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**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

**REFLECTIONS ON THE PAST YEAR:**

This October Newsletter column will be my last, since the terms of most GIS officers end and begin during the upcoming annual meeting. I want to thank the Executive Board, Officers, Representatives, Committee Chairs and Members, and other members who have contributed ideas, time and hard work towards the goals of Geoscience Information Society this year. They deserve a great deal of credit and appreciation for their efforts!

You will find summaries of the work of many of the GIS Committees, Officers and Representatives in this issue of the Newsletter. Seen as a whole, these reflect a large part of the activities of the Society, whose strength is in having so many very involved members. Besides the work we planned on accomplishing this year, the GIS Board has had to react to changes in the political, economic and technical environment in which we work. Some of these were predictable, some not. The threats to serials holdings of the USGS Library, changes in how GSA is going to handle conference programs in the future, congressional actions on mapping and science funding programs, the cost of serials, the significant development of electronic journals, and the growth of government information and GIS on the Web have all had an effect on GIS members.

**ANNUAL MEETING REMINDER:**

The GIS Annual Business meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 21, from 2-4:45 PM in the Salt Lake City Salt Palace Convention Center. All members are encouraged to attend this meeting. The preliminary agenda for this meeting is in this newsletter, and I am still taking agenda items via e-mail. Included in this meeting will be updates to the annual reports from officers, committee chairs, and representatives, many of which are printed

in full in this October Newsletter.

All committee chairs, new officers, and representatives are asked to attend the Executive Board Meeting, to be held on Sunday, October 19, from 9 am to noon in the Marriott in Salt Lake City. All other members are invited to attend this meeting as well.

At the annual meeting, the incoming Executive Board will start working on new issues for the coming year. They will be involved with the implementation of the new approach to conference planning that GSA has approved. Among these changes are the requirements that at least one of the GIS representatives (we can have 2) to the GSA Joint Technical Program Committee (JTPC) has been involved in GSA conference planning the year before and that both are able to work on the Web during set periods of time in January and July. Conference planning is truly becoming virtual!

**GIS POSITION FILLED:**

I am very pleased to announce that Clara McLeod has agreed to represent GIS in the Cartographic Users Advisory Council (CUAC), along with Richard Spohn. Thanks to Clara for her willingness to do this and to Richard for recruiting for the position.

**GIS POSITIONS OPEN:**

Connie Manson will be recruiting for new committee members and chairs for several committees, so be thinking about how you would like to become involved with GIS. GIS also needs volunteers for these positions, none of which requires annual meeting attendance): Auditor (a once-a-year job, communication with the Treasurer, written report once a year); Representative to ALA/MAGERT (involves bringing the GIS view and information to the ALA/MAGERT meetings, and sending a written report to the Newsletter Editor); Representative to the North American Cartographic Information Society (involves bringing the GIS view and information to the NACIS meetings, and sending a written report to the Newsletter Editor).

Again, I want to thank everyone who has helped me so much in the last two years to fulfill the duties of Vice-President and President. I have a very long list of names of people to thank, but want to mention in particular past presidents Barbara Haner, Nancy Blair, and Connie Wick, Treasurer Sally Scott, Secretaries Carol LaRussa and Lisa Dunn, and those who really set the deadlines, Newsletter Editors Connie Manson and Mary Frances Lembo. I'm looking forward to working with Connie Manson, Charlotte Derksen and the rest of the Executive Board in my new role of Past President, which I will assume during the Annual Conference in Salt Lake City. I hope to see many of you there!

Barbara J. DeFelice  
GIS President



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**GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY  
1997 OFFICERS**

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The GIS Newsletter is published bi-monthly in February, April, June, August, October, and December by the Geoscience Information Society. Subscription to the Newsletter is \$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 1997 issue of the GIS Newsletter should be received no later than 14 November 1997. If possible, please send materials by e-mail or on IBM-compatible disc (WordPerfect 5.1, WordPerfect for Windows 6.1, or ASCII format).



## 1997 ANNUAL REPORTS

### President's Annual Report

As President this year, I made many committee and officer appointments and charges, most of which were in place for the February GIS Newsletter list of officers, representatives and committees. Since the February Newsletter report, Suzanne Larsen was appointed to the AGI GeoRef Advisory Committee, Miriam Sheaves became the Literature Reviews Editor, and Clara McLeod agreed to serve as CUAC representative.

The 1996 GIS Proceedings volume was sent to the Publications Officer in mid-June, and includes full papers for fourteen of the fifteen oral presentations made at the 1996 GSA Conference. The time and work involved in producing this uniformly edited proceedings volume out of papers in many different formats is a concern.

The GIS Board had two conference calls this year, one in January and one in July. Topics included: \*responses to proposals from AGI regarding joint membership and publications lists; \*responses to congressional actions and to changes in USGS and GPO publication formats; \*GeoInfoVI; \*the need to invest the Society's funds in a different way; \*international membership efforts; \*the new membership brochure; \*National Library for the Geosciences idea.

