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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Proceedings: The proceedings have been mailed. If you have not received them by July 1, please contact Louise Zipp. If mail delivery to you is normally slow, please allow a week or two extra.

Mid-Year Reports: Mid-year reports from officers and committee chairs were due May 1. I have summarized the committee reports in this issue.

Education Initiative: CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS There has been considerable interest in K-12 education and what the professional societies in geology can do to improve the educational experience. In response to this interest, Regina Brown and Mary Scott will be co-chairing an Ad Hoc Committee on K-12 Education. This group will also be preparing a report on how best to spend the Bristol Fund. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact either of the chairpersons or myself.

Conference Call: The second Executive Board Conference Call took place on April 8. Dena Fracolli reported that

there are 8 speakers confirmed for the symposium on International Initiatives. Planning for other events such as the workshops, business meeting and field trip is going well. Again this year, the Joint Technical Program Committee will meet in early August. Because of this late scheduling, it will be difficult to get complete information to the membership before the October annual meeting. To resolve this problem Connie Manson will defer the preparation of the August Newsletter from July 20 until August 16. That issue will then include conference details and abstracts. As usual, annual reports will be in the October Newsletter.

Judie Triplehorn reported that the Society had 235 members (196 renewals and 39 new members) as of April 5. Renewals continue to be received. Judie is planning to produce the directory in June or early July. Janice Sorensen reported that the gift from Ruth Bristol has now been placed in a new account, the Bristol Fund. Janice plans to have the information brochure ready by the annual meeting. Mary Ansari reported on the activities of the Nominating Committee. Ballots will be mailed in June and are to be returned in July.

I reported on the AGI Geoscience Advocacy Program. The Board discussed whether GIS should participate in this activity and decided to defer participation until the Advocacy Program could be presented to the membership in October. Next I summarized previous discussions and comments from members on the value of GIS establishing a list server. Several members have volunteered to organize one. The Board decided to proceed and establish a list

(continued, p. 3)

NOTICE:

The timing of GSA's Joint Technical Program Committee (JTPC) meeting necessitates a change in the Newsletter publication schedule. In order to have enough time after the JTPC to get the abstracts and final schedule in, the deadline for the August, 1991 issue of the GIS Newsletter will be August 16, 1991. We anticipate mailing the issues August 26 or so.

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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 August, 1991 issue of the GIS Newsletter should be received by the editors no later than August 16, 1991. If possible please send materials on IBM-compatible disk (Wordstar 3.3, Wordperfect, or ASCII format).

server this summer. Further information will be provided through the Newsletter. Janice and I reviewed the financial condition of the Society which is good.

Committee Reports

Archives Committee: Jean Eaglesfield reports that she will complete her plans and activities by the end of the year. She will prepare her files for transmittal to the Archives at the University of Illinois.

Best Geoscience Reference Book: Barbara Haner reports that the committee posted a notice in the February Newsletter and distributed a request for suggestions from the membership of candidates for the award through the Geonettters email network. The chair incorporated all suggestions into a list of candidates. This list is being reviewed by all committee members to determine a final selection. The issue of whether other media should be included was considered and will be discussed at the San Diego meeting.

Best Paper Award: Julie Bichteler reports that literature searches were conducted and the results included in a list of eligible papers sent to all committee members. This list is being reviewed to determine a final selection. The committee is also reexamining its name and criteria now used to evaluate papers. They will present their findings at the annual meeting.

Digital Data Committee: Charlotte Derksen reports that the committee decided to start a column in the newsletter on geoscience digital products of interest. The first column, by Charlotte Derksen, presented information on new digital products in the USGS Open-File report series. Steve Hiller contributed the second column on oceanographic databases. Clara McLeod is preparing a column for the June Newsletter. Two additional columns are being drafted. Planning for the 1991 Database forum has begun and contacts with prospective database managers made.

Exhibits Committee: Elaine Watson reports that GIS has been assigned Booth 435 in the San Diego Convention Center Hall for the 1991 meeting. Tentative plans for the booth display incorporate GSA's general theme, "Global Perspectives". Any suggestions for developing this display theme would be welcome and should be sent to Elaine Watson. While supplies lasted, GIS 25th Gala Anniversary brochures and souvenirs (paperweights, letter openers, etc.) were mailed to former officers and founders who did not attend the activities in Dallas.

