



# NEWSLETTER

## CONTENTS

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

### Special Features:

GIS Officers, Representatives and Committees.. 4

Geoscience Monograph Prices..... 7

Preservation Committee Minutes..... 8

Preservation Committee News..... 8

Friends of USGS Meeting Minutes..... 8

International Issues Project Update ..... 9

1998 Fellowships for Geoscience Librarians.....16

### Departments:

President's Column..... 1

Vice President's Column.....3

Literature Reviews.....10

Announcements..... 10

Member News..... 11

Internet Sources..... 11

Job Announcements ..... 12

Upcoming Conference: **6th International Conference on Geoscience Information Geoinfo VI**..... 15

**Geoscience information specialists from around the world will be meeting in Washington D.C. , September 9 - 14, 1998**

**"Science Editing and Information Management across disciplines . . . across boundaries . . . through time"**

**Be part of it!**

Our GIS year is off to an excellent start. The various committee and representative appointments have been made, and most of the positions have been filled. (The current list of the GIS officers, representatives and committees is given elsewhere in this issue.)

The International Initiatives Committee has been especially busy. They've been doing very diligent and creative work to establish the fellowship program to bring librarians from developing countries to both GeoinfoVI and the Toronto meeting. The details of all that are still evolving; contact the committee chair, Claren Kidd, if you'd like more information about that project, if you'd like to apply for one of these fellowships, or if you know a librarian who would.

The Executive Board and members of the Collection Development and Digital Data Committees had a flurry of activity in the past few weeks. The American Geological Institute (AGI) called a meeting of the geoscience societies (to be held in Washington, D.C., January 17) to discuss the future of electronic journals and of ways the societies might coordinate their efforts. As an AGI member society, GIS was invited to that meeting, and as geoscience information professionals, we're all very interested in the future and development of e-journals.

The e-mail was sizzling as we zapped messages back and forth across the country, brainstorming, shaping our list of concerns, building our ideas, and choosing our representatives (Barbara DeFelice and Shaun Hardy). The final list of concerns combine s ideas from all of us, with special thanks to Charlotte Derksen, Steve Hiller, Barbara DeFelice and Shaun Hardy. This meeting might have some important results, and our society has been most fortunate to have received so many insightful, creative, and pragmatic ideas from so many talented people. I trust our representatives will be reporting on that meeting soon— Stay tuned!

On a bittersweet note—The times they are achangin'. Vivienne Roumani-Denn has announced that she'll be leaving the Earth Sciences and Map Library at UC-Berkeley to move to the Judaica Library there. Vivienne has made tremendous contributions to GIS in the last years. She chaired the Digital Data Committee and brought us those terrific Digital Database Forums at the 1996 and 1997 meeting. She chaired the Website Advisory Committee and established the GIS webpage at Berkeley. Besides serving on other committees, she always brought insight, energy, and a sparkling wit to our exchanges. Speaking for all of us Vivienne, it's been a delight knowing you and working with you. We wish you all success and happiness in your new job, but we'll miss you. Good luck and keep in touch.

Connie J. Manson, GIS President



**GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY  
1998 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 April 1998 issue of the GIS Newsletter should be received no later than 16 March 1998. If possible, please send materials by e-mail or on IBM-compatible disc (Word97 or ASCII format).



## VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

As I write this, the weather reports are full of the effects of the ice storms and other cold weather in the north and east affecting many of you. While you were (perhaps) enjoying football games on New Year's Day, I was on the GSA website, submitting the information for our symposium: *Accreting the Continent's Collections*. The description reads: "How will current decisions impact future access to Earth Sciences Information? What effects will budget constraints, revisions in agency/survey mandates, electronic publishing, journal cancellations, and staffing shortages have on the information available to earth scientists? What kinds of information might not be available? What steps are being taken to ensure information availability?"