I attended the first planning meeting for the GeoInfoVI joint conference.

GSA underwent a review of how the annual meeting's technical program is structured, considered the issue of annual meeting location, and how the meeting could be made to work better for the diverse groups that attend. I wrote a response for GIS to the proposal from the GSA Annual Program Committee, and some of our concerns were reflected in the subsequent decisions. A detailed description of the proposal and the GIS response to it was published in the June GIS Newsletter. The major changes are the substitution of Topical Sessions, half-day sessions on a specific topic with a mix of volunteered and invited speakers, for the Symposium and Theme sessions, and the addition of a limited number of Keynote Sessions with all invited papers.

Other letters I have sent in the name of GIS, with the assistance of the Executive Board members and others, were in support of these issues: \*USGS Library serials funding, which was well-covered in the press; \*Reauthorization of the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992, and extended authorization for the U.S. Geological Survey's National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program; \*The intersociety statement on the Eisenhower Professional Development Program that was sent to members of Congress and the President, asking that they "reaffirm the nation's commitment to top-quality science and mathematics education by maintaining the mathematics and science focus within the U.S. Department of Education's Eisenhower Professional Development Program".

The AGI Government Affairs Program has been instrumental in keeping us informed about congressional actions of concern to GIS.

Barbara J. DeFelice, GIS President

### Vice President's Annual Report

The Vice President's primary duty is to plan the annual meeting. To that end, I've organized the Symposium and Technical Session, and worked with GSA, the committee chairs, and the session presiders on the various events. This was quite straightforward: I simply followed the excellent examples set by the previous GIS Vice Presidents and the directives from GSA.

Those previous Vice Presidents have always said how wonderful the GSA organizers are: intelligent, humane, and thoroughly professional. I couldn't agree more! That staff is very experienced, and the process runs like clockwork. (I'd feared that process would be awful: it wasn't.)

The Executive Board dealt with some important and very interesting issues this year: the work of the International Initiatives Committee, and support of the U.S. Geological Survey Library's serials budget, among others. I was pleased to join in those discussions as the Board worked together to present GIS's views on these national issues.

Now, it's on to Salt Lake City. See you there!

Connie J. Manson, Vice President

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### Annual Report of the Secretary 1997

During this first year of my term I addressed the standard secretarial responsibilities: providing minutes for executive board meetings; maintaining the membership database and Membership Directory; welcoming and processing new members; dispatching renewal notices; producing mailing labels for the Society; handling correspondence and inquiries.

The membership database has been transferred from dBASE (DOS) to dBASE for Windows. Non-renewing members were removed from the mailing list for June 1997. The Society welcomed 13 new members for a total membership of 192, with 151 US members and 41 international members. More detailed information about membership trends and categories will be available at the 1997 Annual Business Meeting, or by request to the Secretary.

This year GIS instituted a sponsored membership program through the International Initiatives Committee. We currently have 4 sponsored members and funding for additional members to be named at a later date.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa G. Dunn, Secretary



### Treasurer's Annual Report

I have spent the second year of my two-year term as Treasurer primarily depositing incoming funds and paying invoices and reimbursements.

The Executive Board discussed the value of quarterly reports to the membership and agreed that two per year plus an update for the annual meeting was sufficient. The midyear report was published in the August issue. The final budget report should appear in the February 1998 newsletter unless there are problematic outstanding checks holding things up. To facilitate that goal, I would like to suggest that all committee chairs, officers, etc., submit claims for reimbursement to me before or at the annual meeting if possible and to submit to me their proposed budget needs as soon as possible.

I will prepare an updated budget report and a proposed 1998 budget for the annual meeting in Salt Lake City.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sally Scott

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### GIS Best Paper Award Committee Annual Report

The Committee membership was increased to bring different perspectives into the discovery and evaluation process. We cast a particularly wide net to find papers for consideration. The Society membership was consulted via the Newsletter and GEONET-L, although no nominations were received from those efforts. Several in-depth literature searches were done by the Committee in indexes that cover the geosciences. The two Proceedings volumes from GeoInfo5, which were not considered in 1996, yielded two nominees. A total of nine papers were evaluated as finalists. The Committee recommended to the Executive Board that the award should be given to Linda L. Hill, for her paper in GIS Proceedings, volume 26, entitled: "Stocking the digital library with georeferenced data". Ms. Hill has been notified of her award, but has not yet indicated whether she will attend the award ceremony.

The Committee was also charged with reviewing the specific guidelines for this award. The only issue raised relates to electronic publications; most Committee members agreed that papers published electronically should be considered. Several noted that the written guidelines did not specifically forbid consideration of electronic publications. Depending on how the words "paper" and "published" are interpreted and how the dates of posting and capture can be determined, there seems to be no reason to change the guidelines. Instead, we would prefer to sort out some of the procedural issues and continue under the guidelines as they stand. We recommend no change in the guidelines.

