



## CONTENTS

## Features

- New Orleans Notes, from Susan Klimley ..... 4

## Departments

- President's column ..... 1  
Vice President's column ..... 1  
Secretary's report ..... 3  
Annual meeting final schedule ..... 3  
Annual Reports:  
Elected Officers ..... 5  
Individual Appointments ..... 7  
Representatives ..... 7  
Committees ..... 8  
Announcements and Publications ..... 4  
Member News..... 4  
Internet News ..... 10  
Reviews, by Linda Musser ..... 11

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

This will be my last newsletter column where I have had the pleasure and privilege of sharing with you over the past year the many activities and accomplishments of our Society.

It has been a rewarding experience for me to work closely with an outstanding Executive Board over the past two years. I thank the many generous and talented individuals upon whom this organization depends to make the organization advance effectively. This has included fact-gathering by our treasurer, secretary, and membership chair as we examine our financial and membership programs and a timely, high quality Newsletter which reflects the changes in our field. Articles in *Geotimes* by our members have increased the profile of our Society. The annual reports elsewhere in this Newsletter indicate the many activities of our Society. At the AGM only updates will be presented.

1995 is mid-decade and our publications and outreach programs have truly taken advantage of new technologies to support our goals; to increase communication among geoscience libraries and professionals; to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas; and to provide awareness of new geoscience information collections and management.

Geonet-I and our WEB site spontaneously developed under enthusiastic leaders following AGMs in 1992 and 1994 providing us with an active forum for discussion and a vital presence and interconnectivity with other geoscience societies and professionals. Connie Wick is serving on a GSA Electronic Publication Committee and Susan Klimley will be making a presentation to the Member Society Council of AGI in New Orleans on digital preservation. Reggie Brown will represent GIS on a new AGI steering committee entitled "Career Pathways in the Geosciences" where expertise as information specialists can be utilized. I have just received information that the Conference Proceedings of GeoInfo V will be ready by November and GIS will work with GeoFond to distribute the publications in North and South America and Australia. Throughout the year, the Society has monitored and reported changes within the USGS. Publications from the USGS are critical to information dissemination and the Society will continue to inform members and express opinions whenever these are threatened. These activities emphasize the commitment of our society to access, excellence and inter-society outreach.

To all who have answered my call for assistance in the past and the many who have performed their tasks without formal recognition, I offer my most sincere personal thanks. As I assume the duties of Past-President I look forward to working with Nancy Blair and the exciting new challenges and opportunities in geoscience information. It has been a pleasure and honour to be your President.

## VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I am hoping to see you in New Orleans. Annual meetings can provide us with informative speakers, freebies from the exhibit hall, and a chance to voice our opinions in meetings, but the most valuable aspect of annual meetings is getting together with people who work in the same profession and have the same problems. Where else can you go to lunch and discuss CD-ROMS or digital databases or serial cuts for hour and eat with people who are REALLY interested in what you have to say?

(continued, p. 3)



**GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY  
1995 OFFICERS**

**President**

Barbara E. Haner  
UCLA Science & Engineering Library  
Geology Collection  
4697 Geology Building  
Los Angeles, CA 90095  
Voice: 310-825-1055  
Fax: 310-825-6485  
Internet: [ecz5beh@mvs.oac.ucla.edu](mailto:ecz5beh@mvs.oac.ucla.edu)

**Vice President/President Elect**

Nancy L. Blair  
U.S. Geological Survey Library  
345 Middlefield Road, M.S. 955  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
415/329-5029; fax: 415/329-5032  
e-mail: [nblair@isdmnl.wr.usgs.gov](mailto:nblair@isdmnl.wr.usgs.gov)

**Immediate Past President**

Connie Wick  
Kummel Library  
Harvard University  
24 Oxford Street  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
617/495-0791; fax: 617/495-4711  
e-mail [cwick@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:cwick@fas.harvard.edu)

**Secretary**

Carol J. La Russa  
Physical Sciences Library  
University of California, Davis  
Davis, CA 95616  
916/752-0519; fax: 916/752-4719  
e-mail: [cjlarussa@ucdavis.edu](mailto:cjlarussa@ucdavis.edu)

**Treasurer**

Margy Walsh  
Texaco, Inc.  
P.O. Box 770070  
Houston, TX 77215-0070  
713/954-6268; fax: 713/954-6907  
e-mail: [walshm@texaco.com](mailto:walshm@texaco.com)

**GIS Homepage**

<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/GIS>  
Chair: Vivienne Roumani-Denn  
e-mail: [Vroumani@library.berkeley.edu](mailto:Vroumani@library.berkeley.edu)

**Listserv Geonet-L@iubvm.indiana.edu**

Editor: Lois Heiser  
Geology Library  
Indiana University  
Bloomington, IN 47405  
812/855-7170; fax 812/855-6614  
e-mail: [heiser@ucs.indiana.edu](mailto:heiser@ucs.indiana.edu)