I am contacting speakers for the symposium, with firm commitments so far from a few. Although the abstract deadline for the symposium or the technical session is not until July, it is hoped that all of the symposium speakers will be pretty firmly in place in the next couple of months. One of the major areas of change which will impact future access to Earth Sciences Information is that of changes in the copyright law to account for digital technology; there are two bills presently before Congress, the Digital Era Copyright Enhancement Act (H.R. 3048), jointly introduced by Representatives Rick Boucher (D-VA) and Tom Campbell (R-CA) and Sen. John Ashcroft's (R-MO) Digital Copyright Clarification and Technology Act (S. 1146). Detailed information regarding these bills can be found at "<http://thomas.loc.gov>". To quote from a recent appeal from the SLA president sent out on PamNet detailing the importance of this legislation:

"Each year, millions of information users benefit from access to library collections — access that is supported by fair use, preservation programs, interlibrary loan, and more. We must ensure that the Copyright Act continues to serve the public who rely upon these collections and services. The Ashcroft and Boucher-Campbell bills seek to update the Copyright Act by extending the balance that we currently enjoy so that owners, creators, and users alike may benefit fully from the opportunities of the digital environment. These bills appropriately extend the balance by clarifying or updating selected privileges granted to libraries, researchers, educational institutions and others under current law."

What can you do about this?

1. Checkout "<http://www.Loundy.com/CDLB/1998-Copyright.html>" for an article: "The good, bad, ugly of copyright law rewrites" by David Loundy for further clarification.
2. Write, call or visit your Senators and Representative requesting co-sponsorship of these bills.
3. Consider becoming a second author with someone knowledgeable about these issues in presenting a paper for the symposium or the technical session. An "expert witness" in the field is interesting in preparing a paper for our symposium but would prefer to work with a member of our society, particularly in preparing appropriate examples for geologists and making the presentation. Please contact me if this sounds of interest to you.

It is not too soon to begin planning your technical session talks and poster presentations. Both of these are excellent ways to let your colleagues, as well as scientists and students know about critical information issues, your exciting research or new instructional methods or ways of accessing information. Poster sessions are a great way of actually getting the attention of geologists for library-related concerns. Remember that GSA now actively encourages abstract submission electronically. The abstract forms for this year's conference are scheduled to be up on the GSA website by May 1. GSA is again planning to charge a fee (\$15) to submit an abstract; if that's a hindrance to anyone, let me know, and I'll see what can be worked out.

The preliminary schedule of annual meeting events will have already been submitted to GSA, but committee chairs and others should please contact me with changes and additions. The deadline for schedule revisions is the middle of March. If you want your event highlighted in the June GSA Today, you need to also get that information to me by mid-March. Finally, remember that these meetings are your meetings; please send suggestions for making them more valuable to you in your work.

Charlotte Derksen, GIS Vice President  
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## GIS Officers, Representatives and Committees

### ELECTED OFFICERS:

President:	Connie J. Manson, Oct. 1997- Oct. 1998
Vice President/President-Elect:	Charlotte R. M. Derksen, Oct. 1997-Oct. 1998
Past President:	Barbara J. DeFelice, Oct. 1997-Oct. 1998
Secretary:	Lisa G. Dunn, Oct. 1996-Oct. 1999
Treasurer:	Susan Goodman, Jan. 1, 1998-Dec. 31, 1999

### APPOINTEES:

Auditor:	Dennis Trombatore, 1997-Oct. 1998
Geonet-L Editor:	Lois Heiser, 1994-
Newsletter Editor:	Mary Frances Lembo, 1997-
Publications Manager:	Lois Heiser, 1994-
Publicity Officer:	Carol J. La Russa, 1996-Oct. 1999
Reviews Editor:	Miriam Sheaves, June 1997-
Webpage Editor:	Vivienne Roumani-Denn, 1995-

### REPRESENTATIVES:

AGI, GeoRef Advisory Committee:	Suzanne Larsen, 1997-Oct. 2000
AGI, Government Affairs Program:	Marie Dvorzak, 1996-Oct. 1999
AGI, Member Society Council:	Barbara Haner, 1995-Oct. 1998
AGI, Environmental Advisory Committee:	Joanne Lerud, 1995-Oct. 1998
ALA MAGERT:	Thomas Zogg, 1998-Oct. 2000; Lois Pausch, 1998-Oct. 2000
Cartographic Users Advisory Council (CUAC):	Rich Spohn, 1994-Oct. 1998; Clara McLeod, 1997 Oct. 2000
North American Cartographic Info. Soc.:	[vacant]
SLA Map & Geography Division:	Elaine Clement, 1997-Oct. 2000
Western Association of Map Libraries:	Rich Spohn, 1994-Oct. 1998