GeoRef Users Group Steering Committee: Barbara De Felice reports that the committee is planning the two workshops that will be held in San Diego. Both work-

shops will be a little different this year. A three-hour workshop on bibliographic databases in the geosciences on CD-ROM will be held on Sunday, October 20th, which is before the exhibits actually open. The vendors are being asked to provide at least one workstation so that participants can have hands-on searching practice time. This workshop will include GeoRef on CD-ROM, the OCLC Earth Science databases and Selected Water Resources Abstracts, Geobase on CD if it's available by then, Publications of the USGS, and others as appropriate. The GeoRef workshop will be a 2-hour fast-paced introduction to searching the database. It is not being billed as either beginning or advanced, but is somewhere in between. The Users Group Meeting is scheduled for only 1.5 hours, after the GeoRef workshop. We're hoping to include a time for sharing of searching tips during that meeting. The Steering Committee is doing a survey of geoscience librarians that would help us understand what people are doing or are planning to do in terms of searching GeoRef online vs. using the CD-ROM product. Also, we're wondering if people are considering cancelling the print index in the next year or two due to the availability of the CD product. The Committee is also soliciting ideas about the proposal that AGI produce an "Abridged" GeoRef on CD-ROM. So far, there has been very little response. The Steering Committee Chair is putting together an Ad-Hoc Committee to review the List of Core Journals Indexed for GeoRef.

Guidebook Standards Committee: Claren Kidd reports that committee members have contacted geoscience newsletter-type publications, societies and individuals (142 of the organizations listed in Geotimes) and sent copies of the revised "Guidelines for Authors and Editors of Geological Field Trip Guidebooks". Copies of the guidelines were also sent to Episodes, Geotimes, blueline, Editerra and Geolog. The committee is reviewing candidates for the 1990 best guidebook award.

Membership Committee: Lisa Dunn reports that the committee is planning a new design for the membership brochure, perhaps by fall. Members are developing new ideas to expand the mailing list used to solicit new members and to "personalize" recruiting of members in some areas. Their long-term project is to computerize the mailing list.

Publications Manager: Louise Zipp reports that Proceedings volumes 16-18 are officially OP and available from University Microfilms. However, there are a few volumes of each for sale in inventory. Overseas airmail delivery charge, for Proceedings and the Directory of Geoscience Libraries was raised from \$2.50 to \$5.00.

Ad Hoc Committee on the Directory of Geoscience Libraries, 4th Edition: Connie Manson reports that the committee has begun its work. Each member has been assigned an area of the United States or Canada to cover. The committee is currently redesigning the questionnaire and gathering information on libraries to be added to the previous edition. They hope to mail the questionnaires in late summer or early fall 1991.

Ad Hoc Committee on the Union List of Geological Field Trip Guidebooks, 6th Edition: Richard Spohn reports that in the summer and fall of 1990 the Guidebooks Committee received data for guidebooks from more than 40 libraries in the U.S. and Canada. The Committee collated this data at the 1990 GIS/GSA meeting in Dallas. The data will be used to create a checklist to be sent out to all contributing libraries. The Committee decided to include in this checklist all guidebooks not listed in the 5th edition of the Union List, including those new guidebooks published before 1986. The checklist will be mailed out by AGI by June 10 and will be due back to the Committee by September 1. A list of a library's holdings will accompany the checklist. A goal will be to make the checklist comprehensive and much more user friendly than the one for the 5th edition. It will be compatible with the 5th edition. Several changes in the Committee's membership occurred. Dena Fracolli and Phil Stoffer dropped off the Committee. Eileen Snyder was added to the Committee to work with NY, NJ, & PA. Mary Spencer assumed responsibility for New England.

Ad Hoc Committee on the 5th International Conference on Geoscience Information: Richard Walker reports that there are plans for an organizing visit in 1992.

Ad Hoc Committee on International Initiatives: David Reade reports that the committee has now identified what issues it will investigate and assigned these issues to specific members. Its recommendations will be presented at the San Diego meeting.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Your Vice President is thoroughly enjoying her first spring in Texas. I am getting to know my new home through a variety of geology field trips in the Big Bend and Llano areas of Texas, and in the Wichita Mountains and Slick Hills of Oklahoma. Great geology (and wildflowers)!

