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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

GeoInfo5

At the April 15, 1993 Executive Board conference call, we acted upon three proposals made by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Fifth International Conference on Geoscience Information. The Home Savings account contains, exclusively, profit and subsequent interest from the 2nd International Conference in Golden in 1982. There has been long-standing sentiment among members to apply this money toward later International Conferences. The Board has allocated \$8000 to be divided evenly among GIS members whose abstracts are accepted for GeoInfo5. No award will exceed \$1000. Secondly, an additional \$1000 has been allocated for as many as two GIS members from developing countries who are attending, but not presenting papers. No award will exceed \$500. The August *Newsletter* will contain application information, and we expect to make awards before the conference. If there is money remaining after these dispersals, the Board will allocate funds to support the airfare and hotel for the GIS President, or a designated representative, to attend the conference.

Finances

Elsewhere in this issue you will see the report of 1992 income and expenses: GIS spent about \$6000 more than it earned. The major culprits were the unexpected payment to SGE for publication of the *Compass* issue and the lack of interest income on our accounts. Our projected expenses for 1993 are more than \$21,000 (not including awards to GeoInfo5 attendees). The Executive Board is seriously concerned about the apparent trend to spend beyond income. We are considering increases in publications prices, and you may find a dues increase proposal on the annual business meeting agenda. We are also paring down some of the annual meeting expenses, specifically, food and drink costs. This year will also be the first one in which GSA assesses a room charge for meetings. Because we feel that members attend the annual meeting activities to get acquainted with new technologies and applications, we will not cut back on equipment for the Database Forum, the Exhibit Booth, the Symposium, etc. We will, however, take other cost-cutting measures such as printing the annual Membership Directory more cheaply.

We need your ideas on ways to spend less, and we need your continued support to achieve the Society's goals. GIS is also coming up short in another area besides revenues. We have extended the Society's activities into new areas in recent years, without ceasing activity in our traditional areas of interest. What we have not done is increase the size of the ACTIVE membership to support this work. Some of our committees and appointments require a lot of time, but most do not. If you are one of our members who does not have a current appointment but does have some time and energy you can give to GIS, please volunteer. Let me hear from you now, or talk to Connie Wick about getting involved next Fall.

Proceedings

We fell behind the publication schedule I mentioned in the last *Newsletter*. I now anticipate publication in August or September. I am very sorry for the delay.

continued, p. 3

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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, 1993 issue of the *GIS Newsletter* should be received by the Receiving Editor no later than July 15, 1993. If possible please send materials on IBM-compatible disk (Wordstar 3.3, Wordperfect 5.1, or ASCII format) or by e-mail.

Appointments

I have appointed Linda Musser as Newsletter Reviews Editor for a term ending October 1994. Because of a family illness, Janice Sorensen resigned her appointment as Preservation Issues Committee Chair. No other members had been appointed to that committee; because of a lack of volunteers, I have decided not to activate this committee at this time. Amanda Masterson has resigned from the Publications Manager position, which will be divided into two separate positions: Editorial Assistant and Publications Manager. The Editorial Assistant will provide computer-based editing, composition and production support for the Proceedings, the Membership Directory and other publications. The Publications Manager will print, sell and distribute our publications (except the *Newsletter*) and maintain the publications inventory. Amanda will continue through October 1993 as Editorial Assistant. If you are interested in the Publications Manager position, please contact me for details.

Proposed bylaws and ballot

By now you should have received two mailings from the Ad Hoc Committee on the Constitution and Bylaws. On May 1, members were mailed the proposed changes to our organizational documents. On June 1, the ballot itself was mailed to members. Please vote and return your ballot by July 31, 1993.