Respectfully submitted,  
Louise Zipp, Chair

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### Mary B. Ansari Best Reference Work Award Committee Annual Report

The Mary B. Ansari Best Reference Work Award Committee submitted nominations for best reference work. A review of the nominated items was accomplished with *Encyclopedia of Climate and Weather* by Stephen H. Schneider (ed.). The publisher is Oxford University Press. The entire committee participated and communication was accomplished by e-mail.

Joanne Lerud, Chair

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### Collection Development Issues Committee

The Collection Development Issues Committee continued to keep GIS members informed about the cost of geoscience information. Annual monograph and serials pricing information were provided at the Annual Meeting in Denver and in issues of the GIS Newsletter. The discussion at the 1996 Annual Meeting looked at what GIS could do to assist members and on changes in the way geoscience information is funded and acquired. The featured discussion topic at the 1997 Annual Meeting will examine how electronic journals are handled at our institutions.

Steve Hiller, Chair

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### GIS Digital Database Forum Annual Report

We are looking forward to a very informative Sunday afternoon on 19 October, thanks to the committee's work, and especially Shaun Hardy's. We will have six speakers: Springer, Elsevier, AMS, AIP, and AAPG, who will be demonstrating and discussing the future of electronic journals in the Earth Sciences, and the implications for Libraries and users. Wiley will be among our presenters, demonstrating the Mineralogy Tutorials on CD-ROM, New Media Labs for Physical Geography on CD-ROM, and, time permitting, their electronic journal "Glacial Geology and Geomorphology."

We are grateful to Elsevier and Springer, the vendors who have thus far contributed towards our costs.

Vivienne Roumani-Denn  
Chair, Digital Database Forum

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## Geonet-L Annual Report

There are currently 459 subscribers to Geonet-L. Archives of messages now available via listserv website: <http://listserv.indiana.edu/archives/index.html>  
Geonet-L received a good review in the journal "Issues in Science and Technology Newsletter"  
<http://www.library.ucsb.edu/istl/97-summer>

Submitted by Lois Heiser  
Geonet-L Moderator

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## GeoRef User Group Annual Report

The GeoRef Users' Group has been relatively quiet this year. Two issues that were addressed in the course of the year were a clarification of the tiered GeoRef pricing on SilverPlatter by AGI and a debut of GeoRef on the Community of Science's (COS) Web-based system. COS is very interested in getting feed back from the GIS GeoRef Users' Group and is hoping to attend our meeting in Salt Lake City to demonstrate their product. Suzanne Larsen was named to AGI's GeoRef Advisory Board and attended a meeting in May. Charlotte Derksen is also a member and attended the meeting.

Suzanne T. Larsen, Chair

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## GIS Homepage Annual Report

Thanks to everyone's input and the committee's hard work, we have incorporated most of the changes that were discussed at our last annual business meeting; our Web Homepage is now simple, easy to use, and full of information. From the home page a user can select and go directly to the information sought, be it the Society's history, awards, meeting schedules, publications, or membership information; the last includes an online membership form. We have added a section on selected Web sites, on news releases, and a "Search Keywords" option. Among other selected Web sites we have included the Society's preservation document; a list of "Selected Web Sites for Geoscientists," compliments of Charlotte Derksen; GeoRef's list of priority journals; GIS data information; and links to the Geonet-L Listserv and archives. There is always room for improvement; the homepage is a dynamic document, so please send in any comments or suggestions.

Vivienne Roumani-Denn  
Chair, GIS Homepage

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## International Initiatives Committee Annual Report

The International Initiatives Committee has been concentrating on two activities related to the 1998 international meeting of geoscience information (GEOINFO VI)

### GeoInfo VI

Both the local and international GeoInfo Committees are in place. GIS President Barbara DeFelice and Claren Kidd attended an early May planning meeting in Philadelphia of representatives of the Meeting's Program and Organizing Committees. The meeting will bring together editors, publishers and geoscience information specialists from all over the world. GIS members should have received in the August 1997 GIS Newsletter, the "First Announcement and call for Contributions" for the September 1998 meeting to be held in Washington D. C. Copies have been sent to the international committee members for distribution to members in other geoscience information organizations. Broad topics for discussion are being decided by the Planning Committee and the "Second Announcement", detailing more of the Program, should be available later this year. Sept 9, 1998, the Thursday prior to the official beginning of the meeting, will be a full day of special topics of interest and will be held at the AGU building. The Australian representative, Paul Shelley, was visiting the USA in September 1997 and his input was actively sought for the meeting's organization and program. In mid-September, Barbara Haner attended the AESE Annual Meeting in Boulder CO where she represented the geoscience information community in planning discussions about the international meeting.