However, a substantial amount of my time is being devoted to ongoing planning of the 1991 GIS annual meeting. And those of us involved in GSA technical meeting

planning are gearing up to spend July reviewing your abstracts.

Abstracts. Before I go any further, I remind you that abstracts for this year's San Diego meeting are not due to GSA until July 3, 1991. There is still time to support the development of our GIS membership by submitting an abstract for an oral presentation or a poster session. Abstract forms are available from:

Dena Fracolli
3110 McPherson
Ft. Worth, TX 76019
817/923-7052

or from the
GSA Abstracts Coordinator
Geological Society of America
P. O. Box 9140
Boulder, CO 80301
303/447-8850

A 1991 Field Trip. This year Barbara Haner has done a great job of coordinating a field trip for us to the Scripps Institute of Oceanography. The trip is scheduled for Thursday, October 24th. A bus will pick us up at the Convention Center about 9:00 am, and we'll return about 4:30 that afternoon. Our tour will include the Scripps library and archives, the core facility, demonstrations in the hydraulics lab, and a coastal geology session out on the Scripps pier. The cost should be between \$20 and \$25 per person (this includes a box lunch). We can take up to 40 people, so look for the registration form in the August GIS Newsletter! Meanwhile, contact Barbara Haner if you have any questions, or want to reserve a space early. Phone: 714/787-3511; BITNET: haner@ucrvms.

Symposium. I am very pleased about the 1991 symposium. Here is the list of our planned speakers and topics for the 1991 GIS symposium No. 11, "International Initiative in Geoscience Information--A Global Perspective."

Speakers:

David Reade, Geological Survey of Canada. "Global exchange of ideas and technologies in the field of geoscience information; the role of international meetings."

Priscilla Johansen, AMOCO Production Company Library. "AMOCO's map collection; supporting global research and exploration."

Susan Klimley, Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory. "Coordinating collection of foreign geologic survey and society publications in geologic libraries; the RLGeo experiment."

Michael Noga, UCLA - Geology/Geophysics Library, and Charlotte R. M. Derksen, Stanford University Branner Earth Sciences Library. "The world of geoscience serials; comparative use patterns."

Lee Regan, U.S. Geological Survey Library Exchange and Gifts Unit. "International exchanges of publications; the U.S. Geological Survey Library perspective."

Claren Kidd, Oklahoma University Geology Library. "Transferring duplicate and unwanted publications to those who really need them; a comparison of options."

Stan Rutenberg, Chairman, ICSU Panel on World Data Centers. "International data exchanges through the World Data Centers; some new experiments in data management."

Julian Green, University of South Carolina at Spartanburg, Dean of Library Services. "Information transfer across political boundaries."

San Diego Meeting Schedule. The 1991 program is coming together nicely. Meeting rooms have been requested for the GIS workshops, meetings, and other activities. Soon I'll be pondering menus for the GIS reception and Tuesday's breakfast buffet. Here is the tentative schedule at this point; look for the final version in August.

GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY
Annual Meeting, San Diego, California
October 20 - 24, 1991
Preliminary Schedule

Sunday, October 20, 1991

9:00 am - Noon GIS 1991 Executive Board Meeting
1:30 - 4:30 pm Geoscience CD-ROM Workshop

Monday, October 21, 1991

8:00 am - Noon GIS symposium (S11) "International Initiatives in Geoscience Information: A Global Perspective"
1:30 pm - 3:30 pm Database Forum
3:30 pm - 5:30 pm GIS Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee
7:00 pm - 9:30 pm GIS Reception

Tuesday, October 22, 1991

7:00 am - 8:30 am GIS Breakfast Buffet
8:30 am - noon GIS Business Meeting (Awards at 9:00 am)
1:30 pm - ? GIS Technical Session (Session length will depend on the number of papers selected)
1:30 pm - 5:00 pm GIS Poster Session

Wednesday, October 23, 1991

8:00 am - 10:00 am AGI/GIS GeoRef Workshop
10:30 am - Noon GeoRef Users Group
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm Collection Development Issues
6:00 pm - 9:30 pm GIS 1992 Executive Board Meeting