**Publication Officers**

**Newsletter Editor**

Connie Manson  
Washington Div. Geology and Earth Resources  
P.O. Box 47007  
Olympia, WA 98504-7007  
360/902-1472; fax: 360/902-1785  
e-mail: [cjmanson@u.washington.edu](mailto:cjmanson@u.washington.edu)

**Newsletter Reviews Editor**

Linda Musser  
725 Musser Lane  
Bellefonte, PA 16823  
814/865-9517  
e-mail: [lrn@psulias.psu.edu](mailto:lrn@psulias.psu.edu)

**Publications Manager**

Lois Heiser  
Geology Library  
Indiana University  
Bloomington, IN 47405  
812/855-7170; fax 812/855-6614  
e-mail: [heiser@ucs.indiana.edu](mailto:heiser@ucs.indiana.edu)

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 \$40 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. Due to current vacancies, all materials--research articles, technical reports, information reports, officer and committee reports, publication notices, job announcements, and other news items--should be sent to the Newsletter Editor until further notice.

Material for the December, 1995 issue of the GIS Newsletter should be received no later than September 20, 1995. If possible please send materials by e-mail or on IBM- compatible disk (Wordstar 3.3, Wordperfect 5.1, or ASCII format).



**GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY**  
**Annual Meeting Final Schedule**  
November 5-8, 1995

Sunday, November 5, 1995

9:00 am - noon GIS 1995 Executive Board Meeting (Open to members): Hyatt Regency New Orleans Room: Elmwood

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm GIS Digital Database Forum: Hyatt Regency New Orleans Room: Regency C

Monday, November 6, 1995

8:30 am - 11:30 am GIS Annual business meeting: Hyatt Regency New Orleans Room: Cabildo B

2:00 pm - 4 pm GIS Professional issues: Hyatt Regency New Orleans Room: Cabildo B

4:15 pm - 5:30 pm GeoRef Users Group: Hyatt Regency New Orleans Room: Cabildo B

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm GIS Reception (Alumni Night): Hyatt Regency New Orleans Room: Burgundy C

Tuesday, November 7, 1995

8:00 am - 11:00 am GIS Symposium: Crossing the bridge to the future: Managing geoscience information in the next decade: Convention Center

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm GIS Luncheon and Awards: Hyatt Regency New Orleans Room: Esplanade C

3:30 pm - 5:30 pm GIS Technical Session: Information Technology and Services in the Geosciences: Convention Center

Wednesday, November 8, 1995

8:00 - 12:00 noon GIS Poster Session: Convention Center

9:00 am - 10:30 am GIS Collection Development Issues: Hyatt Regency New Orleans Room: Prytaniia

2:00 pm - 6:00 pm GIS 1996 Executive Board Meeting (Closing) Officers only Hyatt Regency New Orleans Room: Ashland

*(continued from p. 1)*

While GIS workshops, technical sessions, symposiums, and scheduled meetings are useful, often the most valuable exchanges occur within small informal groups discussing a common interest such as education or interlibrary cooperation within a geographic area. Sometimes the best idea to help you solve a problem comes from someone sitting next to you at a meeting. The value of our organization is not in lofty goals, but in friendship and cooperation with others.

After the annual meeting, I will be considering committee appointments. Of course, joining another committee and taking on additional duties is the last thing you need. But GIS committees really do help you make contacts with useful people. Haven't you heard the word "networking" in career development? This is the best way to network in our field. Committee responsibilities are limited and manageable. I am hoping to work with Barbara Haner and others to develop a good handbook to provide guidance to committee members in accomplishing their missions and not losing the experience of members who have served before. Please consider volunteering for a GIS committee of your choice this year.

### SECRETARY'S REPORT

#### Summary of Budget Meeting Conference Call

The Executive Board conference call took place on August 15, 1995, 10:00 AM PDT. Margie Walsh reported on closing the 1994 GIS records and described GIS's

current financial situation. She said that GIS's financial assets are increasing. A discussion of costs and income followed.

Nancy Blair presented the schedule for the 1995 GIS meeting. After some communications problems with GSA everything is now arranged. Geobase will provide \$100 for refreshments for the Database Forum. N. Blair also announced that she has a list of libraries in New Orleans that members can visit on Thursday, and that small meeting rooms will be available on an informal basis. N. Blair said that the scheduled time for the Poster Session overlaps with the Collection Development Issues forum but that this is not significant because none of the posters are by GIS members. Board members expressed concerns that there may be overlap in the papers discussing the World-wide Web at the meeting sessions. N. Blair stated that she is working with the authors to minimize overlap. The Board decided that the Sunday Board meeting will be an open meeting while the Wednesday meeting will be limited to board members and invited guests. The Board decided that Carol La Russa should put together a report showing membership trends since 1990, including personal and foreign membership statistics, for presentation at the Membership Meeting. Barbara Haner stated that any agenda items for the annual meeting should be sent to her.

B. Haner said she has received no information regarding Geoinfo 6. The Board agreed to put the 1994 proceedings table of contents on the GIS homepage.