Summary of Committee midyear reports

First, let me thank the officers, reps and committee chairs who submitted reports. We have underway a very busy and productive year for the Society. By April 15, 1993, our membership was at 245. Work on the 6th edition of the Union List of Geologic Field Trip Guidebooks will be completed early this Fall; we hope AGI will publish it in early 1994. The Best Paper, Best Reference Work and Guidebook Standards committees are all deep in awards deliberations. Digital Data Committee is planning two *Newsletter* columns, in addition to the annual meeting program. GeoRef Users' Group Steering Committee is examining GeoRef's core list of journals, in addition to their planned annual meeting program. GEONET-L subscribers continue to increase in number; a planned review of the listserver is underway. Archives Committee is preparing guidelines for archiving officers', reps' and committee chairs' papers. The Ad Hoc Committee on the Directory of Geoscience Libraries, 4th edition has been disbanded, following the Directory's publication. Connie Manson has volunteered her time and efforts to market the Directory products. The Ad Hoc Committee on GeoInfo5 continues to work with the conference organizers. The International Issues Committee had embarked on a wide range of activities, which include: at least two *Newsletter* columns; activities to increase GIS's foreign membership;

attempts to link donors of library duplicates with international organizations that might distribute them; preparation of a proposal for international activities to be funded by voluntary donations to GIS. Sales of the *Directory of Geoscience Libraries* have started. From AGI, our Member Society Council representative reports that AGI has convened a committee to study the feasibility of a National Geoscience Data Repository. Also discussed at the Spring meeting was the possibility of issuing selected portions of GeoRef on CD-ROMs targeted towards geoscientists. There was additional discussion concerning the possible development of a preprints database. Our representative to the AGI GeoRef Advisory Committee reports the publication of the thesis bibliography and initiation of keyword indexing for the BIG with the January 1993 issue. Finally, I have been busy doing steering projects to completion and moving us along in other matters. I have spent a good deal of time reworking the responsibilities of a few appointed and elected positions, to relieve excessive burdens. As a result, we have a few new appointed positions this year and more will likely be created.

VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Last Call For Abstracts

Just a reminder that you still have time to submit an abstract for the upcoming GSA meeting. So if you have been thinking about it, but just haven't written it yet, don't forget that the deadline is JULY 7. Abstract forms are available from GSA (303-447-2020). I still have a couple of forms left, so you can call or e-mail me.

GSA Housing and Registration Deadlines

You will be receiving your GSA registration early this year, so be looking for it in June, instead of August. If you don't receive one by the end of June, get in touch with me. The reason for the early mailing is that the deadline for HOUSING is earlier than usual this year. It is due at the same time as your registration. This is probably a one-time-only happening, and is the result of October being the big tourist season here in New England, so the hotels are booked very early. So take GSA's advice and get your housing form in on time, or, if you are staying in a "non-GSA" hotel, be sure to make your arrangements in plenty of time.

At this time, I'm pleased to announce our preliminary GIS schedule for the Boston meeting. We got our first choice of symposium time, which is great. The meeting is jam-packed this year, with GSA scheduling five symposia for Sunday!. We have tried to keep most of Monday morning free for GIS members who wish to attend the keynote symposium. This is in response to many requests we have had and we hope it works out well.

**Preliminary Schedule:
GIS ANNUAL MEETING
GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA
BOSTON, MA October 24-28, 1993**

Sunday, October 24, 1993
9 am - 12 pm GIS 1993 Executive Board
1 pm - 3 pm GIS Collection Development
Issues Committee
3 pm - 5 pm GIS Database Forum
Monday, October 25, 1993
11 am - 12 pm Discussion of GIS Professional
Issues
1 pm - 5 pm GIS Business Meeting
7 pm - 9:30 pm GIS Reception
Tuesday, October 26, 1993
8 am - 12 pm GIS Symposium: "Finding and
Communicating Geoscience
Information"
12:15 pm - 2:15 pm GIS Luncheon and Awards
2:30 pm - 4 pm GeoRef Intermediate/Advanced
Workshop
4 pm - 5:30 pm GeoRef Users' Group
Wednesday, October 27, 1993
8 am - 12 pm GIS Technical Session
1 pm - 5 pm GIS Poster Session
2 pm - 6 pm GIS Executive Board
Thursday, October 28, 1993
8 am - 5 pm GIS Field Trip