### COMMITTEES:

#### Annual Program Committee, 1998

Purpose: Assist VP to organize annual meeting activities  
Chair: Charlotte R. M. Derksen, Oct. 1997-Oct. 1998  
Members: Beverly Chen, Oct. 1997-Oct. 1998  
Barbara Haner, Oct. 1997-Oct. 1998  
Pat Shehan, Oct. 1997-Oct. 1998

#### Archives:

Purpose: Responsible for archiving and preserving society records  
Co-Chairs: Mary Krick, 1996-Oct. 1999 Lois Pausch, 1996-Oct. 1999  
Member: John Kawula, 1996-Oct. 1999

#### Best Paper

Purpose: Determine winner of award for best paper in geoscience information.  
Chair: Louise Zipp, 1996-Oct. 1999  
Members: John Hunter, 1995-Oct. 1998  
Linda Musser, 1995-Oct. 1998  
Janice Sorensen, 1997-Oct. 2000  
Kathleen Spencer, 1995-Oct. 1998  
Margy Walsh, 1996-Oct. 1999



#### Best Reference Book (Mary B. Ansari Award)

Purpose: Determine winner of the Mary B. Ansari Best Reference Work Award.  
Chair: Joanne Lerud, 1996-Oct. 1999  
Members: Agnes Adams, 1995-Oct. 1998  
Michael Farmer, 1995-Oct. 1998  
Linda Newman, 1997-Oct. 2000  
Michael Noga, 1996-Oct. 1999  
Jim O'Donnell, 1996-Oct. 1999

#### Collection Development Issues

Purpose: Collect, analyze, disseminate, and publish data on geoscience literature costs; investigate, respond to issues; report on cooperative collection development issues.  
Chair: Steve Hiller, 1997-Oct. 2000  
Members: John Hunter, 1997-Oct. 2000  
Peggy Merryman, 1996-Oct. 1999  
Michael Noga, 1996-Oct. 1999  
Vivienne Roumani-Denn, 1996-Oct. 1999

#### Digital Data

Purpose: Monitor and evaluate new products; report to the membership via the Newsletter and/or the Digital Database Forum.  
Chair: Adonna Fleming, 1997-Oct. 2000  
Members: Susan Bolton, 1996-Oct. 1999  
Jan Ferrari, 1995-Oct. 1998  
Ian Gordon, 1997-Oct. 2000  
Shaun Hardy, 1996-Oct. 1999

#### Exhibits

Purpose: Plan, design and arrange for GIS exhibits and maintain booth materials.  
Chair: April Love, 1997-Oct. 2000  
Members: Jim O'Donnell, 1997-Oct. 2000  
Sally J. Scott, 1997-Oct. 2000

#### GeoNet-L Advisory Board

Purpose: Serve as an advisory board to GeoNet-L monitor  
Status: Inactive

#### GeoRef User Group Steering Committee

Purpose: Advise GeoRef of problems/enhancement; advise vendors on online implementation; share searching techniques; educate non-users; conduct workshops.  
Chair: Nancy Blair, 1997-Oct. 2000  
Members: Glenn Cook, 1995-Oct. 1998  
Shaun Hardy, 1996-Oct. 1999  
Carolyn J. Laffoon, 1995-Oct. 1998  
Caryl Shields, 1996-Oct. 1999

#### Guidebook Standards

Purpose: Revise, distribute guidelines; determine winner of best guidebook award.  
Chair: Rich Spohn, 1996-Oct. 1999  
Members: Lorraine Knox, 1996-Oct. 1999  
Carol Messick, 1996-Oct. 1998  
Linda Newman, 1997-Oct. 2000  
Mary Spencer, 1996-Oct. 1999  
Marilyn Stark, 1996-Oct. 1998  
Thelma Thompson, 1996-Oct. 1999

#### International Initiatives:

**Purpose:** Investigate, report on and recommend internationally-focussed activities for GIS.  
**Chair:** Claren Kidd, 1997-Oct. 2000  
**Members:** Xiping Cao, 1996-Oct. 1998  
Beverly Chen, 1996-Oct. 1999  
Zelda Colodner, 1996-Oct. 1998  
Glenn Cook, 1996-Oct. 1999  
Julie Hallmark, 1996-Oct. 1998  
Barbara Haner, 1996-Oct. 2000  
Dena Hanson, 1996-1998  
Independencia Iselidh, 1996-Oct. 1998  
Dorothy McGarry, 1996-Oct. 1998  
Tore Torngren, 1996-Oct. 1999  
Patricia Yocum, 1996-Oct. 1998

#### Membership:

**Purpose:** Review/revise brochure; solicit new members. Contact members who have not renewed and welcome back members who renew very late.