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 A.M. PDT.



**New Orleans Notes**  
from Susan Klimley

New Orleans is often described as "the city that care forgot". Not only did "care" forget New Orleans; so did the American instinct to rip down, replace, renovate and generally clean up. It is one of the truly unique cities in the United States.

The French Quarter is the ultimate walking and wandering experience. Whatever level your vision follows there is something to see. The antique shop windows; the second-story wrought-iron balconies; the cool, dim gardens glanced through an open gate; the uneven sidewalks with street names set in ceramic tiles and "Crescent" water meter covers they all vie for your attention. A couple of companies offer excellent walking tours pointing out the buildings where Faulkner, Capote, Audubon and others wrote filling in historic facts. So what if the stories don't always match?--Embellishment is part of the charm.

Since the last GSA in 1981, a large area of the Mississippi River front has been opened up. Moon Walk across from Jackson Square, remains a special place to ponder the Mississippi and watch the huge tankers that ply the river. Now you can also walk along the river to the river boats, the Algiers ferry, and the exciting new aquarium.

And you can't go wrong with food in New Orleans. Classic New Orleans restaurants like Galatoire's, Commander's Palace, and Antoine's, offer traditional French Creole food in elegant surroundings. New restaurants like Bayona, Nola's and Maison de Ville's Bistro offer exciting variations on the New Orleans food themes. Muffuletta, shrimp po-boys, beignets--just thinking about them makes my mouth water.

Sadly one of the best things in New Orleans will not be available during GSA. The Annual New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival comes at the end of April just as winter weary New Yorkers have given up hope of spring. It runs for 7 days, with scores of musicians, performing jazz at 8 stages connected by rows booths of great food. No, GSA attendees will have to be content with the music on tap every night on Bourbon Street, the countless clubs in and out of the French Quarter and literally on the street.

The people of New Orleans clearly love their city. They are glad, but not surprised, to find you've come, and they welcome you graciously. So get yourself down to the video store, rent "The Big Easy", darlin', and get yourself in a New Orleans frame of mind!

**ANNOUNCEMENTS and PUBLICATIONS**

**News from AGI**

The American Geological Institute has announced that Victor van Beuren has been appointed Director of Communications and Publications. Mr. van Beuren holds bachelors and masters degrees from the University of Cincinnati. After early work as a petroleum geologist, he was the publications manager for AAPG, and then senior editor for earth sciences at Springer-Verlag. Before this appointment, he was the acquisitions editor for physical science journals at Elsevier Science, Inc., N.Y.

AGI also announced that Kenneth F. "Frank" Wantland has been appointed AGI's first director of program planning and development. As such, he will be responsible for assessing program needs and opportunities in the national geoscience community.

The Geological Society in the UK has just published Geological Data Management, ed. by J. R. A. Giles (Geological Society Special Publication 97; list price 55/US \$ 91).

The variety, form and volume of data available to geologists have increased significantly over the past few decades. It has become essential to use databases to turn this avalanche of data into useable information. A significant number of databases that are created do not repay the cost and effort of their creation. With this in mind this book reviews the principle and practice of the creation, management and use of geological databases, from the point of view of geological database designers, managers and users. The aim of this book is to increase the proportion of successful geological database projects by encouraging careful thought about the processes that are involved in the design and management of a database.

Further details Tel: 44 1225 445046 Fax: 44 1225 442836

Geological Society Publishing House  
Unit 7, Brassmill Enterprise Centre,  
Brassmill Lane,  
Bath BA1 3JN United Kingdom

---

**MEMBER NEWS**

**BARBARA DeFELICE** is now the Head Librarian at the Kresge Physical Sciences Library and the Cook Mathematics Library at Dartmouth College.

New e-mail address for **MARY FRANCES LEMBO** is:  
mflli@jazz.ucc.uno.edu



## Geoscience Information Society ANNUAL REPORTS

### Elected Officers

#### President

Reflection on the past year indicate that it has been one of challenges in many geoscience arenas. With the support of the Executive Board, on behalf of the Society I sent over eighty letters to key committee chairs and Members of Congress in support of the United States Geological Survey (USGS). Copies were forwarded to Marcus Milling, Executive Director AGI, and Gordon Eaton, Director of the USGS. Communications have been maintained with the AGI Government Affairs Program to monitor the effects of reduced staff and funding on the USGS publication series. Twenty letters have been sent supporting continued funding of the National Data Depository Program.

GIS was asked to make suggestions to AGI in the development of their Strategic Planning Program and to GSA who are evaluating the interactions of member societies as GSA meeting arrangements change.

All conference proceedings contributions were submitted in paper and disk format. Disks were edited and used to produce a uniform, camera ready copy for final production and distribution in late July. Jim O' Donnell served as technical editor and co-author of the 25th Proceedings Volume. Current software is flexible and readily adapts to reformatting to a common word processing program. Technical difficulties arose in the production of the final camera ready copy when printer compatibility became a major problem. Thanks are extended to all the authors and to Lois Heiser who was responsible for working with the printer and final distribution.

