head of the Cartographic Information Center at the USGS Reston Library. Finally, she announced that USGS now has Bitnet. The USGS Library will eventually publish its FAX number.

Several members announced openings. The Montana College of Mining Science and Technology is looking for a new Library Director. Stanford has an opening for Physics Librarian and an engineering reference position. University of Nevada-Reno has an open position. Finally, the Colorado School of Mines has an opening.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael M. Noga, GIS Secretary

LIST OF ATTENDEES
Geoscience Information Society
Annual Business Meeting
29 October 1990

Mary Ansari (Univ of Nevada, Reno)
Mary Batchelor (Southern Methodist University)
Sylvia Bender-Lamb (CA Division of Mines & Geology)
Julie Bichteler (UT-Austin)
Reggie Brown (OSU, Columbus, OH)
Barbara Chappell (U.S. Geological Survey)
Barbara DeFelice (Dartmouth College)
Charlotte Derksen (Stanford Univ., Stanford, CA)
Dona Dirlam (Gemological Inst of America)
Lisa Dunn (Montana Tech)
Marie Dvorzak (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
Jean Eaglesfield (Michigan State Univ)
Mark Finnegan (Petroleum Abstracts)
Dena Fracolli (Chemical Abstracts)
Elizabeth Frebold (Geological Survey of Canada)
Carol Gill
Barbara E. Haner (U.C. Riverside)
Bob Heidlage (Univ. of Missouri-Columbia)
Lois Heiser (Indiana University)
Steve Hiller (Univ. of Washington)
Ed Jestes (U.C. Davis)
John Kawula (Univ. of Idaho)
Ruth Keefer (Mobil Res & Dev Corp)
Claren Kidd (Univ. Oklahoma)
Midge King (Univ. of Calgary)
Susan Klimley (Columbia Univ., Lamont-Doherty Geol. Obs.)
Mary Krick (Ill State Geological Survey)
Anne Krum (Shell Western E&P)
Suzanne Larsen (Univ. of Colorado)
Joanne Lerud (Colorado School of Mines)
Connie Manson (Washington Div. Geology & Earth Resources)
Amanda R. Masterson (Bureau of Economic Geology, UT-Austin)
Skip McAfee (Amer. Society for Horticulture Science)
Dorothy McGarry (UCLA)
Clara McLeod (E & PSc Library, Washington University)
Linda Newman (Univ. of Nevada, Reno)
Michael M. Noga (UCLA)
Jim O'Donnell (Caltech)
Lois M. Pausch (Univ. of Illinois at U-C)
Linda Radcliffe (American Geological Institute)
David Reade (Geological Survey of Canada)
Julie Rinaldi (U.C. Berkeley)
Unni Rowell (Exmin Corporation)
Linda Samuels (Southern Methodist Univ.)
Harriett R. Scott (Queens U., Kingston, Ont., Can., retired)
Mary W. Scott (Ohio State Univ.)

Sally Scott (U.C. Irvine)
Miriam Sheaves (Univ. of N.C. Chapel Hill)
Richard E. Soares (BYU)
Janice Sorensen (Kansas Geological Survey)
Richard Spohn (University of Cincinnati)
Marilyn Stark (Colorado School of Mines)
Sharon Tahirkheli (GeoRef)
Nancy Thurston (Ontario Geological Survey)
Judie Triplehorn (Geophysical Inst, Univ. of AK-Fairbanks)
Rosalind Walcott (SUNY Stony Brook)
Dick Walker (Univ of Wis.-Madison)
Margy Walsh (Texaco E+P Technology Dept)
Dedy Ward (artist)
Margaret Elaine Watson (USGS)
Connie Wick (Harvard University)
Louise Zipp (Iowa)

MINUTES
GIS Executive Board Meeting
Sunday, 28 October 1990
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Dallas
1:00-4:00 PM CST

The Executive Board
-- Approved the minutes of the last Exec Board meeting (St. Louis)
-- Heard reports from Officers, Representatives, and Committee Chairs.
-- Heard a wrap-up report on GeoInfo IV
-- Heard a status report on the Compass issue
-- Discussed the status of complimentary GIS Newsletter subscriptions
-- Considered whether the names of the GIS awards should be changed to clarify the eligibility and time periods
-- Considered the establishment of a GIS Electronic Bulletin Board
-- Discussed ways of lightening the Vice President's workload
-- Discussed the retention of GIS financial records
-- Decided to have the duties of each office written
-- Considered using a different printer for the Proceedings and Membership Directory
-- Decided to keep the current price for mailing labels to nonprofit institutions
-- Heard a request for more committee news in the GIS Newsletter

Respectfully submitted,
Michael M. Noga, GIS Secretary,
1988-1990

1990 ANNUAL MEETING News and Developments

Bristol Gives \$1,000 for Earth Sciences Education

The biggest surprise of the 25th anniversary banquet came when Skip McAfee presented on behalf of Ruth A. Bristol a check for \$1,000 to GIS. Ruth's message, which accompanied the check, was:

To the Geoscience Information Society:

Since the cost of travel to and accommodations at your 25th Anniversary Celebration no longer need to be met, I am transferring the approximate amount to you.

If GIS is participating in AGI's effort to promote earth sciences education in secondary schools, it may be used to help in that effort. If not, please use it where the need is greatest.