**Chair:** Jim O'Donnell, 1996-Oct. 1999  
**Members:** Kay Baker, 1996-Oct. 1999  
Beverly Chen, 1996-1998  
John Kawula, 1996-Oct. 1999  
Mary Krick, 1996-Oct. 1998  
Carolyn J. Laffoon, 1996-Oct. 1999  
Clara McLeod, 1996-Oct. 1998  
Rich Soares, 1996-Oct. 1998

#### Nominating 1998

**Chair:** Barbara J. DeFelice, 1997-Oct. 1998  
**Members:** Lois Pausch, 1996-Oct. 1998  
Miriam Sheaves, 1996-Oct. 1999  
Janice Sorensen, 1996-Oct. 1998

#### Preservation:

**Purpose:** Recommend GIS's role in preservation activities; distribute preservation information to the membership.

**Chairs:** Linda Musser, 1996-Oct. 1999 Lisa Wisner, 1996-Oct. 1999  
**Members:** Elaine Clement, 1996-Oct. 1998  
Elizabeth Fish, 1996-Oct. 1999  
Pauline Kamel, to Oct. 1999  
Clara McLeod, 1996-Oct. 1999  
Michael Noga, 1996-Oct. 1999  
Lois Pausch, 1996-Oct. 1998  
Louise Zipp, 1996-Oct. 1999

#### Website Advisory

**Purpose:** To advise on the content and organization of the GIS website  
**Chair:** Vivienne Roumani-Denn, 1996-Oct. 1999  
**Members:** Nancy Blair, 1995-Oct. 1998  
Susan Bolton, 1996-Oct. 1999  
Lois Heiser, 1996-Oct. 1999  
Clara McLeod, 1995-Oct. 1998  
Tom Plawman, 1997-Oct. 2000  
Lisa Wishard, 1997-Oct. 2000



## AD HOC COMMITTEES

### AGI Anniversary Year

Purpose: To acknowledge and celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the American Geological Institute; to prepare and present a special award to AGI from GIS; to write an article about the history of AGI.

Chair: Miriam Sheaves

Members: Suzanne Larsen

### Educational Initiatives

Purpose: Develop programs for educational services

Co-Chairs: Reggie Brown; Mary Scott

### Future of the Union List of Field Trip Guidebooks

Purpose: To determine the future of the Field Trip Guidebook Union List

Chair: Linda Pierce

Members: Lura Joseph, Dorothy McGarry, John Mulvihill, Jim O'Donnell, Rich Spohn.

### GeolInfo VI Subcommittee (of the International Initiatives Committee)

Purpose: To work on the GeolInfo VI Meeting Comments from the 2nd Exec:

Chair: Claren Kidd

Members: Beverly Chen, Glenn Cook, Julie Hallmark, Barbara Haner, Dena Hanson, Shaun Hardy, Dorothy McGarry, Richard Walker, Patricia Yocum.

## GEOSCIENCE MONOGRAPH PRICES 1996-97

1996-1997 geoscience book prices increased slightly from the previous year as the average price of a geoscience book rose from \$91.75 to \$92.88, a change of plus 1.2% compared to 1995-96 prices. The average price of a geoscience book published in United States rose by 3.9%, and those published in the U.K. by 4.1%, while the cost of geoscience books published in Europe decreased by 4.2%.

As always, the mix of publications changes some each year and this may also contribute to price variation on a year to year basis. The value of the U.S. dollar strengthened throughout much of the year against continental European currencies which helped to reduce the cost of material published there. The dollar weakened against the British pound which might account for some of the increase for U.K. published material. During the past five years, book prices have remained very stable as shown in the price data on the verso. Book output, as measured by the BNA rose 10% from the previous year, making it comparable to publication in the 1993-95 period.