Thursday, October 24, 1991

9:00 am - 4:30 pm GIS Field Trip to Scripps Institute of Oceanography

THE DIGITAL DATABASE FORUM

The Powder Diffraction File (PC-PDF-2) CD-ROM

by

Clara McLeod

Washington University, St. Louis

The Powder Diffraction File (PC-PDF-2) is a CD-ROM provided by the International Centre for Diffraction Data (1601 Park Lane, Swarthmore, PA 19081-1389, (215) 328-9403). The database stores on a single CD-ROM optical disk more than 53,000 single phase x-ray powder diffraction patterns which are used to identify unknown materials in crystalline form. Previously the patterns have been issued on 75x125 mm. cards, microfiche, magnetic tape, and disk. The new CD-ROM format allows the entire file to be updated annually.

In order to access the PC-PDF system (version 2.10), one needs minimally the following hardware configuration:

- IBM-XT or compatible with 640 KB Ram
- 20 MB hard disk
- 360 KB floppy disk
- Monochrome monitor
- CD-ROM drive (ISO standard 9660)

The Centre also provides a VAX version of retrieval software, but retrieval software for other PCs (IBM, NEC, Hitachi, and MacIntosh) must be obtained from commercial vendors.

The main menu screen for the system provides the following options:

1. Retrieve/display a PDF card
2. Print a PDF card
3. Boolean search
4. Write card contents to disk in NBS*AIDS83 format
5. Display current card data in NBS*AIDS83 format
6. Execute a single DOS command
7. Temporarily go to the DOS operating system
8. Change program parameters
9. Exit PC-PDF

Option one is used most often as it allows retrieval and display of a pattern by use of: (1) PDF number; (2) Mineral name; (3) Chemical name; or (4) The strongest lines. It also allows the user to perform Boolean searching with AND, OR, and NOT operators employing any one or combination of the nineteen different indices shown below in the Boolean Search Menu:

- 1 PDF number
- 2 Subfile
- 3 Inorg. Chem. Name
- 4 Mineral Name

- 5 Org. Chem. Element
- 6 Chemical Element
- 7 Three strongest lines
- 8 CAS number
- 9 Org. Chem. Name
- 10 Inorg. Chem. Name Fragments
- 11 Mineral Group Code
- 12 Reduced Unit Cell Parameters
- 13 Principal Author
- 14 Journal Year
- 15 Journal CODEN
- 16 Color
- 17 Density
- 18 Reduced Cell Volume
- 19 Largest d-spacings
- 20 Undo last criteria
- 21 Edit late criteria
- 88 Direct query string
- 99 Execute

The searcher here must note that:

1. If data are missing for an index for a pattern entry, e.g., color, those entries will not be included in a search of that index. Exceptions to this rule are the density and volume indices.
2. After each criterion selection, a Boolean operator must be selected so that a query appears to end with an operator.
3. A range of PDF numbers may be entered using this menu.
4. Experienced users may select to enter queries fully or partially using the menu; and
5. Only twenty hits can be display at one time as a result of a query so the user must use the PgDn key for additional hits.

The product's capability to do powerful Boolean searching on a PC is a significant advantage for users. Queries can not only be restricted to one of the subfiles (Inorganic, Organic, Mineral, Alloy, Metal and Inter-metallic, Common Phases, NBS Patterns, Forensics, Zeolites and Super Conducting Materials), but also to given PDF sets. Examples of the use of Boolean searches would be searching for all minerals which have strongest lines in a range; examining a material which contained the certain elements for which the strongest line had been identified,

and discovering whether one or two lines can be attributed to a set of minerals.

The Manual is well organized and gives pertinent information in an easily understandable manner for hardware and software installations. It contains a section on known software installation problems and symptoms and possible solutions for individual problems. It also includes a section which points out changes made in the newer version. This allows rapid recognition of changes made to the software.

The software itself is user friendly. Clear instructions are given in the manual accompanied by good illustrations and examples. Users were especially pleased by the CD-ROM format which offers storage of a significant amount of data in a small space and provides relatively rapid searching of a sizeable database. Users complained primarily about the speed of the Boolean searches which is regulated to some degree by the performance characteristics of the computer being used (IBM-XT here).