**GIS Fall Field Trip
Thursday, October 28, 1993**

GIS will hold its fall field trip on conjunction with the Annual Meeting of GIS/GSA in Boston. The trip will be an introductory overview of the geologic setting of the Boston Basin. This is an area of complex geology; its evolution has recently been the subject of considerable reinterpretation. The trip will highlight some of the puzzles currently under debate. Fall is consistently the loveliest season in Boston. The field trip should offer an opportunity to enjoy good weather and colorful foliage, as well as providing a view of the city beyond the convention center!

Our field trip leader will be Cathy Summa, MIT PhD 1993. Cathy has a B.A. in Geology from Wellesley and has taught geology there. She has led numerous field trips in the Boston area, and is currently working on Death Valley sedimentology.

Early response to the field trip has been very favorable. We'd like to start gathering firm commitments as soon as possible; registration forms will be sent with the August issue of the *Newsletter*. If you plan to attend the field trip and have not already indicated your intent in

response to the GEONET message earlier this year, please contact: Karen Campbell, Lindgren Library, 54-200, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA 02139 (617)253-5679, or kmcampbe@athena.mit.edu

INCOMING VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Annual Meeting, Seattle, October 24-27, 1994

Geology "*At the Leading Edge*" will be the scientific and technical theme of the GSA Annual Meeting in Seattle. This theme emphasizes Seattle's geological and geographical position and applies also to the technological advances we are seeing in modern science and information dissemination.

Recommendations and ideas are being sought for the GIS Symposium which GIS members feel echo this theme. In the June 1992 *Newsletter*, Louise wrote that within each organization there are "gatekeepers" whose interests have motivated them to stay current with research and technological change. After the GIS Annual Meeting what would you like to be taking back with you to make you feel comfortable and become a motivator at the "leading edge" of the information world? GIS members have never been passive, so please let me have your active input into our symposium planning.

I would like to hear your suggestions by July 21st so that Connie Wick can take them to the early August GSA final organizational meeting for the Boston Annual Meeting. All ideas and topics are welcome. Please send them by e-mail, regular mail, or just the old-fashioned telephone way to:

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University of California, Riverside
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Lending Policy Changes for USGS Library System

Effective May 24 the four libraries that comprise the USGS Library System (Reston, Virginia; Denver, Colorado; Menlo Park, California; Flagstaff, Arizona) no longer circulate bound or unbound journals through interlibrary loan. Monographs, monographic series, and maps will continue to circulate as before; requests for articles of 10 pages or less will be filled by photocopy. The USGS Library in Reston asks that they be used as a last resort, after other sources have been exhausted.

These policy changes are necessitated by preservation, budget, and staffing issues. At this time there are no plans to institute charges for any interlibrary lending/copying services.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Activities of COGEODATA + COGEODOC 1989-1992, reported by Dr. Jiri Hruska, GIS Representative to COGEOINFO

A. COGEODATA (Commission on Storage, Automatic Processing, and Retrieval of Geological Data) of the I.U.G.S. Founded in 1967.

Overall Objectives

- to assess computer-oriented information technology and to encourage its worldwide application to the management and interpretation of geological data
- to facilitate the collection, compilation and communication of computer processible geological data
- to promote general awareness of digital data and other information resources in geology
- to provide advice and training assistance.

The Research Program of COGEODATA was carried out by its working groups. Its Regional Development Program has been coordinated by regional representatives.

The Executive Committee of COGEODATA 1989-1992: Chairman: Prof. Gabor Gaal (Finland); Vice-Chairman: Prof. D. Rodionov (Russian Republic); Secretary-Treasurer: Dr. G. Gabert (Germany).

Working Groups: WG 1 on Spatial Data Technology (Chairman H. Preuss, Germany); WG 2 on Resource Assessment/Exploration Data and Interpretation (Chairman F. Agerberg, Canada); WG 3 on Energy Resource Data (Chairman J. Harff, Germany).