### GEOSCIENCE BOOK PRICES 1987-88 to 1996-97

Average Price (\$) By Place of Publication

	U.S.	U.K.	EUROPE*	ALL	% U.S. Published
1987-88	48.13	73.49	83.24	65.69	41.2
1988-89	43.03	82.71	93.72	68.61	42.8
1989-90	58.04	87.64	98.70	78.97	42.0
1990-91	57.65	87.05	117.46	83.11	41.1
1991-92	53.12	98.11	122.99	83.63	45.7
1992-93	62.04	98.14	139.17	94.35	42.9
1993-94	66.36	90.98	141.04	98.50	40.1
1994-95	58.65	94.37	133.41	90.27	44.2
1995-96	59.84	84.41	137.78	91.75	44.3
1996-97	62.21	87.89	131.98	92.88	38.0
% Change	29.3%	19.6%	58.6%	41.4%	
1987-88 to 1996-97					

Data from Blackwell North America Approval Plan Coverage

\*Includes small percentage of material published in Asia and Australia



## Preservation Committee Minutes

The Geoscience Information Society Preservation Committee held a meeting at the GIS Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah on Monday October 20, 1997 from 1:30-3:00 p.m. Members reviewed the progress to date on the Action Plan and discussed future activities and organization. All subcommittees will summarize their reports by the end of the year, after which the subcommittees will be disbanded. The focus of Preservation Committee activities for 1998 will be on completing demonstration projects involving field trip guidebooks, publicity of GIS member activities in preservation, establishing a Preservation Issues Forum at the 1998 Annual Meeting, and surveying librarians and others regarding prioritizing materials for preservation. A fuller account of the meeting can be found at the PC website at <http://vector.gis.psu.edu/emsl/guides/GIS/gispresv.html>.

Linda Musser, Co-chair  
Preservation Committee

## GIS Preservation Committee News

In order to raise awareness of preservation issues and preservation projects related to the Geosciences, the Preservation Committee is planning a series of profiles of preservation projects completed at GIS member libraries. This first profile looks at some of the projects completed at Indiana University, Bloomington by GIS Member Lois Heiser.

Linda Musser, GIS Preservation Committee, co-chair

Lisa Wishard, GIS Preservation Committee, co-chair

### *Preservation Activities at Indiana University*

Several years ago, many of us were hopeful that digitization of fragile geological texts would solve our preservation needs. Not only would we be able to protect our extant copies, but also the data would be available to everyone whether their local library held the original or not. It was unfortunate that after the great start with the Columbia University/New York State Museum Bulletin project, the hope sort of died.

When a retired Indiana University faculty member asked me about the thesis of David

Moore, who had graduated in 1886, we determined that 1) not all these were produced in paper copies for the university archives/library, and 2) several were published only as papers in journals of the time. This set us seeking the "Bulletin of the Brookville Society of Natural History" which he surmised contained some written form of the missing thesis. When I discovered the Bulletin (in deplorable condition) in our Main Library stacks, I decided this was clearly a title in need of digital preservation. (It is now available at <http://www.indiana.edu/~libgeol> and the MARC record is OCLC #36555111)

Having mastered (?) the basics of HTML, I continued by digitizing a few obscure papers written in the 1850's. Some of these appeared in official Indiana state documents, but were not part of the Indiana Geological Survey publications. I decided that the only way these early works would be preserved was if one just started doing it. So I then converted the "First Annual Report of the Indiana Geological Survey" (1869) Why? Because there is so much great information—geologic and historical—in these publications. They would be useful for research in other fields as well for here is found the start up of industries, the planning and development of railroads, Indian relics, fossil findings, early settlers and their lives. This volume is complete except for the three large maps, which need physical preservation prior to digital conversion. It is available at the same site, and its OCLC number is 37940285. The "Second Report ..." is in progress.

Lois Heiser  
Indiana University  
Bloomington, Indiana

**Meeting for the "Friends of the USGS"—**  
GSA Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City UT,  
10/21/97. Called by Dr. William Holser  
(University of Oregon) **Summary of Minutes**

Attending were about 30 people, including nine USGS employees, several people affiliated with AGI, and many GIS members. The meeting was called to order by Holser, who made some opening remarks about the creation of the USGS library and its importance to the geoscience community. He expressed concerns about the long-term viability of the USGS library system based on its funding vulnerability. Holser suggested the creation of a national library for the geosciences as one possible solution, and opened the topic for discussion.