Ruth A. Bristol
October 30, 1990

At the 1991 Executive Board meeting it was decided that we would ask members for their ideas of what should be done with this most generous gift. Please send your ideas to Marie Dvorzak or Mary Ansari by January 1 so they can be discussed at the January 7 Executive Board conference call.

GeoRef Users Group Steering Committee

Annual Conference Report Dallas, Texas, October 31, 1990

Barbara DeFelice, GeoRef Users Group Steering Committee chair, presided. Suzanne Larsen took the minutes.

Sharon Tahirkheli of AGI, filling in for John Mulvihill, summarized the highlights of 1990:

1. Dialog has completed the GeoRef reload. Sharon thanked the GIS members who participated in the testing stage.

2. She discussed the GeoRef CD-ROM. It was shipped the day most people left for the conference and was demonstrated at the exhibit booth and at the Database Forum. The database is on 3 disks: 1785-1977, 1978-1987, and 1988- present. Updates to the file will come as replacement disks for the most current one. The Thesaurus will be loaded in the spring and all the disks will be updated to contain it. Sharon introduced Susan Bergman from SilverPlatter, the producer of the GeoRef CD-ROM.

3. AGI has been attempting to update its thesis bibliography. They have been actively pursuing this goal by cross-checking other bibliographies. They will send out lists to each institution to edit and complete their own holdings. Major institutions are not well-presented in the database. Recognizing the

value of this information, some members of GIS volunteered to check not only their own institution, but their entire state. The suggestion was made that the requests for information be sent to libraries rather than to geology departments because they are more likely to respond. It was also suggested that the lists be sent in computer-readable format so that they can be updated and edited without re-inputting data. Once the information is cleaned up and completed it will be added to the GeoRef database.

A suggestion was made that a call for volunteers for this project be made in the next GIS Newsletter. Sharon said she will check with John Mulvihill about it.

AGI is considering publishing the completed file in 8.5 x 11 inch format, indexed by author, university, and subject. It was felt that a paper format would appeal to interlibrary loan departments, who would be major users of this information.

4. Sharon addressed the problem of the delays in issuing the Bibliography and Index of Geology and in updating the GeoRef files. AGI got behind with other projects but should be back in order by January or February. The annual cumulation for 1989 has been sent out.

5. Not all state survey open file reports are getting into the BIG because they are not all being sent to the USGS in Reston. It was suggested that we get a list of all those who are contributing so that we may put pressure on those who are not.

6. AGI has been using scanning to input these abstracts into the database. The system is not perfect. Only abstracts for dissertations not at UMI are inputted.

7. Work has begun on a new Thesaurus. Marilyn Stark will chair the vocabulary task force.

8. AGI has a new internal serials system which will allow more flexibility and be more exact at removing duplicate records. Sharon requested that we continue to send in any problems we detect in the system.

9. AGI will be exchanging material with GEO-SCAN, primarily Canadian Geological Survey material. An exchange agreement with the USSR is being pursued. They will provide about 6,000 items, indexed with English abstracts. AGI will provide US references, some publications, and a PC. Final arrangements have not been made. Exchange agreements now exist with France (about 6,000 citations per year) and with Germany (about 8,000 citations per year).

10. A suggestion was made that AGI reconsider its list of priority journals for fast indexing. It was originally formulated by the Users Group subcommittee along with AGI. Sharon will discuss this with John.

Jo Maxon-Dadd and Dale Springer-Wilson from Dialog were introduced.

Barbara DeFelice brought up the question of what direction the User's Group Steering Committee should take this year. A discussion followed concerning whether the committee should broaden its charge to include other files or CDs, or whether it should remain only involved with AGI and GeoRef. The sense of the whole group is that the Steering Committee should remain focused on GeoRef issues.

The addition of a GIS Newsletter column related to searching, both online and CD-ROM, was discussed. The GeoRef Steering Committee will serve as a clearing house to match questions with authorities who can answer them and contact people to give searching hints. An effort will be made not to duplicate AGI's GeoRef Newsletter. Sharon said that they were planning a GeoRef Newsletter to address the DIALOG reload and the CD product.

The next topic was planning the GeoRef workshops for next year. There were 12 people at the Beginner's workshop this year and 35 at the Advanced workshop. Several suggestions were made, such as having a CD-ROM searching workshop, having only one GeoRef searching workshop which would address all levels, and to coordinate something with NAGT which would be geared to end-user education. The possibility of having several CD-ROM workstations allowing hands on experience was suggested. The question of how AGI would respond to this change in emphasis was brought up. Sharon said who would discuss it with John. Barbara will discuss these ideas with the GIS Executive Board. Programs for the San Diego meeting are now being planned.