Associated Bodies: Subcommission of Global Data Management and Information Systems (SGDMIS) - Chairman J. Biesecker, USA and COGEODATA-COGEODOC Joint Working Group on Data Sources and Data Integration - Chairman J. Hruska, Czechoslovakia. This Working Group presented the compilation of a worldwide inventory of geoscience databases at the 28th IGC in Washington, 1989, and it updated this inventory for the 29th IGC in Kyoto 1992.

SGDMIS had been formed in 1989, and this subcommission established contacts with 70 national geological surveys.

COGEODATA Regional Development Program continued with an international meeting on Data Analysis, Computer Technology and Application for Geochemistry and Environmental Geology in Lviv, Ukraine, in May 1992.

COGEODATA cosponsored symposia and sessions at the 29th IGC in Kyoto, Japan, on digital mapping in geosciences, integration and management of geoscience data, and assessment and prediction of natural resources.

B. COGEODOC (Commission on Geological Documentation of the I.U.G.S.) Founded in 1966.

Overall Objectives

- to promote international cooperation between database producers in the field of the Earth sciences
- to improve the management, dissemination and use of geological information, especially in the Third World countries, through
 - = the creation of multilingual standards adapted to computers
 - = the production of inventories, guidelines, etc. and the organization of workshops, meetings, etc.

The fundamental goal of COGEODOC's activities was to supply the geoscience community with relevant information necessary for the retrieval on new geoscience problems and to stimulate international cooperation in the production of databases and user's tools.

Organization. COGEODOC was composed of 16 members representing all continents. A Bureau of three members handled the operational problems in the framework of annual programs/plans. Chairman: Dr. G. N. Rassam (USA); Vice-Chairman: Dr. R. Potenza (Italy); Secretary-Treasurer: Dr. J. Gravesteyn (France).

The major event of the COGEODOC was the publication of the first edition of the "Multilingual Thesaurus of Geosciences" (MT) in 1988. It included English, French, German, Italian, Russian, and Spanish. The MT database, which is now in process of updating, contains also Finnish, Czech, Portuguese and Hungarian versions.

C. At the 29th International Geological Congress in Kyoto, August 1992, the IUGS Executive Committee decided on the merger of COGEODATA and COGEODOC and the formation of the new Commission on Geological Information and Data Management - "COGEOINFO". Apart from the COGEODATA Business Meeting, a joint meeting was held with COGEODOC in lieu of the COGEODATA General Assembly. The participants of this meeting agreed that the "COGEOINFO" should ensure the continuity of the work of COGEODATA and COGEODOC with regard to important tasks of their Working Groups. Furthermore, they emphasized the necessity to continue regional works and tasks, especially in the Centre and East European countries as well as in the Far East countries.

Report on a Conference to Create the Coalition for Earth Science Education (CESE), reported by Mary W. Scott, GIS Representative

On February 19th 47 participants gathered at the Wingspread Conference Center in Racine, Wisconsin. The group represented about 46 earth science organizations. There were several earth science teachers, two college

students who are science education majors, college professors and professional scientists from government and industry. The purpose of the conference was to create the Coalition for Earth Science Education (CESE).

The CESE Organizing Committee presented a statement of vision and goals for CESE. Their vision statement was:

To bring together the combined forces of the earth science community (societies, organizations, government, industry and teacher organizations) - a dedicated group of 250,000 earth scientists and earth science teachers. To facilitate communication, cooperation, and coordination among earth science organizations (geologic, astronomic, hydrologic, atmospheric, oceanographic) on educational activities, and to provide a united voice on national and regional policy issues that affect earth science education reform.

Their proposed goals were:

- To enhance the image of earth science and put it in parity with chemistry, physics, and biology.
- To improve the earth science literacy of our children by coordinating outreach to the educational community and eliminating duplication of effort.
- To encourage collaboration in science education areas such as awards, teacher enhancement, partnering and information collection and dissemination.
- To promote content quality of education materials.
- To provide linkage within the diverse science community to address areas of concern, nationally and locally.
- To catalyze and support educational initiatives by individual societies.