Pat Leahy of the USGS presented a statement on the USGS's mission, scope and electronic resources, and requested input on the USGS library's future. Jim O'Donnell (California Institute of Technology) said that what was wanted was the library of the present, future and past. The library is "what's in it" in whatever format and method of delivery and that's the library we need to support, including the existing collection and the service orientation. Marie Dvorzak (Univ. Wisconsin-Madison) commented that cooperation between the USGS and other libraries was to the benefit of all parties — the USGS library also gains from using these libraries. Barbara Haner (UCLA) indicated that for her library and many others, the USGS library is the library of last resort, the source of materials unavailable elsewhere. Charlotte Derksen (Stanford) added that this was true not just for the geology materials, but for multi-disciplinary publications as well. Connie Manson (Washington Div. Geology) said that while there was duplication between the USGS libraries and others, none of these materials are held solely in any one place, and that benefit should not be under-estimated either.

There was some discussion of the USGS library system, which includes nine biological libraries, small libraries within Water Resources, and two cartographic special libraries, all varying in size, services and funding. The Library Services Group currently presides over the four geologic libraries. A proposal is being considered to create a consortium of the system libraries to consolidate activities such as cataloging and collection resources.

Holser commented on the governance of the existing national libraries (Medicine, Education, Agriculture), which appear similar to that of a corporate board's governance and line-item financing. Leahy indicated that the budget processes for the Department of Interior and, for example, the Department of Health and Human Services differ, making comparisons difficult. Proponents for a national library may not be able to create or increase the relevant line items sufficiently to maintain a library's necessary costs. Leahy suggested that the Survey's library is actually an "earth systems" library. Its scope could eventually be expanded to include the other libraries of Interior to better serve the government clientele, and there was discussion on this. Beth Duff (USGS) said that there was an existing Interior natural resources library but that it was having difficulty getting support from the many bureaus it serves. Lisa Dunn (Colorado School of Mines) indicated concern that even a consolidated library within Interior would not be adequately funded. Leahy said that the issue of creating a national

library deserves attention but it would need a means to generate congressional support.

There was discussion on developing private (corporate) support for the USGS libraries, including the development of marketable products such as databases, corporate funding, donations or creation of a foundation or formal Friends group to solicit funds. It was pointed out that some fund-raising methods such as solicitation of funds are not presently possible for the USGS and would require legislation. The group was reminded that the issue of privatization is still very much alive and any discussion of out-side funding should proceed carefully.

Derksen asked about the status of the USGS library exchange program, and emphasized its importance to the geoscience community. It was reported that there is still an exchange program, although the library receives fewer items that it used to. The position of USGS exchange program librarian was eliminated and its work distributed to other employees.

Duff announced that the USGS's long range plan will be released within a month, and interest was expressed by the group in being made aware of it. Holser adjourned the meeting.

### International Issues Project Update

The GIS International Issues Committee continues their challenging project of bringing five geoscience librarians from developing countries to the U.S. in the fall. Visitors will attend the 6th International Geoscience Information Conference in Washington, DC in September and then go home with a host librarian in the U.S. or Canada for almost six weeks. The concluding event for participants before returning to their home countries will be attending the annual GIS conference in Toronto in October. Participants will take part in an open discussion at each of the conferences and will present a paper on their individual library's programs.

During the six-week visit with the host librarian, our guests will have such opportunities as gaining hands-on experience with a variety of electronic resources, participation in internships in local geoscience libraries. Guests will also be able to attend training sessions and workshops in such areas as collection development, database management, and user needs and information seeking behavior. Hosts may arrange visits to outstanding geoscience libraries and other information resources in the area, tailoring experiences to the individual needs of their visitors.

We estimate that \$5000 per person will be needed to cover the cost of transportation to the



conferences, travel to host families, and lodging in Washington and Toronto. Newmont Mining has already contributed the first \$5000 donation! Our Committee would be grateful for support and ideas from GIS members, especially suggestions of companies who might wish to participate.