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

- the continued impact of requesting committee budgets by mid-December and the financial health of the Society
- membership changes as a response to increased dues, changing library structures, corporate changes
- publication of the GeoInfo V Proceedings
- location of GeoInfo VI
- impact of non-attendance at Joint Technical Planning Committee meeting in Boulder for future conferences and networking with other societies in the program planning process
- creation of a technical manual for society officers and committee chairs
- information and Society documents which could be located on the Web site
- GIS publications.

Requests were sent to all committee chairs to review the goals and assignments of their position or committee. Executive Officers will meet in New Orleans to discuss creating a manual for the society.

I extend my thanks to fellow members of the Executive Board, representatives to other organizations and committee chairs for their outstanding response to all requests and submission of annual reports. They reflect the dedication of members to our society which makes me appreciative of being known as a member of GIS.

Respectively submitted,  
Barbara E. Haner

#### Vice President

The major duty of the Vice-President of GIS is planning the annual meeting held in conjunction with the Geological Society of America. The scheduling, room assignments, and programs for the 1995 Annual Meeting in New Orleans are completed and published. Everything appears to work on paper and the time is close when we will see if the program works in real life.

I received encouragement and help from many people in GIS this year. Our President, Barbara Haner, supplied me with the files of her work organizing the GIS annual meeting in Seattle in 1994. These files supplemented the information I received from the GSA staff in Boulder and helped me find my way through the procedures. Both Barbara Haner, who kept excellent track of deadlines, and Connie Wick, our former President, gave invaluable advice and help whenever asked. I also need to thank Charlotte Derksen and Vivienne Roumani-Denn for program help and Clara McLeod and Diane Yassenoff for reviewing abstracts.

Since the 1995 annual meeting is in New Orleans where we do not have active members or officers, the help provided by a local liaison familiar with the convention sites was not available. Another problem was changes in the staff organization at GSA including the departure of our main staff contact in May which led to confusion and conflicts in scheduling which had to be solved. GSA decided this year not to invite small societies such as GIS to the annual Joint Technical Program Committee meeting. This meeting has been the traditional means of completing final abstract reviews, organizing the technical sessions, and consulting with GSA staff on scheduling specifics. Instead, GSA staff members were assigned the responsibility of protecting the programs of societies and sections not in attendance at the meeting. On paper I have confirmations for our schedules, room setups, and catering details and not attending the JTPC meeting appears to be no



problem. However I worry that a computer somewhere in the GSA Boulder office or in the convention center in New Orleans has different information on some aspect of the program leading to headaches and panic in New Orleans.

No field trip was planned for this year's meeting. Trying to set up a field trip that was beneficial, educational and interesting to GIS members without advice from someone in the area familiar with both the geography of New Orleans and library collections valuable as earth science resources proved to be too difficult.

We decided not to send out GSA's preliminary announcement of the annual meeting which saved money. Most members in the past received multiple copies of this paper which is soon superseded by the final announcement providing better information on the meeting and specific information on reservations and travel. If there are GIS members who needed the advance program and did not receive a copy at their library, please contact me so that we can reconsider sending out the additional mailing next year.

At the first of the year, I submitted a proposal that GIS organize and staff an Internet facility at the convention center with GSA funding similar to what AGU provided at its meetings. Such a service could highlight the information technology expertise that our GIS members have. I had a volunteer who could have provided the expertise for the setup. While interested, GSA contacts indicated they could not fund such a service themselves and I did not have the time or experience to pursue obtaining commercial support for the project. Within the past month, Barbara Haner received a letter from GSA stating that they had obtained funding for six stations with www access. I feel it would be too risky at this late date to commit to staffing, demonstrations or instruction sessions by GIS members for convention attendees with so much competition for everyone's time at the meeting. We also need to provide staffing for our own booth which under my initial proposal would have been combined with the Internet facility.

I have found the past year a new and enlightening experience. In the past I always believed that conventions were run by multitudes of people in vast organizations and now know that even large conventions are planned and run by a handful of hard-working people each bearing more responsibility than they care to have.

Best of luck to our New Vice-President and Program Chairman, Barbara DeFelice. Having worked with her just a little in making arrangements for the database forum she chairs, I know she will be a great planner for the 1996 Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Blair, Vice President

### Secretary

This year the secretary performed the usual tasks, including: answering enquiries about the Society and about employment opportunities; maintaining the membership database; sending renewal notices and processing them; sending welcome letters, newsletters and membership directories to new members; sorting mail from AGI and forwarding it to other GIS officers; filling requests for missing issues; and maintaining a supply of stationary for shipment to Officers and committee members. The directory was redesigned in an effort to reduce costs. Members who had not renewed were taken off the mailing list beginning with the June newsletter.

The Society welcomed 28 new members and now has a total membership of 237; 184 in the U.S., 15 in Canada, 38 in other countries.