### Awards for Librarians to attend GEOINFO VI

A subcommittee of the IIC developed a proposal to bring 5 or 6 librarians from "less-developed nations" to attend GeoInfo VI. The librarians, recommended or self-nominated, will be supported by funds being raised by the subcommittee from industry, professional societies, etc. Special activities for the period between GeoInfo and the annual GIS meeting are being planned. Names of librarians to be reviewed to receive the awards and the names of potential donors, will be needed. Members Glenn Cook, Dena Hanson, Julie Hallmark and others have worked diligently to get this subcommittee proposal created and funded. The GIS membership's ideas will be sought at the annual business meeting.

Submitted by  
Claren Kidd

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## Membership Committee Annual Report

The Membership Committee spent the early part of the year drafting a new membership brochure. The final draft is probably going to be available in time for the Annual Meeting.

Jim O'Donnell, Chair

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## GIS Preservation Committee Annual Report

The Preservation Committee (PC) established 4 subcommittees this year in accordance with the Action Plan for the Preservation of Geoscience Literature, accepted by the GIS at its meeting in the Fall of 1996. These subcommittees, whose reports follow, were the Core Literature Subcommittee, Preservation Technologies Subcommittee, Funding Subcommittee, and Access and Storage Subcommittee. Each subcommittee was given a charge (from the Action Plan) and specific goals to accomplish for the year.

In addition to the work of the subcommittees, the co-chairs of the PC developed a website for the committee and its documents at <http://vector.gis.psu.edu/emsl/guides/GIS/gispresv.html>. This site contains contact information for committee and subcommittee members, text of the Action Plan, preservation project information, preservation links, the funding sources list, and a bibliography of materials relevant to the work of the committee. Another activity of the co-chairs was to establish an open listserv ([GISPres-L@Lists.psu.edu](mailto:GISPres-L@Lists.psu.edu)) for use of the PC members and any others who want to contribute their thoughts and ideas to the committee's electronic discussions. Also begun was a survey of existing microfilmed titles in the geosciences.

The PC will hold an open meeting at the Fall 1997 Annual Meeting to discuss how to build on the work to date and to discuss pilot projects. All members are urged to attend and/or to volunteer to serve on the committee for the coming year.

The subcommittee reports follow.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Musser, co-chair  
Lisa Wishard, co-chair  
GIS Preservation Committee

### Subcommittee on Core Literature

In 1997, the Core Literature Subcommittee met by e-mail only. In collecting the suggestions, recommendations, etc. of the members who responded to various e-mail messages concerning pilot projects, two possible places to start have been identified. The first is early material from state surveys, done either by state geologists or in territories, if the material goes back that far. The second is maps, especially the folded ones often found in survey materials. There is some question, however, as to problems with size might arise in reference to maps. Possible additional projects include a project based on type of material, such as field trip guidebooks (for which we have a good place to start with the GIS Union List); a project to preserve runs of U.S. journals that go far back in history such as the American Journal of Science.

In order to define the core, the Subcommittee recommends that the Preservation Committee enlist the help of professional colleagues involved with history of geology such as the History of Geology Section of GSA to find out what types of materials have value to our primary clientele. This may also serve to raise professional consciousness on the problems faced by libraries and to garner political support in fund raising for these projects.

The Subcommittee also recommends that a discussion be held on what GIS wishes to preserve--the content of the materials or the

materials themselves, e.g., is it enough to photocopy, digitize, etc. the content of major contributions such as the Powell surveys or should some effort be made to preserve original printed copies?

As chair, I request that a meeting of the Preservation Committee be held at the next annual conference and that there be time set aside for sub-committees to meet within the same period.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lois Pausch, chair  
GIS Preservation Committee  
Subcommittee on Core Literature

### Subcommittee on Funding

The primary goal of the Funding Subcommittee was to establish a list of funding sources for preservation projects. A list of potential funding sources was developed and posted on the GIS PC website.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Musser, chair  
GIS Preservation Committee  
Subcommittee on Funding

### Subcommittee on Preservation Technology

The Preservation Technology sub-Committee worked in quiet but effective ways by participating in several pilot projects at Penn State University.

There were no meetings of the committee.

The activities of the sub-committee in relation to its specific goals are as follows:

- Begin to determine best preservation methods by media (maps, literature, etc.)

The Committee participated in two pilot projects at Penn State University.

A) The first was a project to deacidify, encapsulate and post-bind 29 volumes of the USGS Geologic Atlas of the United States (18" x 24" dimensions, roughly 24 pages per volume) related to Pennsylvania and the Hand Atlas of Pennsylvania (9" x 11.5" dimensions with 61 plates).