There was considerable discussion of the proposed vision and goals. The concern was that individual societies could not see any benefits for them so why join. There was lack of agreement on the vision statement and the goals. One function of the Coalition seems to be to provide a united voice in the current process of writing standards for earth science education on the national level. There was also expressed a need for a unified voice to address national educational issues and to respond to requests for information at a national level. Some society representatives expressed concern about this "united voice" and how it would be determined. We left the conference without approving a vision statement or a set of goals. A report is being prepared for distribution that will contain other suggested vision statements.

Since we could not agree on the function of the Coalition it did not seem necessary to make any decision on the structure of the Coalition. There needs to be a definition of function and goals before societies are asked to pay money to join. We agreed not to form the Coalition at

this time but to continue in the organization stage and have another meeting in one year.

I left the conference with the impression that there is a need for better communication among societies on educational activities. I also feel that there is a need to educate the earth scientist about what resources the educators have available to them. Also teachers need a means to let the earth science community know what they need.

One thing we need to do is to start thinking of earth science in the broadest sense of the word. A question was raised, "If AGI joins the Coalition why does my society need to join? We are part of AGI." Another question was "Why do we need the Coalition, isn't AGI already doing this?" The answer was that AGI only represents the solid earth sciences, not all of earth science. For example there were representatives of soil, astronomy, hydrology, and meteorology societies at the meeting. Also AGI is not doing all that needs to be done and the work of individual societies needs to be included.

Another thing the conference brought out was the need for local involvement with education. We need to encourage our members to make contact with their local earth science teachers. If every member of every society did this most local school teachers would have a contact.

An electronic bulletin board is going to be established for communication between the Conference participants. CESE will again sponsor a booth at the National Science Teachers Association meeting in Kansas City, April 1-4, 1993. Also a CESE directory will be published with information about the educational activities of each society and a contact person. During this year a steering committee will be elected, a response to the latest National Science Standards document will be prepared, proposals for housing the Coalition will be reviewed, and early in 1994 the next meeting of the Coalition will be held in Washington, DC.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Guidebook Standards Committee Midyear Report 1993

The "Guidelines for Authors, Editors and Publishers of Geologic Field Trip Guidebooks" have been reviewed for the year. It was decided to extend eligibility requirements for guidebooks to include those from the previous year that came to the Committee's notice too late for consideration for that year's award. Dena Hanson is distributing the Guidelines to editors, publishers and prospective compilers and authors of guidebooks for their information.

The Guidebook Standards Committee is in the process of collecting nominations for this year's Best Guidebook Award. Since the guidelines for eligibility have been extended, the Committee is also identifying eligible guidebooks from the previous year that were not nominated or reviewed for the award. Nominations for the Best Guide-

book Award are welcome. The Committee's deadline for award notification is June 10, so all nominations must be received by the Committee by May 28.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Dunn, Chair

GIS Nominating Committee: GIS Election Results

The GIS Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the results of the recent GIS Election. Congratulations to the following incoming (1994) officers: Vice-President/President Elect: Barbara Haner and Treasurer: Margy Walsh.

Respectfully submitted,
Dena Hanson, Chair, GIS Nominating Committee

The Digital Database Forum Committee: Call for Suggestions

The Digital Database Forum Committee requests your suggestions for presenters at the Annual Meeting in October. The Forum focuses on databases in a variety of formats useful to earth scientists and earth science librarians. If you have a recommendation, please send it to: Kimberly Parker, Yale Geology Library, 210 Whitney Avenue, P.O. Box 6666, New Haven CT 06511-8130 or kimberly_parker@quickmail.yale.edu.