At present, this product is most frequently purchased by laboratories; libraries comprise only about 5% of the users. This PDF-2 file is one of the new generation of CD-ROM products which will enable libraries to make scientific, as well as bibliographic, databases, available to its patrons. Large scientific datasets available on CD-ROM are becoming more and more popular. Since they are inexpensive to reproduce and have reasonably fast access time, libraries should seek to provide access to these information products.

The PDF-2 file is still a relatively expensive CD-ROM product. The current price is \$5,750 for the PC version and \$5,500 for the VAX version. An educational discount is now available to libraries at colleges and universities. Updates to the files can be purchased annually and the discount also applies. A license agreement is required.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fifth International Conference on Geoscience Information

In keeping with the spirit of this year's international theme at GSA, the Ad Hoc Committee for the Fifth International Conference on Geoscience Information urges the membership to begin thinking about this upcoming meeting. We would like to hear your ideas concerning presentations, themes, exhibitions, workshops, training or other activities that could be included in this conference. While 1994 seems a long way off, it is not too early to have an impact on the planning process. Ideas that come forward from the membership will be gathered and sent en masse to the organizers of the Fifth International meeting. Please address your ideas and comments to:

Richard Walker
Professor and Assistant Director
School of Library and Information Studies
University of Wisconsin-Madison
600 N. Park Street
Madison, WI 53706

GIS Ad Hoc Committee on International Initiatives

At the November 1990 GIS Business Meeting, there was considerable discussion concerning possible GIS international initiatives. As a result of this discussion, the Society approved a motion to "investigate the feasibility of establishing a grant program for GIS members for the preparation of international reference tools." In order to

determine the feasibility of this grant program and to give a broader examination to our international role and activities, an Ad Hoc Committee on International Initiatives was created with membership consisting of Janice Sorensen, Dorothy McGarry and David Reade (chair).

In addition to investigating the motion listed above, the committee will focus on the following questions:

- What is the general level of interest in and support for international initiatives within the membership?
- What is the Society already doing that constitutes international activity?
- What general international initiatives could be effectively carried out by a Society of our size? (i.e., not specific project ideas but rather "types of activity" that GIS should consider)
- What options exist to incorporate the Society's international activities within the framework of the organization? Is this advisable and if so, what option does the committee recommend?
- Are there logical "partners" with whom GIS can collaborate in the delivery of international initiatives?

This Committee is seeking your input on any (or all) of these questions. Your contribution is most important and will be used as the Committee drafts recommendations to the Society in time for discussion at the next business meeting. Comments and ideas should be directed to David Reade by the end of July 1991.

GeoInfo IV: An Update and Call for Feedback

The GIS June Newsletter marks one year since the gathering in Ottawa for the Fourth International Conference on Geoscience Information (GeoInfo IV) and it seems a logical time to provide some further information on this conference and to answer some of the questions that we regularly receive at the Secretariat.

Based on the comments received to date, the conference was well received by the 300-plus participants. Financially the meeting proved to be quite successful and as a result all "full participants" will receive a complimentary copy of the Proceedings. While the exact figure will not be known until all costs of the Proceedings are calculated, the Organizing Committee for GeoInfo IV will be in a position to provide several thousand dollars in support of the Fifth International meeting.

The most commonly asked question is "When will I get the Proceedings?" The answer is, "soon." The papers have now been compiled and work on assembling the final document is under way. Much of the delay to date has resulted from the need to retype many of the papers submitted and, more importantly, the difficulty in attracting volunteers to work on the Proceedings. This document will be released as an Open File from the Geological Survey of Canada and will be available for sale in a manner similar to other GSC publications. Notice of the availability of this Open File will be given in the GIS Newsletter along with ordering information. If you wish to receive individual notification of its availability, please forward your name and address to David Reade.

Other questions: We had hoped to produce a CD-ROM sampler for distribution to GeoInfo IV participants but unfortunately, this project had to be cancelled. Some people have asked whether the Field Trip Guidebook will be made available for sale. The guidebook was prepared independently by a local geoscientist and we are investigating whether it can be distributed in some manner. Finally, it is our intention to include a list of all GeoInfo IV participants with the Proceedings.