The project entailed meeting with the binder, Wert Bookbinding, Inc., during an on-site visit in March, 1997. During the visit various options for encapsulation and binding were discussed. The following options were agreed upon for the volumes:

- Post bind volumes (Without spines for the Geologic Atlases, and with spine for the Hand Atlas)
- Cover with imitation leather
- Deacidify all pages at the binder's facility
- Encapsulate each page in mylar with ultra-sonic welding
- Lettering on the cover (and also on the spine of the Hand Atlas).

The Hand Atlas volume was returned in June 1997. The results were very favorable. The post binding allowed pages of the volume to be removed, and added as necessary. Post-binding also removes the need for "spacers" to be placed in the binding. The encapsulation provides a more stable environment for the material and also reduces damage to the piece when it is handled. (estimated



cost \$275-325 for the volume)

The 29 volumes of the Geologic Atlas were returned to the Library in August 1997. The encapsulation of these pieces have greatly enhanced the usability of the pieces. The pages are oversized and were incredibly brittle, to the point of pages cracking when flipping through a volume. It is now quite easy to maneuver through the volumes. The mylar encapsulation has created a very stable environment for the pieces. Post-binding also facilitates the ease with which patrons can use the individual sheets. (estimated cost \$185-230 per volume)

B) Digitization of the oversized color plates from a USGS Bulletin 855, Geologic map of the Bellefonte Quadrangle.

This project was a collaboration between the Penn State University Preservation Librarian, the Maps Collection, Earth and Mineral Sciences Library and Sedona GeoServices, Inc. Sedona GeoServices is full-service map conversion and geographic information systems business based in Limerick, Pennsylvania. The project entailed the digital archiving of approximately 300 sets of Pennsylvania geologic maps. The sample set included one full-color 1:62,500 geologic map of the Bellefonte quadrangle, PA (plate 1); a plate of full-color geologic cross-sections (plate 2); and a plate of black and white stratigraphic columns (plate 3).

Specifics include: 300 map sets on CD-ROM. Color scans performed at 300 dpi on a Tangent Color Systems CCS600-36 scanner equipment. Black and white scans performed at 300 dpi on a Scangraphics CF1000/44 monochrome scanner.

Cost estimates: Estimated cost to digitize at 300 dpi based on Bellefonte quadrangle sample: Plate 1, \$20 per sheet; Plate 2, \$9 per sheet; and Plate 3, \$5 per sheet. Estimated cost of digital data storage (on approximately 100 CD's for all 300 sets) \$15 per CD-ROM. Estimated cost to reproduce the maps on canvas: Plate 1, \$14 per sheet; Plate 2, \$7 per sheet; Plate 3, \$7 per sheet. Estimated cost to reproduce the maps on coated paper: Plate 1, \$4 per sheet; Plate 2, \$2 per sheet; and Plate 3, \$2 per sheet.

Preliminary results were quite impressive. The maps scanned with 256 colors did not provide as much color contrast as those scanned with 24 bit color. 300 dpi scanning results were very usable and file size was manageable. 600 dpi would result in very large file sizes, providing some difficult challenges to digital access to the files in today's computing environment.

Results from these projects will be posted to the web site very soon.

- Establish a bibliography on preservation technologies for the Preservation committee web site.

Several citations were added to the Preservation Technology page thanks to Linda Musser. Additional citations were also included in the general bibliography for the Committee and appear on the Preservation Links web page.

- Look at pilot projects completed to-date and evaluate them for a) inclusion on the PC web site and b) the value/quality of the preservation technique with summarized comments on the pros/cons of each project.

The following projects done at GIS member libraries are included on the GIS PC web site:

- Indiana University, Geology Library  
Brookville Society of Natural History Bulletins

Early Indiana Geological Papers  
- Columbia University, Lamont Doherty  
New York State Bulletins  
- University of Texas at Austin, Geology Library  
The Petrology of Sedimentary Rocks by Robert L. Folk  
Publications of the Dumble Survey

No evaluative comments about these pilot projects have been prepared by the Committee at this time.

There are several goals that should be pursued by the Preservation Technologies sub-committee in the upcoming year:

- Develop a systematic way to evaluate pilot projects. Factors to consider include: the cost of the preservation procedure, access to the preserved item, reproduction options of the preserved item, the effect of the technology on the original piece, and the quality of the preserved item. It may be useful to explore establishing a grading scale for the final preserved product and/or the difficulty and cost of the preservation procedure.
- Draft comments, based on established evaluation criteria, regarding pilot projects completed to date.
- Profile GIS Preservation Committee pilot projects on the PC web site.
- Continue to add to the preservation technology bibliography.
- Prepare annual reports.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Wishard, chair  
GIS Preservation Committee  
Subcommittee on Preservation Technology

#### Subcommittee on Access and Storage

CHARGE of the Access and Storage Subcommittee:  
Identify access methods and storage sites for the preserved literature. Look into the technological possibilities for access to preserved material.