It was suggested that AGI consider issuing an abbreviated form of the GeoRef CD which covered only core journals which would be aimed at small schools. It was felt that this would be a market that would not consider purchasing the current CD product because of its costs and the fact that they do not have the collection to support it. Sharon said AGI still does not know what the impact of the CD will be on the online system but that they will discuss the suggestion.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara DeFelice, Chair

Cost of Geoscience Literature Handouts available

At its meeting in Dallas on Tuesday, October 30, 1990 members of the Committee on Collection Development Issues distributed the following handouts:

- Journal prices and price changes, 1986/87 - 1990/91 (M. Noga)
- Serials listed in ascending order by 1990 price (M. Noga)
- Indiana University geology library serials costs (10/18/90) (L. Heiser)

- Cancellation of earth science serials, 1990 (S. Klimley)
- Geoscience publication prices: Commercial monographs, 1982-1990 (J. Rinaldi)
- State survey publications (C. Manson)
- Prices of monographs from society publishers (R. Walcott)

If you did not receive these handouts at the meeting and would like copies, contact:

Julie Rinaldi
Earth Sciences Library
230 Earth Sciences Building
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, CA 94720

Proposal for the Establishment of a Canadian Chapter within the Geoscience Information Society

We, Marjorie King, David Reade, Nancy Thurston, Patricia Sheahan, Mary Akehurst (Geological Survey of Canada, corporate member, Vancouver Library), Elizabeth Frebold (Geological Survey of Canada, corporate member, Ottawa Library), the Canadian members of GIS in attendance at the 1990 conference, formally request that the Geoscience Information Society Executive Board authorize the establishment of a Canadian Chapter of GIS as permitted under Article VII of the GIS Constitution.

As a result of the Fourth International Conference on Geoscience Information (GeoInfo IV) being held in Canada this year, considerable interest and activity was generated within the Canadian geoscience information community. The Canadian members of GIS are proposing the formation of a Canadian Chapter in order to translate this new awareness into increased Canadian activity and membership in GIS.

Following the 1990 GIS business meeting, Canadian members met and discussed the formation of a Chapter. At this meeting, it was agreed that a Canadian Chapter could help to increase the current level of Canadian participation (presently 18 corporate and personal members) with the following program:

1. Canadian membership drive
2. Social function and informal meeting at the GIS/GSA meeting
3. Column in the GIS Newsletter dealing with Canadian issues
4. E-mail network of Canadian GIS members
5. Discussion and action on geoscience information issues unique to Canada.

As required by the GIS Constitution, a set of by-laws and constitution for the Canadian Chapter were prepared by the group and accompany this proposal. Conditional upon the establishment of a Canadian Chapter, the following two officers were elected and

will carry out the duties specified in the Constitution for the Canadian Chapter:

Chairperson: David Reade (one year term)
Secretary: Marjorie King (two year term)

Constitution and By-Laws for the Canadian Chapter of the Geoscience Information Society (GIS)

Article I: Name

The name of the organization will be Canadian Chapter of the Geoscience Information Society.

Article II: Operation

The Canadian Chapter will operate within and subject to the Constitution and By-Laws of the parent organization, the Geoscience Information Society.

Article III: Role

The Canadian Chapter will further the aims and goals of GIS within Canada and will foster communication, cooperation and camaraderie among Canadian members of GIS.

Article IV: Membership

GIS members in good standing (either corporate or personal) who reside in Canada or are temporarily based in Canada, are members of the Canadian Chapter.

Article V: Officers and their responsibilities

The officers of the Canadian Chapter shall be a Chairperson and a Secretary. Both officers shall be elected to a two year term by Chapter members at an annual meeting to be held in conjunction with the GIS conference. The initial Chairperson will serve a one year term in order to stagger the terms of office for the two Chapter officers.

The officers of the Canadian Chapter will be responsible for organizing the annual Chapter meeting and will submit a report to the GIS Executive Board on the activities of the Canadian Chapter on a yearly basis.

Article VI: Amendments

Proposals for amending this document must receive a majority of votes from Canadian members present at the Chapter's annual meeting. Proposed amendments receiving a majority vote within the Chapter will be forwarded to the GIS Executive Board for consideration. Amendments only come into force with the approval of the GIS Executive Board.

1990 ANNUAL REPORTS (continued)

Publications Manager - Update

Proceedings - Another copy of v. 19 was sold. Reminder: v. 17-19 will soon be out-of-print, although there are a few copies left for sale.

Newsletters - One subscription was cancelled, reducing the number to 45. Renewal letters for 1991 subscriptions (except those via Ebsco and Faxon) were sent. Six 1990 issues were sent in response to subscriber and member claims.

Membership Directory - 326 copies of the 1990 directory were printed at a unit printing cost of \$4.28. This increase over last year's cost of \$2.94 was primarily due to the difference in the covers: typesetting, different paper and special ink. The printer (University of Iowa Printing Department) was particularly uncooperative, and quality of text reproduction was lower than expected, so I will be seeking a different printer for the next volume we publish. Unit postage cost for the major distribution to members was \$1.25. At the request of the Secretary, second copies were distributed to members of the 1990 and 1991 Executive Board, to the Newsletter editors, and to (most) members of the Guidebook Committee. As usual, I sent a copy to the Exhibits Chair, retained a second copy myself, and set aside a copy for the Archives. The remaining directories have been sent to the new Secretary. Any members who didn't receive a copy or who need a replacement should contact Julia.

Membership brochures - A new edition was created and 2000 copies were printed, at a unit cost of \$.07. All but 200-300 copies have been distributed to the Executive Board, the Exhibits Chair, and Membership Chair.

Mailing labels - One set was sold.

Careers brochure - Distribution continued.