The breakdown by membership category and nationality for 1995 new members follows:

	U.S.	Canada	Other	Totals
Personal	11	0	5	16
Institutional	2	0	2	4
Student	2	1	2	5
Retired	1	0	2	3
Totals	16	1	11	28

A report on membership trends will be given at the 1995 Annual Business Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol La Russa

### Treasurer

During this second year of my term as Treasurer, I have:

- Continued to process payments and invoices for the society.
- Prepared the 1994 annual report published in the Newsletter.
- Prepared the first and second quarter financial reports for 1995, which were published in the Newsletter.

I will be submitting the third quarter report for publication in the next Newsletter, but I will also distribute copies of an updated financial report at the annual meeting in November. (The financial reports for the Society, as well as the term of the Treasurer, run on the calendar year rather than from annual meeting to annual meeting.)

I look forward to working with our in-coming Treasurer, Sally Scott, who will be taking office January 1, 1996.

Respectfully submitted,  
Margy Walsh



## Individual Appointments

### Geonet-L Editor

As of September 1, 1995, there were 455 subscribers to Geonet-L. There has been an increase in the receipt of junk mail which is being rejected by the editor. I have requested that the Advisory Committee consider the possible disadvantages of continuing as an "open" subscriber list.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lois Heiser, Geonet-L Editor

### Newsletter Editor

Six issues of the GIS Newsletter have been published since the last annual report.

The Newsletter's primary job is to report the Society's activities to the members. To do that, in this part year, we have published the various reports from the officers, representatives, appointees, and committees, as well as the agenda, abstracts, and schedules for the annual meeting. The other role of the Newsletter is to present news and reports about geoscience information. To that end, we reprinted Craig Schiffrics' *Geotimes* article about the proposed funding cutbacks to federal agencies, and Ara Hourdajian's report on micro-imaging for preservation. Those articles discussed issues of great importance to our libraries and to GIS--issues that the Newsletter will continue to follow closely. Similarly, because the Internet and the World Wide Web have caused radical changes in geoscience information, we have published numerous notes about new Internet access.

Linda Musser's Reviews column has been a most valuable contribution to the Newsletter. That column has filled a major gap in the Newsletter's content, and we are very grateful.

Respectfully submitted,  
Connie Manson, Newsletter Editor

### Publications Manager

Proceedings 1994 (v. 25) and the Membership Directory final copy were received from the editors in June. OmniPress provided the finished product in mid-July. Most member copies were shipped by August 10th.

During the year, there were no requests for the "Guidebook Guidelines". The "List of Publications" was revised for 1995 and copy submitted to the GIS Web site. In addition, the Table of Contents for v. 25 was added to the Web version of the Publications List.

In April, I submitted small ads about the Geoscience Information Society publications to be run in the "Classified Sections" of *GSA Today*, *AAPG Explorer*, and *Eos*. I have not determined if any sales resulted from them.

Publications sold (through September 1, 1995)

v. 25 - 1994 Proceedings .....	41
v. 24 - 1993 Proceedings .....	11
v. 23 - 1992 Proceedings .....	5
other Proceedings volumes .....	4

Directory of Geoscience Libraries ....	14
Directory Mailing labels .....	1
Membership Mailing labels .....	2
Newsletter renewals .....	17
Newsletter new subscriptions .....	3

Gratis Copies of 1994 Proceedings ....	11
Member copies of 1994 Proceedings ...	233
Review copies .....	8
Indexing Services .....	5

Respectfully submitted,  
Lois Heiser, Publications Manager

### Reviews Editor

In addition to the reviews published in each issue, a letter was written in response to an article by Page & Reagor (see GISN no.149 p.11) regarding the importance of recent materials to geoscientists. A call for book reviewers was sent out via GEONET-L but no responses were received. As an alternative, I have begun to reference published reviews of geoscience reference materials. Feedback on the usefulness of this feature would be useful. Three titles were forwarded to the Chair of the Database Forum for consideration for inclusion in the program at the annual meeting. I would like to thank the following members for their suggestions and assistance in identifying material for the Reviews column: Elaine Clement, Lois Heiser, Connie Manson, and Louise Zipp.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda R. Musser, Reviews Editor

## Representatives

### AGI GeoRef Advisory Committee

The GeoRef Advisory Committee met on April 7, 1995 at GeoRef headquarters in Alexandria, VA.

Committee members for 1995 are: Clarence Sturdivant, Chair (Marathon); John Aaron (USGS, Reston); Charlotte Derksen (Stanford University); James O. Jones (University of Texas at San Antonio); Joanne Lerud (Colorado School of Mines); Lou Parris (Exxon); Miriam Sheaves (University of North Carolina); Dennis Trombatore (University of Texas at Austin); and John Mulvihill (AGI), ex officio.