Feedback, please. I am very interested in receiving your comments concerning GeoInfo IV. One way of improving this series of international conferences is to provide future organizing committees with feedback on what worked, what didn't, and what would have added to the success of the meeting. In addition, I am compiling anecdotal feedback on the benefits derived from participating in this international conference. What did we learn and gain at this conference? Are international meetings different from national or continental gatherings? Are international meetings significant? This information will

be used in the preparation of a paper for the GIS Symposium in San Diego and your input will be greatly appreciated.

One year later, I can say that it was worth the effort and that I'm glad it's over. On behalf of the GeoInfo IV Organizing Committee, I would like to again thank those individuals who made presentations, participated as exhibitors, volunteered on social and technical events and all those who supported the conference by attending.

David Reade
Secretary-Treasurer, GeoInfo IV

The GeoRef Users Group Steering Committee
Request for information from GIS members

Many librarians have been wondering what others have been doing with the GeoRef CD and what impact it has had on their online searching activity. This issue of the Newsletter includes a member survey on that (the blue pages). Please fill it out and return it by **July 20**. Preliminary results will be available at the annual meeting in San Diego.

We welcome any ideas about additions to or deletions from the list of 104 Core Journals that receive priority indexing. Ideas on the Abridged GeoRef on CD-ROM are also still welcome. If there is anything in particular that you would like to have brought up at the GeoRef Users Group meeting in October, please let us know about it.

Please send ideas on all of the above to:

Barbara DeFelice
Kresge Library
Dartmouth College
Hanover, NH 03755 or call
(603)-646-3845

Report on the Joint Task Force on Text and Image #2

May 7, 1991

by

Susan Klimley,
Library,

Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory,
Columbia University

The work of the Joint Task Force on Text and Image has continued over the past few months. I have been involved in the design of a pilot project that will test preservation alternatives using a geology serial title. Although designed to provide information on preservation of images typical of a variety of disciplines, the project will be of particular interest to those of us in geology libraries. As the project is still in the design stages, I feel it would be premature to present it at this time but I expect to have word for you in the next Newsletter.

Struggling to meet the complex use requirements in geology, I am continually struck by the convergence of difficult preservation problems that confront us in geology. Other fields of science simply have not drawn on the power of color to convey information. Even in fields where one might think color was very important, this tends not to be the case. For example, the botanist who came to speak to the Joint Task Force commented that the original color of botanical illustrations was not highly prized as color is an unreliable variable in botanical identification.

Geology's images are also VERY LARGE and very frequently linked to the text. While other fields like geography and architecture utilize large maps and drawings, these images tend to exist independent of the text. Many areas of research use maps but cramming them into pockets at the back of books seems to be a trait characteristic of geology. The color and oversize characteristics of the images have prevented us from preserving our literature in standard microfilm. The endearing habit of folding the maps four, five, even six times is proving our undoing as the maps break along the fold lines.

It is very difficult to sort out the technological alternatives. The computer jocks assure me that ALL the technology we need to preserve geology literature, with its images, exists. But putting it all together is a nightmare. Try to find a microfiche reader that will let a reader see a whole geology map at one time AND be able to read it. I'm told architects have large light box-type tables for viewing similarly large blueprints. I have yet to see such a device. Then someone suggested we just project the map image on the wall. The people pushing for a digital solution can't show me a whole geology map at the same

time on their computer monitors either. They tell me the geologist will view the whole map (30 x 40 inches?) on the 10" monitor, then "zoom" around the map to see small sections in more detail.

Small branch libraries are typical of geology libraries. Many of us have only recently acquired computer equipment. We have faced problems of isolation from the systems people who can help get software to reside peacefully on one machine even though numerical and graphic CDs seem more common than in other sciences. I think solutions that require additional and(or) unusual equipment to work must be considered carefully because it has always been difficult to get new equipment into our libraries and keep it working.

As a result of this I have become a great admirer of paper. What a wonderful means of storing information! The map was in the back of the text. The geologist opened the whole map out on his desk (if concealed from the librarian, could post it on the wall) and could easily see the whole pattern and the details while reading the text. The reader needed light and perhaps a pair of glasses. The materials were as accessible to the lone geologist at a small college as the researcher at the world class geology department. Or the geologist in the field. Or an interested amateur borrowing books on fossils in a small public library.