Guidelines for authors, editors, and publishers of geologic field trip guidebooks - 500 copies of the new edition were printed at a unit cost of \$.32. All but 100 were distributed to the Exhibits Chair and Guidebooks Standards Chair.

Our printing costs were higher this year because of the number of publications printed and the special format. The use of blue ink and gray paper are the major culprits. This will also hold for the Proceedings volumes to be printed in the Spring. It will help me to "comparison-shop" for the best printing deal if I receive your manuscripts early. Please consult me when you are making format-related decisions; we may be able to preclude last-minute revisions. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Zipp

Map Online Users Group

The Map Online Users Group (MOUG) annual meeting was held in conjunction with the SLA Geography and Map Division meetings in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, June 9-12.

The executive board approved and planned for conversion of the newsletter to electronic medium, accessible only by members via Bitnet/Internet. The executive board approved of changing the newsletter frequency from 4 to only 3 times per year.

At the membership meeting members heard presentations on Geodex and EPIC. Geodex is a map cataloging software especially designed for rapid indexing/cataloging of large map sets/series. Once a library has processed a map set using this program, it can easily be shared with other libraries that have Geodex.

EPIC is the new OCLC program which allows searching of the OCLC database using boolean operators and search strategies similar to searching DIALOG/STN/BRS, etc. How to find maps using EPIC was the emphasis of the presentation.

Respectfully submitted
Richard Soares, GIS Representative

Ad Hoc Committee on the Directory of Geoscience Libraries, United States and Canada, 4th edition

The Committee agreed to divide the U.S. and Canada into 6 zones, with each member of the Committee acting as regional editor for a region, and the Chair acting as general editor. Those regions, their coverage, their respective editors, and the number of libraries in the 3rd edition, are:

- 1--Canada (All - 67): Ian Gordon
- 2--Western U.S. (AK, CA, HI, ID, MT, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY - 69): Connie Manson
- 3--North central U.S. (CO, IA, IL, IN, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD, WI - 69): Louise Zipp
- 4--South central U.S. (AZ, NM, OK, TX - 68): Carol Gill
- 5--Southeastern U.S. (AL, AR, DC, FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MS, NC, OH, SC, TN, VA, WV - 74): Dena Fracolli
- 6--Northeastern U.S. (CT, DE, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT - 69): Lynne Fortunato

Two questionnaires from similar directories were reviewed by members for ideas on the questionnaire to be distributed by the Committee.

Respectfully submitted
Jim O'Donnell, Chair

Guidebooks Standards Committee

The Guidelines for authors and editors of geologic field trip guidebooks have been completed after numerous revisions were considered. The guidelines include photocopies of a guidebook cover, title page, and verso which best display the desirable attributes. The 3-page guidelines should be available for distribution at the 1990 GIS meeting.

The Committee identified a 1989 guidebook that best implements the guidelines. The editors will be awarded the "Best Guidebook" award at the meeting in Dallas.

Respectfully submitted
Claren Kidd, Chair

THE DIGITAL DATABASE FORUM

Databases in the USGS Open-file Report Series
by
Charlotte Derksen
Branner Earth Science Library
Stanford University

There are now many U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Reports that have been issued in diskette format. None of these come on depository and thus each must be firm ordered. A large number of these are programs that are designed to perform some geological, geophysical, or geochemical computation or image processing.

A summary discussion of several of these applications was published in an article in Geobyte (Selner and Taylor, 1988); additional newly released programs were described in a recent issue of Geobyte (Reid, 1990). USGS Open-file Report 89-681, "Computer Programs released as U.S. Geological Survey Publications through August 1989" (McCartan, 1988) contains a fairly complete list of the computer programs, including those in diskette form. This title helpfully delineates revisions or supersessions and includes indices by author, program, and subject.

Some of the open-file reports in diskette form are actually maps, reference tools, databases or (in old-fashioned terminology) bibliographies. Following is a brief listing of some of those which are either: a) of special interest to earth sciences librarians, b) newer than the above-mentioned listings, or c) not listed in any of the above listings.

Bibliographies:

Bennett, P. C., 1986, Comprehensive bibliography on komatiites: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report

86-434 (86-434-A, paper; 86-434-B disk). Format: IBM diskette

and

Czamanske, G. K.; Bennett, P. C.; Zientek, M. L.; Weiblen, P. W.; Havach, G. A.; Foose, M. P., 1986, Comprehensive bibliographies on mineralized and unmineralized layered mafic intrusions in the United States: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 86-589 (86-589-A, text; 86-589-B, disk). Format: IBM Diskette

and

Czamanske, G. K.; Groves, D. I.; Bunting, J. A.; Brown, A. V., 1987, Comprehensive bibliographies on primary and supergene Ni-Cu-PGE mineralization associated with komatiitic and mafic intrusions in Australasia, on layered mafic intrusions in Australasia, and on the Dufek Intrusion, Antarctica: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 87-412 (87-412-A, paper; 87-412-B, disk). Format: IBM diskette

and

Czamanske, G. K.; Papunen, H.; Boyd, R.; Nilsson, G., 1986, Comprehensive bibliography on mineralized and unmineralized mafic-ultramafic intrusions in Scandinavia: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 86-442 (86-442-A, paper; 86-442-B, disk). Format: IBM diskette

and

Thorman, C. H., 1988, A preliminary reference list on metamorphic core complexes: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 88-756 (88-756-A, text; 88-756-B, disk). Format: IBM diskette

All of these reports are old-fashioned bibliographies, which are put out in both text form and on disk. The text versions are arranged alphabetically by author's name and are not provided with other indices. The disk versions are in variable length ASCII form, making them difficult to download into a database manager. It would be helpful if all of these were provided on a CD-ROM with common search software.