MEMBERS:  
Elaine Clement  
Lisa Wishard

#### SPECIFIC GOALS (for this year):

- Look at 3 completed projects and their storage and access methods (e.g. microfilm, digital, paper-based). Develop a questionnaire to send to project sites to gather data on best methods.
- Establish a bibliography on storage and access methods for preserved materials for the GIS Preservation Committee web site.
- Prepare annual report documenting results by 9/30/97.

The members of the subcommittee corresponded via email and had several telephone conversations while working toward the goals for this year. We have identified three projects of various formats which will be evaluated for their access and storage criteria. The three projects are:

Microfilm Project\*  
Pennsylvania. Geological Survey.



First - [sixth] annual report on the Geological Survey of Pennsylvania by Henry D. Rogers. 1836-1840. 1 microfilm reel.

This reel is located at Penn State University and is part of the American Natural History series. It was completed in 1974. This project will be evaluated for its use of microfilm technology as a preservation storage medium.

#### Digital Project\*

Oversized Color Images: Addressing Issues of Preservation and Access, New York State Museum Bulletins Project. Columbia University Libraries/Academic Information Systems.

This site, included on the GIS Preservation Committee 'Member Projects' web page, will be evaluated for its use of digital technology as a preservation storage medium.

#### Paper-based

BRITTLE: A Cooperative Preservation Quality Photocopy Replacement Effort. This is a cooperative effort among many research libraries to obtain less expensive preservation quality photocopy replacements for embrittled titles.

BRITTLE is a cooperative listserv established to share in the cost and production of reproduction copies of monographic material. The BRITTLE project will be evaluated for its use of reproduction technologies as a preservation storage method.

#### \*completed projects

As part of our original goals, we had anticipated that we would develop a questionnaire to send to sites of completed projects. At this time, the subcommittee has not developed it. By looking at the three identified projects the survey will be developed based on the issues encountered in these completed (and ongoing) projects, such as: cataloging, ownership, where and how the material is stored, how the material is accessed, etc. As more projects are completed and/or identified by the Committee the Storage and Access sub-committee will have more material by which it can determine best methods of storage and access for preserved material.

A number of other projects are also intriguing and might provide us with useful information/feedback in the near future. These include the project by Richard E. Spatz, of Cranberry Township, PA, to deacidify books by dipping them in a suspension of inert freon; and the JSTOR project at Johns Hopkins University to digitize journals.

The members of the subcommittee have established a bibliography on storage and access methods which will be posted on the Preservation Committee web site.

As part of the Annual Meeting this fall, we would like to see time set aside for the Preservation Committee and the Subcommittees to meet as a group to make decisions on potential pilot projects.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elaine Clement, chair  
GIS Preservation Committee  
Subcommittee on Access and Storage

## Publications Annual Report

GeoInfoV proceedings volume one was reformatted for printing and the 2 volume set offered for sale.

Sales thru September 18, 1997:

- Directory of Geoscience Libraries; 5th ed. 11 copies
- GeoInfoV; Prague 1994 13 copies
- GIS Proceedings v.26 (New Orleans) 35 copies
- GIS Proceedings v.25 2 copies

Member distribution of GIS Proceedings v.27 (Denver) was completed in September.

Submitted by Lois Heiser  
Publications Manager

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## GIS Publicity Officer Annual Report

So far in 1997 I have prepared two press releases (for the GIS Best Paper Award and GIS Best Reference Work Award). They were sent to a variety of places, including AGI. Also I worked with Vivienne Roumani- Denn to update the awards pages on the GIS site and to set up a section for press releases.

Carol LaRussa  
GIS Publicity Officer

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## Special Libraries Association

Almost 7,000 librarians attended the Special Libraries Association's Annual Conference in Seattle in June, 1997. The theme of the conference was "Information Professionals at the Crossroads: Change as Opportunity" and the General Session speaker was Bill Gates, chairman and CEO of Microsoft Corporation. He spoke on developments in information technology and the importance of special librarians in these developments.

The 1998 Annual Conference will take place in Indianapolis, Indiana. The theme is "Leadership, Performance, Excellence: Information Professionals in the Driver's Seat." While all of the divisions are actively seeking contributors to programs or poster sessions, there are a number of divisions to which members of GIS might be interested in making a contribution. These include Science and Technology, Engineering, and Petroleum and Energy Resources

During the past year, the Association has brought up a Web page (<http://www.sla.org/>). In addition to news, conferences and reports of SLA, there are links to a number of library related sites such as the Library of Congress, Copyright Clearinghouse and library servers on WWW.