Interestingly enough, a big preservation project currently underway at Cornell has a strong "back to paper" component. The project is partially funded by the same umbrella organization under which the Joint Task Force on Image and Text operates, the Commission on Access and Preservation, and has additional support from Xerox. It consists of digitizing the page images of 1000 books from the Cornell Library, including 500 mathematics books. The unusual aspect of the project is that it has not stopped with the digitizing but rather has made paper copies an integral part of the project. The digital files are networked to a Xerox Docutech printer which prints out "on demand" paper copies of the scanned works. At Cornell, the deteriorating, scanned paper copies of books will be replaced on the shelf with a paper facsimile. While recognizing the lack of an infrastructure to support a completely digital world, the project increases the body of scanned text

which is ready to be processed with optical character recognition software as that technology improves.

Perhaps this type of scenario would best fit our needs in geology. It is a preservation solution that recognizes both our present limitations and the promise of the future.

These comments represent my personal reflections on the work of the Joint Task Force on Image and Text.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AGI AND THE USGS LIBRARY SYSTEM COOPERATE TO MAINTAIN GEOREF COVERAGE

In a cooperative effort to maintain GeoRef database coverage at a high level, the U.S. Geological Survey Library System and the American Geological Institute are working together to expand GeoRef coverage to include materials held by the USGS Library System but not held by the Headquarters Library in Reston, Virginia. AGI's GeoRef indexers have routinely depended upon the U.S. Geological Survey's Reston library collection for much of the material included in the GeoRef database. Present budget constraints common to many libraries have caused the USGS Library System to scrutinize its collection development practices, resulting in more and more materials being purchased for one of its branch libraries in Denver, Flagstaff, or Menlo Park, but not purchased for Reston.

In order to allow these 'branch only' items to be considered for the GeoRef database, the Reston library and AGI have worked out a means by which AGI can retrieve the 'branch only' records from the USGS Library's online catalog on a weekly basis. With the cooperation of the USGS Libraries in Denver, Flagstaff, and Menlo Park, AGI uses interlibrary loan to borrow those items that it wishes to index for the GeoRef database. It is the hope of everyone involved that this cooperative effort will help to maintain the high quality of the database.

Carol H. Messick, USGS Library, Reston
Sharon Tahirkheli, American Geological Institute

Best Reference Book Committee List Available

As we all know, books continue to escalate in price. If any member is interested in receiving a list of the books which the GIS Best Geoscience Reference Book Committee considered for 1991, we would be delighted to send a copy. Please contact Barbara Haner at UC Riverside either by e-mail, telephone, or regular mail.

Sigma Gamma Epsilon Elects Officers

The national earth-science honor society, Sigma Gamma Epsilon, has elected the following officers for 1990-1992:

National President: D. F. Merriam, Kansas Geological Survey

National Vice-President, Western Province: John W. Harbaugh, Stanford University

National Vice-President, Central Province: J. C. Walters, Northern Iowa University

National Vice-President, Southeastern Province: C. Q. Brown, East Carolina University

National Vice-President, Northeastern Province: R. W. Ridky, University of Maryland

National Secretary-Treasurer: C. J. Mankin, Oklahoma Geological Survey

National Editor of The Compass: D. C. Steinker, Bowling Green State University

AGI Awards Scholarships

The value and number of scholarships awarded through the Minority Participation Program of the American Geological Institute have increased significantly for 1991-1992. The scholarships, designed to encourage underrepresented minorities to pursue careers in the geosciences, are given annually to Black, Hispanic, and Native American undergraduate and graduate geoscience students. Recipients are judged on academic achievement, financial need, and their potential for future success in the geoscience profession. More information about the scholarships can be obtained from AGI.

News from the Association of Earth Science Editors

At last October's annual meeting of the Association of Earth Science Editors (AESE), held in Tulsa, the officers and directors voted to join the National Information Standards Organization (NISO), to strengthen their efforts in earth science education, and to increase AESE's membership, publications, and awards. Currently AESE comprises 385 regular members and 12 associate members, for a net gain of 20 new members since the 1989 meeting. Officers for 1991-1992 are Jean Thyfault, President; Maria Adkins-Heljeson, Secretary/Treasurer; Duncan Heron, Past-President; and Brian Grant, Ron Hart, and Julie Jackson, Directors. Hal James, Chair of the Awards Committee, announced one nomination for the AESE Award for Outstanding Editorial or Publishing Contribution, which was approved by the board. The award will be presented during AESE's 25th anniversary meeting in Troy, New York, October 6-9, 1991.