Collins, D. S.; Cabban, R. R.; Foord, E. E.; Murphy, J. A., 1989, Bibliography for update and revision of U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1114, Minerals of Colorado--A 100 year record by Edwin B. Eckel: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 89-206, 122 p. (89-206-A, text; 89-206-B, 2 double density diskettes; 89-206-C, 1 High density disk; 89-206-D, 1 3-1/2 inch diskette). Format: IBM diskette.

This report is the result of more than 10 years' effort to update and revise the Minerals of Colorado. This bibliography is restricted to original mineralogical material only. It includes all references cited in Bulletin 1114, plus new references published through 1988. This same information is available in paper or fiche (A), or in one of the three IBM-compatible formats (B, C, or D). References are listed in alphabetical order by author. There is no indexing provided. All of the disks are in Wordstar format (but Wordstar is not provided).

Dewitt, Ed; Clemensen, Margaret; Barari, Rachel, 1989, BHBIB--Bibliography of Black Hills Geology, 1852-1988: U.S. Geological Survey Open-file Report 89-443 (89-443-A, text; 89-443-B, 3 double density disks; 89-443-C, 1 high density disk; 89-443-D, 3 double density disks; 89-443-E, 1 high density disk). Format: IBM diskette.

Report A is just a text copy of the same information that appears in ASCII form on disks B, C, D or E. There are no indices provided with the text, which is arranged alphabetically by author. There is no search software provided with disks B or C, which are not in fixed field format, but the authors suggest that the files can be converted to WordPerfect, Wordstar or other word processing formats. Disks D and E are in entry-delimited ASCII form so that they can be downloaded into a database manager. The database is so large that a hard disk is necessary for using the file. This seems like a prime candidate for the USGS CD-ROM series.

Taylor, R. B.; Sheridan, D. M.; Selner, G. I., 1987, Proterozoic gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc and tungsten deposits and occurrences in Colorado, an experimental publication: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 87-99, 1 diskette. Format: IBM Diskette

There is no hard copy of this report, which contains information on the 95 known mineral deposits and occurrences of the Proterozoic in Colorado. In addition to the large file containing the descriptions of the deposits (with up to five references listed per deposit), there is also an index file containing an alphabetical list. Finally the map files in this report can be plotted using the GSMAP program (a version of which is included on the disk). For those with a strong interest in Colorado ore deposits, it might well be worth printing out the text files to add to your open-file collection.

Whelan, J. F., 1989, Computerized database of the optical properties of the opaque minerals: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 88-260, 151 p. (88-260-A, text; 88-260-B, diskette) Format: Macintosh diskette

Despite the report number, the data in this report is actually up to date through January, 1989. This database was formatted with Filemaker Plus (although Filemaker 4 or Filemaker II will also work) and can not be used without the proper software. A Macintosh Plus or later must be used. Part A has the complete database in print form, arranged alphabetically by mineral name. However, there are no indices provided with the text. The database on part B includes, in addition to name: Optical and pertinent physical properties; chemical composition; reflected light color and tints (in air); reflected light color and tints (in oil); birefractance; anisotropy; crystallographic class; per cent reflectance in green light; Vickers Hardness Number; possible internal reflections; polishing hardness; and a brief listing of common associations and tex-

tures. Most of these are searchable fields. This should be a very useful reference tool; it would also be nice to see this in the USGS CD-ROM series.

Data files, maps, models, etc:

Alpha, T. R., 1989, How to construct two paper models showing the effects of glacial ice on a mountain valley: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 89-190 (89-190-A, text; 89-190-B, disk). Format: Macintosh diskette.

and

Alpha, T. R.; Lahr, J. C.; Wagner, L. F., 1989, How to construct a paper model showing the motion that occurred on the San Andreas fault during the Loma Prieta, California, earthquake of October 17, 1989: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 89-640, 9 p. (89-640-A, text; 89-640-B, disk). Format: Macintosh diskette

These programs require Silicon Beach Super Paint graphics software. Each text consists of the information and cutouts for building the paper model. Each disk also provides instructions and applications software for building a computer model (providing of course, that you have Super Paint).

Bankey, Viki, 1989, Gravity survey data and Bouguer gravity anomaly map of southwestern Wyoming, north-eastern Utah, and northwestern Colorado: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 89-175 (89-175-A, text; 89-175-B, gravity data). Format: IBM diskette

Part A contains the map and a listing of the gravity data. The disk contains the gravity data in fixed field ASCII form; it does not contain the map itself in any form.

McCartan, Lucy, 1988, Catalog of heat-flow and other pertinent data from the eastern United States and selected adjacent areas, in ASCII on IBM-compatible 5 1/4-inch diskette: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 88-681. FORMAT: IBM diskette

This open file report contains the data from which MF-2057, "Heat flow map of the Eastern United States" was compiled, and you may want to mark your map accordingly. It is in clearly delineated fixed-field ASCII, so it should be easy to load into a file manager as needed. There is no hard copy of this report.