MEMBER NEWS

MARILYN STARK was selected as a Fellow of the Special Libraries Association for her leadership in special librarianship and her service in SLA. Fellows act as advisors to the SLA Board of Directors and work with SLA's Standing Committees. She will be inducted at the June Annual Conference in Cincinnati. Marilyn recently completed a term on the Board of Directors as Chapter Cabinet Chair and also has been President of Rocky Mountain Chapter, SLA, and Chair, Petroleum and Energy Resources Division.

Two GIS members are running for ALA offices. **LOIS PAUSCH** is running for ALA council and **DOROTHY McGARRY** is running for member-at-large for the Cataloging and Classification Section. Good luck to both!

APHRODITE MAMOULIDES retired from her job as Library Supervisor of the Shell Development Company in Houston, Texas, in February 1993. She was active in GIS for many years and served as treasurer in 1974 and 1975 and most recently as publications distribution person.

Changes to note:

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DENA HANSON is now the Science Reference Librarian for the Superconducting Super Collider Lab (south of Dallas, TX). Her old e-mail addresses still work; her new numbers are:

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LINDA ZELLMER's e-mail is changing from LZELLMER@CORRAL.UWYO.EDU to LZELLMER@UWYO.EDU. She reports that either one will work for a few months.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Support for GIS Members Attending GeoInfo5

The GIS Executive Board, during its conference call April 15, 1993 authorized the following support for Geoscience Information Society members attending GeoInfo5: --\$8000 will be allocated for payment of expenses incurred by GIS members giving papers of any kind at Geo-Info5. The awards will be divided equally among eligible members, however no award will exceed \$1000.

--\$1000 will be allocated for payment of expenses incurred by 1 or 2 GIS members from developing countries who are attending GeoInfo5 but not presenting papers.

--if any funds remain, airfare and lodging for the GIS President or a designated representative will be reimbursed.

These funds are NOT from the GIS operating budget; instead they are funds representing an unexpected profit from the 2nd International in 1982 and subsequent interest accruals. We will make awards in advance of the meeting.

We hope these awards will encourage GIS members to attend GeoInfo5. A First Circular appears in the April *Newsletter*. Note that abstracts must be received in Prague by May 28, 1993.

There should be a general announcement on GEO-NET-L and MAPS-L concerning GeoInfo5 in the next week or so. This announcement should be of value to those of you who don't belong to GIS (yet!) but are interested in GeoInfo5.

Louise Zipp, GIS President

Internet Access to the Library of Congress's OPAC

To get free access: TELNET to LOCIS.LOC.GOV. No login or password is needed. It's available for on-site researchers during all hours LC is open. For researchers using LOCIS over the Internet, the following hours apply: (all times US eastern; closed national holidays) Mon-Fri: 6:30am-9:30pm; Sat: 8:00am-5:00pm; Sun: 1:00pm-5:00 pm. [Editor's note: it worked.]

Optical storage for Wiley periodicals

(From the most recent issue of Uncover/Update, The Newsletter of the CARL Systems Inc.)

CARL Systems and John Wiley & Sons have reached an agreement for distribution and electro-copying of articles from Wiley periodicals through UnCover. The agreement allows CARL Systems to store optical images of requested articles in the UnCover database, enabling subsequent supply within minutes of request, 24 hours a day. Wiley will receive direct copyright payment from UnCover for each article supplied, along with statistical

information about the use of its material. According to Tim King, Wiley Vice President of Planning and Development, "This agreement can significantly extend the readership of and convenience of access to our scholarly articles, while properly protecting our copyright interests." Ward Shaw, Chairman and CEO of CARL Systems adds, "This agreement offers a wonderful model for ensuring copyright holders' protection while enabling the use of technology to improve access and dissemination of articles."

Geotimes' Directory of Geoscience Organizations

Geotimes, the magazine of geoscience news and trends, is published monthly by the American Geological Institute. The Directory of Geoscience Organizations, a worldwide listing of trade associations, societies, and government offices in geology appears each year in our October issue. We want the listing to be as accurate as possible for our readers, who consider it a valuable resource. If you would like your organization to be considered for the directory, we need this information:

- * Organization's correct name, and an English equivalent, if applicable
- * Leader or contact person's name
- * A mailing address, including postal code and country
- * Phone, facsimile, and electronic mail numbers
- * Purpose of the organization

Please return this information by e-mail, facsimile or first-class mail by June 15, 1993, to be in the 1993 directory. (Late responses will be held for the 1994 directory.)