The Committee reviewed the proposed budget for the coming year. Other items of discussion included: Internet



access to GeoRef; new products such as specialty databases in CD format; production and marketing options; and GeoRef's progress toward machine-aided indexing. Because of organizational and scope changes affecting literature coverage within the BRGM and other agencies, GeoRef will need to modify its procedures for obtaining references to some of the European literature.

A major portion of the meeting was devoted to strategic planning. The Committee identified directions in which GeoRef should continue, and products and services GeoRef could enhance or develop. Means for determining potential market and for evaluating products were discussed, such as focus groups, talks at society meetings, and end-user feedback through librarians.

Plans for this year include a revised version of GeoRef which will go to SilverPlatter for remaking the CDs. This is a revision of the back file which will remedy some problems such as the report number not appearing until the very end of the citation. Also noteworthy is a new product that GeoRef is developing which will interest environmental geologists. Work on this database is nearing completion.

Respectfully submitted,  
Miriam L. Sheaves, representative

#### **AGI Government Affairs Program**

Because of the change in the United States Congress, this was an even busier year than normal. With the emphasis on budget cutting, Craig Schiffries and other advocates of the program focused on educating the new members of Congress and the new congressional staff in the House and Senate on the importance of the geosciences in general and on individual agencies like the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in particular.

Craig Schiffries testified before several congressional committees on budgets and proposed legislation affecting the geosciences. He also published several articles in *Geotimes*.

Funding for the National Geoscience Data Repository was threatened when the House voted to eliminate the DOE funds which had been supporting this program. After an extensive lobbying effort, the Senate voted to restore the needed funds.

At the time this is being written the relevant budgets have not been signed into law. But the outlook for the geosciences and USGS seemed more positive than the initial proposals.

On other matters, AGI and NSF sponsored a summit of Earth Science Society Presidents in November 1994. The subject of the meeting was Education and Employment Trends for Earth Scientists.

As previously mentioned in the newsletter, Craig Schiffries who has been the director of this program resigned. A new director, David Applegate has now been

appointed. Dr. Applegate has a Ph.D from MIT in Geology and Geochemistry. His most recent employment was as Congressional Science Fellow for the American Geophysical Union. In that position he served as a professional staff member on the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. This committee has oversight over the USGS, the national laboratories and several important DOE programs.

If you have any comments or questions on GAP program or other topics of interest for the program, please let me know.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marie Dvorzak, representative

### **Committees**

#### **Archives**

The organization of submitted materials has been completed. Materials have been deposited in the University of Illinois Archives.

Black and white pictures taken at the Seattle annual conference by John Kuwala are being identified and will be added to the GIS album prior to the New Orleans meeting.

If anyone has photographs they would like added to the album, bring them to New Orleans or send them to the Archives Committee. Please be sure to include a written identification of who is in the pictures and where and when they were taken.

Other materials for the GIS Archives should be sent to Mary Krick, ISGS, 615 E. Peabody, Champaign, IL 61820.

Respectively submitted,  
Mary Krick, chair

#### **Best Paper Award**

The GIS Best Paper Award Committee evaluated and ranked geoscience papers published in 1994. The committee selected Susan Klimley's paper "Limitations of Science Citation Index Data in Evaluating Journals and Scientists in Geology" (published in the 1993 GIS Proceedings) for the 1995 GIS Best Paper Award. All expenses incurred in photocopying and mailing were donated. I wish to thank Pat Hailey, Kathryn Kjaer, Lois Pausch, and Sally Scott for their participation in the selection process.

Respectfully submitted,  
Reggie Brown, chair

#### **Collection Development Issues**

The Collection Development Issues Committee continues to focus its activities on the Annual Meeting and preparation of pricing studies for monographs and journals. The most recent pricing studies were distributed at the Annual Meeting and also published in the Newsletter.



The 1994 Annual Meeting session also featured Celia Wagner, Blackwell North America, who discussed monograph pricing trends in geoscience and the sciences. There was also a group discussion on substituting journal article delivery for on-site holdings.

The 1995 Annual Meeting will share new pricing studies along with a general discussion on electronic journals.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve Hiller, chair

#### Digital Data Committee

The Digital Data Committee is organizing the Database Forum, scheduled for Sunday, November 5 from 3-5 PM at the GSA meeting in New Orleans. The following products and presenters have been confirmed:

- Charles Barnwell from Environmental Systems Research Institute for ARC/VIEW and ARC/INFO;
- Ian Francis from Chapman and Hall for MinSource;
- Adrian Hall from Elsevier for GeoBase.

The committee members are in the process of contacting other digital product representatives, since we would like one more participant in the Forum.