National Earthquake Information Center, 1989, Earthquake data report--January 1989: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 89-601 (89-601-A, text; 89-601-B, disk). Format: IBM diskette

This is a listing of all seismic phase and amplitude data which were associated with the Preliminary Determination of Epicenters (PDE) Monthly listing for January. It is interesting in that this seems to be the only month listed in the publications list. The data is listed in extremely tiny print in the text and in ASCII in fixed fields on the list. The file is meant to be

used by experts and is not meant to be a database for the casual user.

Stuart-Alexander, Desiree, 1986, Geologic and other data on selected dams and reservoirs world-wide: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 86-524 (86-524-A, text; 86-524-B, 3 diskettes). Format: IBM diskette.

This report contains a database of information on 1880 dams and reservoirs; the intent is to comprehensively cover the largest of these world-wide. This is a fixed-field ASCII format set of databases. The sub-databases include: 1) Basic data (year of completion, height, depth, etc.); 2) Geologic information; 3) Coordinates at the approximate center of the reservoir; 4) Miscellaneous data (fill rate, average rainfall, length and width, etc.); 5) References (numbered) per dam; 6) Cross Reference of the various names or spellings of the dam or reservoirs; 7) Data on 100 dams rejected for list; 8) References in standard bibliographic format (see #5). This report is set up so that the data can, relatively easily, be downloaded into a database management system. However, it would be extremely helpful if all of the data were on one CD-ROM, with appropriate software.

Useful applications:

Marshall, B. D., 1989, TexCon; a text file conversion utility for use with Apple Macintosh computers: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 89-165 (89-165-A, text; 89-165-B, program). Format: Macintosh diskette.

A text file conversion that librarians might find useful as well.

Quick, J. E., 1988, Datasave manual: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 88-213 (88-213-A, manual; 88-213-B, disk). Format: IBM diskette

Even if you don't normally purchase application disks for your collection you may want to consider making another exception for this database manager designed for manipulating, storing, and editing numerical data.

Selner, G. I., 1986, User's guide for GSREF--A personal computer bibliographic reference system, version 3.1: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 86-186. Format: IBM PC diskette

If you have impecunious graduate students who need a database manager for their article references, this may be the thing to which to refer them.

Selner, G. I.; Taylor, R. B., 1989, GSDRAW and GSMAP system version 6.0--Graphics programs and utility programs for the IBM PC and compatible microcomputers to assist compilation and publication of geologic maps and illustrations: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 89-373, 144 p. (89-373-A, Documentation and tutorial; 89-373-B, 5 disks). Format: IBM diskette

This is a popular set of programs that is frequently updated by the authors. This is an exception that you might want to make, if you buy few or no other applications. However, you need to be alert for new editions.

References cited:

McCartan, Lucy, 1988, Catalog of heat-flow and other pertinent data from the eastern United States and selected adjacent areas, in ASCII on IBM-compatible 5 1/4-inch diskette: U.S. Geological Survey Open-file Report 88-681, 1 diskette.

Reid, J. C., 1990, Update--GSMAP and other U.S. Geological Survey programs for earth science applications: Geobyte, v. 5, no. 4, p. 31-32

Selner, G.I. and R. B. Taylor, 1988, GSMAP and other USGS microcomputer programs for earth science applications: Geobyte, v. 3. no. 4, p. 36-43.

Note: You might all want to look at the article "Focus On--Global Change" by Peter Bruegemann (CD-ROM Professional, November 1990, p. 48-54) in which he describes the new ISI current awareness database on global change.

NEWS FROM CANADA

At the Dallas meeting, the American Geological Institute and the Geological Survey of Canada announced the signing of an agreement covering the exchange of bibliographic records between the GeoRef (AGI) and GEOSCAN (GSC) data bases. This record exchange will provide GeoRef with complete coverage of the publications of the Geological Survey of Canada and will provide GEOSCAN with records dealing with Canada but published in non-Canadian sources. The initial exchange will include records prepared during 1990 (approximately 1200 items).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Q & A on the GeoRef CD

The GeoRef CD is out now, having been mailed to subscribers in November. It includes all of GeoRef through August, 1990 on 3 compact disks. Disk 1 has 1785-1979; disk 2 has 1980-1987, and disk 3 has 1988-August 1990. It will be updated quarterly and is available from SilverPlatter. Since the CD is a new product, questions have been asked about it. Some of the questions AGI has answered are listed below.

Question: If we have questions about the CD whom should we call?

Answer: Both SilverPlatter (1-800-343-0064 in the continental U.S. except Massachusetts and 1-617-239-0306 for Massachusetts, Alaska, Hawaii, and Canada) and AGI (1-800-336-4764 or 1-703-379-2480) are prepared to field questions on the GeoRef CD. However, to order the CD and for questions related to installation and subscriptions, call SilverPlatter.

Question: What equipment is needed?

Answer: Basically an IBM-compatible PC with a minimum of 512 k and a disk drive and CD drive. A MacIntosh version of the software will be available in 1991. However, there are enough variables which affect performance that it is advisable to discuss equipment needs by calling SilverPlatter.

Question: Is training of the CD available?