Thank you.

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University of Pittsburgh Receives Grant

The University of Pittsburgh School of Library and Information Science has received a \$360,000 grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to conduct a 3-year research project in archival functional requirements for electronic records management.

CDs = Archival?

by

Susan Klimley

Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of
Columbia University

The demonstration of the preservation CD at GSA last fall and the subsequent reports on the preservation pilot project, made mention of the fact that CDs are not considered "archival." Comments on CD longevity are based on many different tests that have been performed over the last 5 or more years. The 1991 *Library Technology Report*, "Stability care and handling of microforms, magnetic media and optical disks" has an extensive bibliography of testing that has been done. Later reports have continued the work.

The bottom line: National organizations that set requirements for library permanence do not consider CDs and other optical disks to meet preservation standards. This message is being expressed in preservation standards that are issued, a recent one being, *The Records Management Handbook for U.S. Senators and Their Archival Repositories*, issued last year.

The following three reports summarize the extensive testing of optical media for permanence:

Saffady, William, 1991, Stability care and handling of microfilms, magnetic media and optical disks: Library Technology Reports.

Lesk, Michael, 1992, Preservation of new technology: Commission on Preservation and Access.

Willis, Don, 1992, A hybrid systems approach to preservation of printed materials: Commission on Preservation and Access.

Having said this, it should be noted that common wisdom also suggests that our ability to find readers for presently used CDs will be gone long before the "limited" life span of the CD is exhausted. Some preservationists are not ruling out optical and other forms of digital preservation. The key to digital preservation, on whatever media, is "refreshing" data, in other words, rewriting it on a regular basis. This is a potential preservation solution for which neither the mechanics nor money are now available, but which may be a part of preservation efforts in the future.

National Institute for the Environment Proposed

The Committee for the National Institutes for the Environment (CNIE) has announced its plans (or, at least hopes) for the National Library for the Environment (NLE). The National Institutes for the Environment would be "charged with primary responsibility for understanding the functioning of the environment and the interactions of people with the environment. It would provide access not only to NIE-sponsored data collection, but maintain linkages with other federal, state, and private organizations that maintain information about the environment." As now envisioned, the NLE would provide "single channel electronic access to the entire wealth of the nation's environmental information from observational data through metadatabases through publications." The Library would consist of a collection (print, A/V, electronic journals, data sets, etc.), an online retrieval system, information standards, staff, and grant support.

Send comments or questions to: David Blockstein, Executive Director, CNIE, 730 11th St. NW, Washington, DC 20001-4521; phone (202) 628-4303; fax (202) 628-4311; internet: AIBS@gwuvvm.gwu.edu, or to, Bruce Gritton, Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, 160 Central Avenue, Pacific Grove, CA 93950; phone (408) 647-3733; fax (408) 649-8587; e-mail grbr@hp850.mbari.org.

OVERHEARD ON THE GEONET

Editor's note: Maps-L has been buzzing lately about the future role of map librarians, as map libraries move increasingly toward computer-based products. Contact Linda Zellmer <LZELLMER@UWYO.EDU> or Debbie Lords <DLORDS@alexandria.lib.utah.edu> for more information, or better yet, sign on to Maps-L and listen.

To GeoNet-L:

I'm a Brazilian librarian and would like to present to Geonet-l the SIGA. It is a Brazilian System Information of Geoscience and represents a continuous programming of Geological Memory formation and it's available more than 200,000 documents on line. It's a group of data bases and keeps several elements and interesting information for the geological search and mineral exploration. This system has a national compass, is public and its access is free. Its modular conceptions allows constant updating. The access of informations is done by: computer terminals, telph., telex, fax (021)295-6743, letters, and personal contact. Our address - Tania Freire Companhia de Pesquisa de Recursos Minerais- Centro de Documentacao Tecnica - Av. Pasteur, 404 - Terreo. Rio de Janeiro 22292- 240 Brasil. Thanks for your cooperation. Tania freire.