Elaine Clement

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## MEMBER NEWS

Thomas L. Plawman now has a position at the University of Wyoming. Please make the following address correction:

Name: Thomas L. Plawman  
Title: Science/Geology Reference Librarian  
Addr: University of Wyoming Libraries  
PO Box 3262  
Laramie, Wyoming 82071-3262  
Phone: (307) 766-2509  
Fax: (307) 766-6757  
Email: tplawman@uwyo.edu

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Index and Inventory of USGS Maps using Microsoft Access

The *Index and Inventory of USGS Maps using Microsoft Access* is now available to be downloaded. This index contains the names of all the topographic maps in the following scales distributed by the United States Geological Survey:

1:24,000  
1:25,000  
1:50,000  
1:100,000  
1:250,000

This Index was designed to help librarians do inventories of their tops and aid them checking in these depository items.

The "readme" file explains how to use the Index. There is also a copy of the "readme" file at the homepage.

You can find the Index at:

<http://www.mines.edu/library/maproom>

Go to the "downloadable databases" section toward the bottom of the page.

Christopher Thiry  
Map Librarian  
Colorado School of Mines  
cthiry@Mines.edu

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## GEOTALK

Attention GIS Users, Geoscientists, Map Enthusiasts and Related Professionals:

Introducing a 24 hour FREE chat service devoted to your interests featuring chat rooms for: GIS, GPS, Remote Sensing, Precision Agriculture, Map History, Librarians

GEOTALK is a multi-user, multi-room TELNET chat client that exhibits real-time response when communicating with other users around the world. This service is intended as a means of free user self-support and discussion for ALL GIS systems and related subjects. GEOTALK can also be a handy communication tool to

cut down on those long-distance phone bills to associates. And as always, GEOTALK is completely free of charge.

GEOTALK: telnet geotalk.mudservices.com 3333 telnet 205.147.235.156 3333 geotalk.mudservices.com OR 205.147.235.156 = IP ADDRESS 3333 = PORT NUMBER

To access GEOTALK, use any telnet environment and designate one of the above IP addresses AND THE PORT NUMBER. Follow the instructions from there.

If you're using a windows telnet utility, make sure you can designate the port number. You must designate this to connect to GEOTALK.

GEOTALK can be customized to your needs. You can set up your own private chat room that only you or your organization can access. GEOTALK also has an online mail system to correspond with other GEOTALK users who may not be logged in at the same time you are.

GEOTALK is based on the PG96 code release (traP, Athanasis) of EWII (Simon Marsh). The program is intended for free public use and is not affiliated with any GIS software company or vendor.

GEOTALK - Copyright 1997, W. Patterson. Questions can be directed to: spoon@zumu.mudservices.com OR wmp1@axe.humboldt.edu

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## Weather & River Data - Research and Education CD-ROM

A CD-ROM to Rapidly Research Nationwide Weather and River Data Hydrosphere's Resource Disc integrates windows software and multi-agency databases for convenient research and curriculum development. \$45 annual subscription or \$125 purchase.

- Instantly search, locate, and review summaries of reported NCDC weather and USGS river data
- Immediately map station locations in geographic context using popular GIS software
- Easily develop curriculum with the companion multi-agency watershed databases

Nationwide "Station Finder" databases are summaries of reported data for all current and discontinued NCDC and USGS stations.

ArcView and MapInfo GIS coverages for all databases include station points, tables, and state/county polygons.

Watershed databases are enhanced with EPA water quality data, summaries plus reported values for all agency topics, and additional GIS content.

Dialogue boxes and pick lists facilitate easy database searching. Data views display pertinent information. Point-and-click buttons instantly print or copy it.

Search Resource Disc databases for stations by name, i.d., state, county, lat/long or elevation. Also search for specific parameters, number of years reported, or other reported information.

The U.S. weather database includes summaries of reported precipitation, temperature, and evaporation data for 28,000 NCDC stations. The U.S. river database includes summaries of reported stream flow, stage, and related parameters for 62,000 USGS stations.

For broader curriculum development and expanded GIS use, companion watersheds (Guadalupe and Iowa-Cedar Rivers) include all reported NCDC,



USGS time-series data, complete EPA STORET water quality data, hydrologic Unit polygons, and EPA River Reach vectors.

Hydrosphere Data Products, Inc. Publishing Ready-to-Use Environmental Information.

For more information call 303-443-7839, FAX 303-442-0616, e-mail [hdpinfo@hydrosphere.com](mailto:hdpinfo@hydrosphere.com) or visit our web page <http://www.hydrosphere.com>

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## FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, ETC.

### 5th ACM Workshop on Geographic Information Systems Las Vegas, Nevada, USA November 13-14, 1997

<http://www.insa-lyon.fr:8000/Labos/LISI/ACMGIS97/preliminary.html>

Scope of the conference: The scope of this conference will be to regroup all people carrying out researches in novel systems based on spatial data and knowledge. The emphasis will be essentially targeted to the development of generic principles and systems in computing based on those applications. For cross-fertilizations and synergies between several applications can help to develop new computing knowledge. It is organized within ACM CIKM'97, the Sixth ACM International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management.