Answer: Most people can begin to use the GeoRef CD on their own with little or no instruction. The software includes context-sensitive help messages. A user manual and quick reference cards come with the CD from SilverPlatter. Both AGI and SilverPlatter are prepared to answer questions on the CD. There will be a workshop on the CD at the GSA meeting in November, 1991.

Question: We would like to use the CD on a local area network (LAN). Is this permitted?

Answer: Yes, you can put the GeoRef CD on a LAN. There is an additional cost which is currently 1.5 times the base fee, i.e., \$2,925 per year for a print subscriber and \$3,900 for others. This amount is for up to 8 simultaneous users on the LAN. SilverPlatter markets a CD-ROM network package called MultiPlatter. Currently network use of GeoRef is restricted to LANs. It may be extended to wide area networks (WANs) at a later date, if there is a demand for that.

Question: Do for-profit organizations have to pay an added charge for the CD?

Answer: There may be a charge in addition to the standard CD subscription costs paid to SilverPlatter. For-profit organizations subscribing to the CD should contact Kay Yost or John Mulvihill at AGI for more information on this (1-800-336-4764).

Question: If we subscribe to the CD for a year and then drop our subscription, are we allowed to keep the CD for future use?

Answer: You must return the CD if the license is not renewed. Similarly, you must return an outdated disc within 30 days of receipt of its update. This is specified in the SilverPlatter Subscription and License Agreement.

The NOAA-National Geophysical Data Center announces new data available, including geophysical data sets and print map products, through a mailing list. They are currently updating their mailing lists; if you are on that list and wish to stay on it, you must respond to the update notice or your name may be deleted. The Center does not currently distribute materials through the GPO depository program. If you are not on the list, contact the National Geophysical Data Center at:

National Geophysical Data Center
NOAA, Mail Code E/GC4
325 Broadway
Boulder, CO 80303-3328

Government documents librarians may be interested in a government documents roundtable discussion on e-mail called Govdoc-L. For a complete description (including how to log on to it) see GPO's Administrative Notes, v. 11, no. 23, November 23, 1990.

The Bureau of Mines has awarded a contract to the American Geological Institute to produce a second edition of its Dictionary of Mining, Mineral, and Related Terms published in 1968. It is the most comprehensive and acclaimed dictionary of mining terms known. The revision will take 3-4 years.

The University of Oklahoma School of Geology and Geophysics announces the publication of the History of the School of Geology and Geophysics. This book traces the history of the School of Geology and Geophysics from 1900 to 1990. Cost is \$25 for the soft cover edition, and \$30 for the hard cover edition, with \$3 shipping and handling per book, and 7% sales tax for Oklahoma residents. Please make checks payable to: University of Oklahoma Foundation. Order from: University of Oklahoma Foundation, School of Geology and Geophysics, Energy Center, Room S114, Norman, OK 73019.

Undergraduate students pursuing academic studies beneficial to America's ground water resources are invited to apply for scholarship support from the American Ground Water Trust's AMTROL Scholarship Fund. Applications must be submitted by April 1 to be eligible for funds for the following academic year. For an application and more information, contact:

The American Ground Water Trust
6375 Riverside Drive
Dublin, Ohio 43017

PUBLICATIONS

Guidebook to Horizontal Drilling and the Bakken Formation, Proceedings from a workshop held in Billings, Montana should be published January, 1991. It will sell for \$35 (US); \$40 (Canada); all orders must be prepaid. Order from: MGS Bakken Guidebook, P.O. Box 844, Billings, MT 59103-0844.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

ASSISTANT GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS AND MAP LIBRARIAN, University of Kansas, Lawrence

There is an opening for an assistant government documents and map librarian at the University of Kansas. Annual salary is \$21,000 minimum. To apply, submit letter of application, resume, transcripts, and names of 3 references to Sandra Gilliland, Assistant to the Dean, University of Kansas Libraries, Lawrence, KS 66045-2800 by February 1, 1991.

NEW MEMBERS

Personal

Steve Hiller
Head, Science Libraries FM-25
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195

Linda Radcliffe
American Geological Institute
4220 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22302

Linda Samuels
Science/Engineering Library
Southern Methodist University
Dallas, TX 75275-0375

Institutional Member

American Geophysical Union
2000 Florida Ave NW
Washington, DC 20009
(A. F. Spilhaus, Jr.)

GIS HISTORICAL NOTES

The mystery of the GIS logo has finally been solved! We found out that it was designed by R. Dale Brown (Reggie Brown's husband).

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

SUSAN KLIMLEY has received tenure at the Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory of Columbia University.

JIM O'DONNELL has received tenure at CalTech, too, and-- much more importantly--his very own parking place.

MARILYN STARK has been appointed the new Chief Librarian for the USGS Denver- Central Region Library. She will start work there on November 19.

BARBARBA HANER has published an article, "Government information as recorded in core serials of the geological sciences," in Government Publications Review, v. 17, p. 341-355.

MEETINGS AND COURSES

GeoInfo V (1994): Czechoslovakia has agreed to host the 5th International Conference on Geoscience Information in 1994. The meeting will be held in Prague and the local organizing committee is already actively planning for this most important conference. An Ad Hoc Committee on GeoInfo V (chaired by Richard Walker) will serve as our contact with the meeting organizers and will inform GIS members of future developments.