From: Tania Freire <CEDOTP@BRCPRM>

Date: Fri, 23 Apr 93 16:39:46 EDT

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Science Librarian, St. Lawrence University, Canton, New York

St. Lawrence University, a private, non-denominational liberal arts college located between the Adirondack Mountains and the St. Lawrence River, is seeking a dynamic, innovative person to assume a position as Science Librarian. The University Libraries have a fully integrated Innovative Interfaces, Inc. library system which includes automated acquisitions, cataloging, circulation, serials control, and OPAC. Reporting to the University Librarian, the successful candidate will have primary responsibility for library services at the Launders Science Library, opening in January 1994. Responsibilities include: managing the day-to-day operations of the Science Library; providing reference services, including reference desk coverage on a varying schedule, library instruction, and reference collection development; providing online and CD-ROM database services; overseeing circulation/reserves operations; supervising paraprofessional staff; and collection development activities in the sciences. Participates in the development of library-wide public services policies in cooperation with professional staff.

REQUIRED: ALA-accredited MLS; minimum of two years post-MLS experience; strong reference, bibliographic instruction, and database searching experience and skills; experience with library computer applications; degree in the sciences or equivalent professional library experience; effective communication, problem-solving, and interpersonal skills.

PREFERRED: Experience in an academic library; supervisory experience; advanced degree in a science discipline.

12 MONTH CONTRACT; liberal benefits; faculty status with one month's acation.

STARTING DATE: On or before September 1, 1993 preferred.

SALARY RANGE: \$26,000-28,000

APPLICATION: The search committee will begin reviewing candidate material on June 15, 1993; position will remain open until filled. Send letter of application, resume, and names and telephone numbers of three references to:

Michael Alzo, Search Committee Chair

Owen D. Young Library

St. Lawrence University

Canton, NY 13617

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MAKES A GREAT GIFT!!

Library Journal, April 15, 1993, p. 15, has an article, "Engineering Societies' neglect threatens library's existence."

On page B4 in the Money section of 3/3/93's *Washington Times*, there is an excellent article about the conversion of U.S. Geological Survey photo images into commercial maps.

The Pacific section of the *Seattle Times* (Sunday, May 16, 1993) has an interesting article, "What is it about maps?" by Terry McDermott (p. 12-18). The article discusses lots of kinds of maps, but focusses on Raven Maps and Images' reprint of the USGS's "Landforms and Drainage of the 48 States," which the author calls "perhaps the most beautiful map ever made." Reprints of the section are available for \$3.50 each (including postage) from the Seattle Times, P.O. Box 84647, Seattle, WA 98124. Call June Saty (206) 464-2198 at the Times for more information.

THE GLACIAL DRIFTER

The General Reader

Now, just who is this General Reader? Is she a steady fan of Barbara Cartland romances? Or perhaps an aficionado of the 100 Best Reader's Digest Abridged Books? Will he read everything that's been packaged into a Time-Life series, or maybe just the tales of exotic lands?

Would the General Reader prefer "I am Joe's Hair Follicle" to "A Treatise on Ice Crystals; Part 1: Generalities" or "Festschrift to the Unknown Scientist?" Is the key to the General Reader's preference in the number of illustrations, the number of pages, or whether the work is in ARE (American Readable English)?

And what makes a bestseller? A splashy cover, comfortable size, promotion on the talk/confession show circuit? I doubt it's the recommendation of a librarian, unless that librarian writes for "People."

Anyways, let's salute the General Reader, and don't forget about the upcoming General Libraries Association Annual Meeting in Panguitch, Utah.

Connie J. Manson, Co-Editor
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