New Maps Column in Geotimes

Information on interesting new maps should be submitted to Geotimes for possible inclusion in the New Maps Column. Geotimes has expanded its scope to include any foreign or domestic geologically-related maps, including geological, geophysical, tectonic, minerals/metallogenic, petroleum, soils, and vegetation maps, and National Atlases. You don't have to submit the map-- just the full citation will do, including: the exact title, publisher, date, number of sheets, color or black/white, price including shipping, and a brief description of the contents. Geotimes prefers titles published within the past two years but titles up to five years old may be accepted. Send the map information to:

Russell Guy
Geoscience Resources, Inc.
P.O. Box 2096
Burlington, NC 27216-2096
Fax: 919-227-3748

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

[Editors' note: We have been asked to repeat this announcement.]

TECHNICAL LIBRARIAN, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is seeking a Technical Librarian (GG-12/13, \$37,294 P/A and up) for Automated Systems Management in its Public Document Room (PDR) in Washington, DC (VA# 90-7256-WF). Responsible for on-going automation of informational/library/records management services and integration of the PDR system with other databases and informational systems.

Applicant must have a Master's degree in Library Science or equivalent experience that demonstrates broad knowledge of the principles, concepts, and methodologies of modern library and records management sciences. Must have experience with computers and the design and implementation of sophisticated, on-line, interactive information/library/records systems and with the storage and retrieval of document or textual information.

Send complete federal application (SF-171) and current performance appraisal to Ms. Jackson, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Office of Personnel, (GISN)-15G21, Washington, DC 20555, or call 301/492-1522.

U.S. citizenship required. EOE M/F/H/V. OPM status not required.

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PUBLICATIONS

The Bureau of Economic Geology at The University of Texas at Austin has announced several new publications. Among the new items is the Bibliography and Index of Texas Geology, 1981-1985, by A.R. Masterson and Lana Dieterich. It is a compilation of more than 4000 references on Texas geology and related fields, indexed by author and subject. Cost is \$25.00.

Another useful product from the Bureau of Economic Geology is a computer software product called Restore (copyrighted). For use on the Macintosh computer, it allows geologists to model extensional terranes, including their evolution and cross-sections. For further information on this or other new publications, please contact:

Bureau of Economic Geology
The University of Texas at Austin
University Station, Box X
Austin, Texas 78713-7508
512-471-7721
Fax: 512-471-0140

SPOT Image Corporation is offering a special deal in remote sensing. From May 1 through September 30, 1991 SPOT will offer its full and quarter scene film and photographic print product (level 1 images only) for just \$600.

For more information and prices, contact the Customer Service Department at

SPOT Image Corporation
1897 Preston White Drive
Reston, VA 22091-4368
703-620-2200
Fax: 703-648-1813

THE GLACIAL DRIFTER

It's time to start collecting extraterrestrial field trip guidebooks. For example, there's the Voyager Guidebook to the Outer Planets, with individual field trips to Saturn, Jupiter, and Neptune. The road log is rather lengthy, so save a lot of shelf space for it. The trip was sponsored by the Friends of the Outer Planets, better known as the FOPs. Unfortunately, it's only available every other light year and it's not available on approval. Prepayment required, of course.

MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

The Symposium on Informatics in Geology, Mining and Environmental Protection will be held 14-18 October 1991 in Pribram, Czechoslovakia. The symposium is being organized by GEOFOND and is sponsored by the IUGS commission COGEODOC. The deadline for submission of abstracts has passed but the deadline for registration has not. To attend the symposium, contact:

Dr. Jitka Bradacova
Convenor, Pribram Informatics Symposium
GEOFOND
Kostelni 26
170 00 Praha 7
CZECHOSLOVAKIA
Tel: 379-341-5

Telex: 122 087
Fax: 42 2 370647
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