Committee members:

- Mark Finnegan, Petroleum Abstracts
- Vivienne Roumani Denn, Berkeley
- David Lepse, Montana Tech
- Susan Bolton, Kansas Geological Survey

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara DeFelice, chair

#### Education Initiatives

This year the Co-Chairs of the committee have discussed the procedures for compiling a list of suggested geoscience books for public libraries. We are working on a plan and criteria but do not have anything to present at the Annual Meeting. We will be contacting the GIS membership for suggestions in the future. This will be the committee project for the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary W. Scott, co-chair

#### GeoRef User Group

This past year the GeoRef User Group did not identify a specific project to address, and thus was relatively dormant. The previous year, under the direction of Marilyn Stark, saw the completion of the updating of the core journal list and a presentation on the new Windows version of the SilverPlatter SPIRS software at the 1994 GIS Annual Meeting. Because of the increasingly pervasive use of the GeoRef CD-ROM product by both librarians and the library users, coupled with the decline in the use on on-line databases, searching workshops were not offered in 1994 and will not be offered in 1995. It is

hoped that discussion in the 1995 GeoRef User Group meeting will help to identify the needs of the Geoscience Information Society in respect to the GeoRef database in all its formats and help the User Group to identify future projects.

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne T. Larsen, chair

#### GIS-Mary B. Ansari Best Reference Work Award

The committee began by reviewing existing guidelines for judging reference works. We also solicited nominations, evaluated several suggested titles and reviewed reference works from our collections. This year the committee considered 9 titles and selected as the winner *Volcanoes of the World*, 2nd ed., by Tom Simkin and Lee Siebert. This new edition was published by Geoscience Press in 1994.

*Volcanoes of the World* is an exemplary reference work and will be indispensable for many years. Its thorough coverage of volcanoes is enhanced by valuable introductory materials and a well designed gazetteer.

Thanks to the other members of the 1994-95 committee, Peter Brueggeman, Carol La Russa, Linda Newman, and Lee Regan.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marie Dvorzak, Chair

#### Guidebook Standards

The "Guidelines for Authors, Editors and Publishers of Geologic Field Trip Guidebooks" has a draft including a recommendation to identify relevant topographic map sheets. After final revisions this recommendation will be incorporated into the Guidelines. An electronic text file of the Guidelines (minus the sample cover and title pages) is available for distribution on request from Lisa Dunn. Experimentation is going on to post the Guidelines on the Colorado School of Mines web site. The Committee will continue to explore distribution and advertising options for the Guidelines in addition to regular distribution. The National Information Standards Organization (NISO) has been contacted for information about submitting the Guidelines as formal standards.

The Committee accepted nominations for Best Guidebook Award of 1994-95 over the year and the guidebook selected for the award was:

Bornhorst, T. J.; Rose, W. I., 1994, Self-guided geological field trip to the Keweenaw Peninsula, Michigan: Institute for Lake Superior Geology Proceedings, v. 40, no. 2, 185 p.

The Committee would like to encourage all GIS members to submit nominations for next year's Best Guidebook Award by sending in copies of the cover and title pages, and to make others aware that GIS rewards guide-



book editors and publishers for their efforts.

Finally, I would like to thank the Committee members: Jack Mount; Mary Specer; National Thurston; Richard Spohn-- for their efforts and input throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa G. Dunn, chair

#### **Nominating**

During the early Spring, the committee consulted by e-mail to develop a potential slate of officers. Two candidates for Vice-President, and two candidates for Treasurer were on the ballot that went out in late April. Results of the election were announced in the August GIS Newsletter. Thanks go to committee members Janice Sorensen and Lois Pausch for their efforts.

Respectfully submitted,  
Connie Wick, chair

### **Ad Hoc Committees**

#### **Ad Hoc Committee on the Directory of Geoscience Libraries, 5th edition**

The Committee continues to make good progress on the Directory. All the questionnaires have been sent, the committee members have been contacting the stragglers, and have been entering their data. We hope to complete the data gathering soon, and then begin final editing of the volume. The status of the project will be reported at the Annual Business Meeting in New Orleans.

Co-chair Ian Gordon continues to make significant contributions to the Committee's work.

Respectfully submitted,  
Connie Manson, co-chair

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

The 6th edition Committee worked on the final corrections and additions to complete the project. Lorrie Knox, Dorothy McGarry, Mary Spencer, and Rich Spohn proofed the galley copy during the winter and spring. Rich compiled all of the corrections and series entry revisions on a master copy which was sent piecemeal to AGI for entry into the database. The final product should be completed by late fall. Although the 6th edition will be somewhat dated when published; holdings information for more than 100 new libraries is included, large numbers of series and entries from earlier editions have been updated and corrected, and indexing has been expanded.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rich Spohn, chair

#### **Ad Hoc Committee on the Web Server**

Members of this newly formed committee are Nancy Blair, Susan Bolton, Charlotte Derksen, Lois Heiser, and Clara Mcleod.

Some members of the committee met personally once to discuss what should the Web site contain; subsequent meetings were conducted by e-mail.

This year we developed the GIS Web site: <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/GIS>. Some of the more interesting features are an online membership form and the table of contents for our latest proceedings. The membership form allows for anyone interested to submit a membership application online that would automatically be sent to Carol LaRussa. A check, sent by regular mail, would follow the application. We received one such membership application thus far.

Anyone is welcome to submit ideas on what should be on the Web site.