GEOCOM-91: A seminar on Computer Applications in Geology (GEOCOM-91) will be held in late November 1991 in Hanoi, Vietnam. This seminar will promote the exchange of experiences and information on computer applications in a wide range of areas. Topics to be covered include:

- estimation of mineral reserves
- computer storage and retrieval of geological data
- computer graphics and geological data plotting
- mine planning and development
- mineral exploration modelling
- hardware/software for geological data processing

Additional information on this seminar is available from:

Dr. Tran Minh The
Institute for Information and Documentation of Mines and Geology
6 Pham ngu Lao
Hanoi, Vietnam
telex: 411536 VT
fax: 84-4-53172

29th IGC - 1992: A symposium titled "Management of Geoscience Data--Tools and Techniques" is being organized as part of the 19th International Geological Congress in Kyoto, Japan (24 August to 3 September 1992). The half-day symposium can accommodate up to 10 20-minute presentations. An associated poster session for an additional 10 presentations is also being planned.

The convenors for this session, Ghassan Rassam and David Reade, would like to hear from GIS members interested in participating in this symposium and poster session. Your presentation ideas and any questions should be directed to:

Dr. Ghassan Rassam
American Geophysical Union
2000 Florida Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20009 USA
202/462-6900
fax: 202/328-0566

David Reade
Geological Survey of Canada
601 Booth Street, Room 180
Ottawa, Ontario
CANADA K1A 0E8
613/992-8916
fax: 613/996-8748

The 5th National Outdoor Action Conference on Aquifer Restoration, Ground Water Monitoring and Geophysical Methods will be held May 13-16, 1991 in Las Vegas. To submit an abstract, contact:

5th Outdoor Action Conference
Program Coordinator
National Water Well Association
6375 Riverside Dr.
Dublin, OH 43017

To register for the meeting, contact:
5th National Outdoor Action Conf.
National Water Well Association
P. O. Box 182039
Dept. #017
Dublin, OH 43018

NATIONAL WATER WELL ASSOCIATION
COURSES

For information about these courses, contact:

Vaughn Shelton, or, Marsha Fickle
Education Department
National Water Well Association
6375 Riverside Drive
Dublin, OH 43017
614/761-1711

fax: 614/761-3446

Treatment technology for contaminated ground water - Jan. 22-24, Long Beach; Aug. 20-22, Chicago; Dec. 3-5, Denver.

Corrective action for containing and controlling ground water contamination - Feb. 18-20, Salt Lake City; July 16-18, Nashville; Oct. 8-10, Farmington, Conn.

Technical writing course - Aug. 23, Chicago

Legal implications of environmental property assessments - Dec. 6, Denver.

Theory and application of borehole geophysics to ground water and waste disposal problems - Jan. 22-24, Long Beach

Theory and application of surface geophysics to ground water investigations--An overview course - June 19-20, Clearwater Beach, Fl.

Environmental site assessments one-day course - June 21, Clearwater Beach, Fl.

Fundamentals of ground water and well technology - Jan. 15- 17, Dublin, Ohio; June 3-5, Monroeville, Penn.

Applied drilling engineering for rotary and auger methods - March 13-14, Philadelphia; Nov. 6-7, Tampa, Fl.

IBM PC applications in ground water pollution and hydrology - Jan. 6-11, San Francisco; Aug. 11-16, Princeton, NJ

Introduction to ground water chemistry - Jan. 22-24, Long Beach; Mar. 26-28, Dublin, Ohio; July 16-18, Nashville; Oct. 8- 10, Farmington, Conn.

Fundamentals of ground water and well technology - Jan. 15- 17, Dublin, Ohio; June 3-5, Monroeville, Penn.

Treatment technology for contaminated ground water - Jan. 22-24, Long Beach; Aug. 20-22, Chicago; Dec. 3-5, Denver.

NSF Supports Short Course for Undergraduate Faculty

The National Science Foundation Undergraduate Faculty Enhancement Program is sponsoring a 2-week workshop, "Modern carbonate environments, diagenesis, soil formation and Pleistocene analogues," for undergraduate faculty who have little or no experience in modern carbonates. It will be offered summer 1991 on San Salvador Island, Bahamas. Participant expenses will be funded by NSF, pending final notification. Minorities and women are encourage to apply.

For more information and application materials, contact:

Roger Bain, Annabelle Foos or James Teeter
Department of Geology
University of Akron
Akron, OH 44325-4101
216/972-7630

THE HIGH PLAINS DRIFTER

The latest exercise fad is called "stepping." The participant places one foot at a time on a specially-designed step. You can do this by yourself, or go to a special class to do it in unison with several steppers, under the guidance of a step instructor. Demand for these classes is high, because steppers don't want to walk up and down stairs instead.

GIS has always been at the forefront of trends. At the Gala 25th Anniversary Banquet, our speaker's platform was a bit too high. The speakers had to do some big stepping to step up and step down, but they all did a great job.

The rest of the conference attendees were not shortchanged on their exercise either. Texas-size distances lay between the convention center, the Hyatt Regency Hotel (where meetings were held), the other conference hotels, and the restaurant district. Next year, at the San Diego meeting, we'll have to rent some sailing boats or surfboards. Surf's up!

Connie Manson - Co-Editor
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