Location: Monte Carlo Hotel, 3770 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Las Vegas, Nevada 89109 USA; Phone: (702) 730-7777

Organization:

General Chairs: Nikki Pissinou, The University of Southwestern Louisiana, USA

Kia Makki, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, USA

Patrick Bergougnoux, The University of Toulouse, France

Program Chairs: Robert Laurini, University of Lyon, France

William Campbell, NASA, Greenbelt, USA

If you have any questions contact appropriate person: on registrations (Dr. Park: [ekpark@cstp.umkc.edu](mailto:ekpark@cstp.umkc.edu)); on technical programs (Program Chair: Dr. Robert Laurini at [robert.laurini@if.insa-lyon.fr](mailto:robert.laurini@if.insa-lyon.fr)); on other conference and GIS97 related matters (General Chair: Dr. Kia Makki at [kia@cs.unlv.edu](mailto:kia@cs.unlv.edu)).

Please visit our WWW site for up-to-date CIKM97 program information and related activities: URL:

<http://www.arian.eas.asu.edu/cikm97/cikm97.html>

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### Training course on Knowledge Organization for Water-sciences

Preliminary announcement: An international training course on Knowledge Organization for Water-sciences -Hydrology, Oceanography, Water-resources Management 1 December 1997- 31 March 1998 in Brussels, BELGIUM:

(See also: <http://www.vub.ac.be/BIBLIO/mistknow.htm>)

#### CONTACT:

Tel. ++32-2-629 24 29

Fax ++32-2-629 26 93 (or 22 82)

Telex 61051 vubco-b,

E-mail (Internet):

[PVOUPLIN@VUB.AC.BE](mailto:PVOUPLIN@VUB.AC.BE), [PNIEUWEN@VUB.AC.BE](mailto:PNIEUWEN@VUB.AC.BE)

Mail: Paul NIEUWENHUYSEN or Patrick VANOUPLINES  
KNOW-HOW, University Library  
Free University Brussels  
Pleinlaan 2, B-1050 Brussels  
BELGIUM

Approved by the

Flemish Interuniversity Council (VLIR)

Sponsored by the

Belgian Administration for Development Cooperation (BADC or ABOS)

and by

UNESCO

#### COSTS:

- Free of charge(!) for 12 participants from developing countries, selected by the BADC and the organizers. They will also receive a grant to cover the costs of accommodation and an airplane return (two-way) ticket. Grant applications only through the nearest Belgian embassy!

- Others pay a fee to participate during the whole period, including all social activities,

(70,000 Belgian Francs = about 2,000 US\$) or to particular items selected from the programme.

(1,000 Belgian Francs per module of a half day = about 35 US\$) by sending a letter including a cheque payable to KNOW-HOW, University Library

- Participants pay themselves for travel, meals, and housing (about 900 US\$ per month)

#### LOCATION:

The training is mainly organized

at the University Library

of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB),

close to the rich cultural city of Brussels, Belgium.

#### LANGUAGE USED: English.

The course director is Dr. Paul Nieuwenhuysen, Lecturer at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and at the Universitaire Instelling Antwerpen, Science and technology librarian, and Head of information and documentation, of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. Assistant director is Patrick Vanouplines, hydrologist, scientific information intermediary at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel.

Participants will obtain a certificate mentioning each half-day session to which they participated actively and successfully.

Patrick VANOUPLINES - University Library - Vrije Universiteit Brussel Pleinlaan 2, B-1050 BRUSSELS Belgium internet: [pvouplin@vub.ac.be](mailto:pvouplin@vub.ac.be)

tel: +32-(0)2-629.24.29 (direct) or +32-(0)2-629.26.09 (secretary)  
fax: +32-(0)2-629.26.93 (library) or +32-(0)2-629.22.82 (university)





**Geoscience Information Society Annual Business Meeting**

Tuesday October 21, 2-4:45 PM

Salt Palace Convention Center, Room 254A

**Preliminary Agenda**

Please send addition agenda items to Barbara DeFelice. A final agenda will be available before the meeting. Please check the final conference schedule to confirm location.

1. Welcome to meeting; format of meeting
2. Approval of minutes of 1996 annual meeting
3. Announcements
4. Introduction of new officers, new members, and visitors
5. Summary of Sunday's executive board meeting
6. Secretary report
7. Treasurer report
8. Annual and special reports of committees, representatives, and officers; updates to those published in the October GIS Newsletter.
9. New Business
  - New issues raised by committees, officers, representatives and members.
10. Committee, officer and representative vacancies
11. GeoInfo VI and the Science Editing and Information Management joint conference.
12. Changes in GSA annual conference planning
13. Guest: Ed Lizewski from USGS Reston, regarding the USGS Library serials funding problems and the National Library of Geosciences idea.
14. Other major policy issues and members concerns
15. Adjournment



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Mary Frances Lembo, GIS Newsletter Editor  
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