Respectfully submitted,  
Vivienne Roumani-Denn, chair

---

#### **INTERNET NEWS**

(as plucked from the Web, with contributions from: Mary Pettengill [maryp@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:maryp@mail.utexas.edu); Lura Joseph [ljoseph@badlands.NoDak.edu](mailto:ljoseph@badlands.NoDak.edu); Ted Smith [ted.smith@cdmg.uucp.netcom.com](mailto:ted.smith@cdmg.uucp.netcom.com))

Favorite web sites:

<http://www.slb.com/petr.dir/.guthery.html>

<http://nlu.nl.edu/bthu/nlu/eight/es/Homepage.html>

Yahoo billed this as "Earth Science resources for middle school teachers and students." I'd describe it as a good starting point for non specialists to read about earth science topics....geology, volcanos, astronomy, etc...It loaded slowly, but that would be my only caveat. Mary

<http://www.geo.mtu.edu/weather/aurora/>

<http://mistral.ere.umontreal.ca/~vallsalr>

Web Links

Earth Science

<http://www.calweb.com/~tcsmith/ores/>

Also, the California Department of Conservation (<http://www.consrv.ca.gov/>) recently added a number of WWW pages, including some pretty flashy ones for the Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (<http://www.consrv.ca.gov/dog/>). Pages for the Division of Mines and Geology (<http://www.consrv.ca.gov/dmg/>) are in the midst of being posted and will be dressed up with graphics over the next few weeks.



**REVIEWS**  
by  
**Linda Musser**

William C. Peters has written a bibliographic essay on economic geology in the December 1994 issue of *Choice*. "Economic Geology: Current Trends and Dimensions in the Science of Mineral Deposits" (p. 563-569) identifies introductory sources, databases, primary works, journals and maps.

Information seeking behaviors of scientists is the focus of the article by Marilyn Von Seggern, "Scientists, Information Seeking, and Reference Services" (*Reference Librarian*, no. 49/50, p. 95-104). The article emphasizes informal communication and accessibility as key to scientists' information seeking behavior.

New GIS member **LISA RECUPERO** has published an article "Maps Users and Map Reference: Some Considerations for Map Librarians" in the *SLA Geography and Map Bulletin* (no. 180, p. 29-52) in which she discusses some basic concepts necessary for successful maps reference.

"The Internet and Collection Development: Mainstreaming Selection of Internet Resources" by Samuel Demas, Peter McDonald, and Gregory Lawrence (*Library Resources and Technical Services*, v. 39, no.3, p. 275-290) describes the process by which librarians at Cornell's Mann Library arrived at a methodology for integrating the selection of Internet resources into the normal collection development process. The article includes questions and considerations related to the 'collection' of Internet resources.

"USGS Oil and Gas CD Hits the Charts" describes the creation of the USGS's oil and gas CD-ROM. (*Geotimes*, July 1995, p. 15-16).

*A Guide to Image Processing and Picture Management*, by A. E. Cawkell (Gower, 1994; ISBN 0-566-07546-6) is written for the informed layman. It contains lots of good detail about equipment and such, at a readable level, for those considering undertaking an imaging project.

Theme issues seem to be 'in' as evidenced by the following: The latest issue of *Library Hi Tech* (v. 13, no. 1-2) features a series of articles on global change research and the role of libraries.

The July-August 1995 issue of the *Mineralogical Record* (v. 26, no. 4) is a theme issue devoted to mineral books. Contents included articles on medieval mineralogy, bookplates, and Arabic literature relating to gems.

The July 1995 issue of *Computers & Geosciences* (v. 21, no. 6) is a theme issue devoted to the Internet. Articles include a brief introduction to the Internet, setting up connections, descriptions of resources and educational materials. Authors include Bill Thoen and Nancy L. Buchanan.

*Information Technology and Libraries* (v. 14, no. 2, June 1995) has a theme of "Making GIS a Part of Library Service". Among the articles includes one by **MARY LYNETTE LARSGAARD** and Larry Carver, "Accessing Spatial Data Online: Project Alexandria" (p. 93-98).

**New Books:**

- *The Value of Corporate Libraries: Findings from a 1995 Survey of Senior Management*, SLA, 1995.
- *Staff Management in Library and Information Work*, Gower, 1995.
- *The Whole Library Handbook 2*, ALA, 1995.
- *U.S. Geological Survey yearbook, fiscal year 1994*, USGS, 1995.

**Reference Reviews:**

*Industrial minerals and rocks*, (6th ed., SME, 1994) - *Choice*, Dec. 1994, p. 629.

*Introduction to industrial minerals*, (Chapman & Hall, 1995) - *Choice*, July/Aug. 1995, p. 351.



Connie J. Manson, Editor  
Geoscience Information Society  
2525 Sleater Kinney Road N.E.  
Olympia, WA 98504

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
OLYMPIA, WA 98501  
Permit no. 244

Michael Noga  
22 Winthrop Rd.  
Arlington MA 02174