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#### LITERATURE REVIEW by Miriam Sheaves

Several articles of interest have appeared in *Information Technology and Libraries* (ITAL) recently. "The Use and Understanding of Keyword Searching in a University Online Catalog" by Charles Hildreth, v.16 (2) 1997, pp.52-62 reports on a study at the University of Oklahoma which found that keyword searches fail more often than not and that the majority of users do not understand how the online catalog system processes their keyword searches. "Indexing and Abstracting on the World Wide Web: An Examination of Six Web Databases" by Scott Nicholson, v.16 (2) pp.73-81 analyzes search engines and the strengths and limitations of each of the three types. It includes a table summarizing what types of queries are appropriate for each type of search engine.

The September issue of ITAL, v.16 (3) 1997 has two articles of note on digital libraries. "Advancing the Digital Map Library" by Melissa Lamont and G. Ian Bowles (pp.121-125) describes a project launched in January 1997 at Penn State which enables users to create and customize electronic thematic maps through the Internet (see their Web site, the Pennsylvania County Mapper: <http://www.maproom.psu.edu/mapper/cbp>). "Digital Libraries: a Selected Resource Guide" by Katharina Klemperer and Stephen Chapman, (pp.126-131) is an electronic literature review for those who want an overview of the main issues in the field or a starting off point for information when embarking on a digitization project. The full text of the paper is also available on the ITAL Web site with links to the sites discussed.

Two articles from *Information Outlook*, "Building the Virtual Reference Shelf: How to Get the Most for Your Money" by Loanne

Snavely (v.1(7) 1997, pp.24-35) and "Solo Power: How One-Person Librarians Maximize Their Influence" by Guy St. Clair (v.1 (12) 1997, pp.27-34) address topics of interest to special libraries.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

##### 1998 International meeting

Geoscience information specialists from around the world will be meeting in Washington D.C., September 9 - 14, 1998 "Science Editing and Information Management across disciplines . . . across boundaries . . . through time"

##### Nominations for GIS "sponsored members"

You can nominate a candidate to be GIS sponsored member. The person should be a geoscience librarian from a library in a nation that might be lacking a strong information infrastructure or significant resources and who would benefit from the GIS Newsletter, Directory, Proceedings and interaction with GIS members?

GIS has a "sponsored membership" category to which members are providing funds. Last year GIS sponsored members were from Zimbabwe, Czech Republic, and Botswana.

Nomination or self nomination can be achieved by sending a note to Claren Kidd. Nominate the person by describing in a paragraph their background, work, and workplace environment.

##### Awards for Integration of Research and Education

NSF is holding a special competition to recognize baccalaureate-granting institutions for their past accomplishments and future plans for integrating research and education on their campuses. NSF intends to make 10-20 awards not to exceed \$500,000 each.

Since the solicitation for this activity will not be published in hard copy and will be found only on the NSF home page, we are asking that you forward this notice to those groups with whom you normally do business or to whom it may be appropriate. The solicitation can be found at: [www.nsf.gov/od/osti](http://www.nsf.gov/od/osti)



## MEMBER NEWS

Cao Xiping of the National Geological Library, China, has had an e-mail address change:  
Old address: [geoinfo@public.bta.net.cn](mailto:geoinfo@public.bta.net.cn)  
New address: "[tsao@mimi.cnc.ac.cn](mailto:tsao@mimi.cnc.ac.cn)".

Mary Frances Lembo has a new position as "Information Specialist" at:

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory  
Hanford Technical Library P8-55  
P.O. Box 999  
Richland, WA 99352  
509/372-7441 [mf.lembo@pnl.gov](mailto:mf.lembo@pnl.gov)  
FAX: 372-7431

## INTERNET SOURCES

### Employment Resources in Earth Sciences

Elizabeth Wallace has put together a web site covering employment resources in earth sciences. It provides links to 16 geo-specific job sites with current postings, as well as the classifieds from *Science*, *Nature* and the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. She also has sections covering geo-job listservs, recruiting pages from corporations that target earth science graduates, career development sites (e.g. from the AGI and the AAG), and some generic relocation resources (things like city rankings and cost of living calculators). Her site is located at:

<http://web.syr.edu/~elwallac/ewjobs.htm>

Please pass along any suggestions for links to:

Elizabeth Wallace  
Earth Sciences Librarian  
Syracuse University Library  
[eawallac@library.syr.edu](mailto:eawallac@library.syr.edu)

### The Community of Science version of GeoRef has changed locations!

The new Web address (URL) is:  
<http://georef.cos.com/>

GeoRef's new location is the result of the recent purchase and installation of a state-of-the-art clustered pair of AlphaServer 4100 series computers. The system includes eight 466 Alpha processors, 2 Gigabytes of Random-Access Memory, 225 Gigabytes of disk capacity, an automated tape backup system, and an integrated UPS power backup system. The system, which resides in the Company's offices in downtown Baltimore, represents a four-fold expansion in the Company's computing capacity and processing speed.

This, of course, means increased processing speed and shorter retrieval time when searching GeoRef on COS.

Please change your bookmarks/links to reflect the new URL, and if you have any questions, please contact:

Carol Fedora  
Senior Information Specialist  
Community of Science  
Baltimore, MD  
Phone: 410-563-2378 ext. 32  
Fax: 410-563-5389  
E-mail: [caf@cos.com](mailto:caf@cos.com)



## JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Liaison Librarian, George Mason University

Company Name: GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY  
Job Title: Librarian  
Job Status: Full-time  
Job Code: 138784971211  
Job Category: education, other  
Education: Masters  
Salary: \$32,000  
Date Posted: 01/11/98  
City, State: Fairfax, VA  
Zip Code: 22030-4444

Seeking a librarian to provide liaison services, including print/electronic collection development, library instruction, and reference service to the Departments of Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, and Physics. Works closely with the liaison librarian for the Institute for Biosciences, Biotechnology, (IB3), and the Institute for Computational Sciences and Informatics. Responsible for coordinating a reference function such as online searching.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Required: ALA accredited MLS and subject background or demonstrated knowledge in biology or chemistry. Preferred: Experience in reference and second masters in relevant subject area. Desired: Experience with collection development, library instruction, and electronic reference sources.

**INFORMATION:** Twelve month appointment, excellent benefits, salary commensurate with experience, starting with a base of \$32,000. AA/EEO employer, minorities encouraged to apply. George Mason University is the fastest growing university in the Commonwealth of Virginia. To learn more about George Mason University visit <http://www.gmu.edu>.

**APPLICATION:** Send letter of application, resume and names, addresses and phone number of three current references to:

Science Librarian Search  
Library Admin., MSN 2FL  
George Mason University  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030-4444

Deadline for Applications: February 15, 1998.  
AA/EEO

### Information Technology/Engineering Reference /Liaison Librarian: George Mason University

Company Name: GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY  
Job Title: Librarian  
Job Status: Full-time  
Job Code: 84160980108  
Job Category: education, other  
Education: Masters  
Salary: \$33500  
Date Posted: 01/11/98  
City, State: Fairfax, VA  
Zip Code: 22030-4444

Information Technology/Engineering Reference/Liaison Librarian: George Mason University is seeking a librarian to provide liaison services, including print/electronic collection development, library instruction, and reference service for the School of Information Technology and Engineering (IT&E), including departments of Applied & Engineering Statistics, Computer Science, Electrical & Computer Engineering, Information and Software Systems Engineering, Operations Research and Engineering, & Systems Engineering. Responsible for coordinating a reference function such as library publications.

**Qualifications:**

**REQUIRED:** ALA accredited MLS and subject background or demonstrated knowledge in relevant subject area;

**PREFERRED:** Experience in reference and electronic reference sources, and school master's in relevant subject area;

**DESIRED:** Experience with collection development, and library instruction.

**INFORMATION:** Twelve month appointment, excellent benefits. Salary: \$33500+ depending on qualifications. AA/EEO employer, minorities encouraged to apply. George Mason University is the fastest growing university in the Commonwealth of Virginia. To learn more about George Mason University visit <http://www.gmu.edu>. Application: Send letter of application, resume and names, addresses and phone numbers of three current references to:

Science Librarian Search  
Library Administration, MSN 2FL  
George Mason University  
Fairfax, VA 22030-4444

Deadline for Applications: March 15, 1998.



**Librarian, Plasma Physics Library,  
Princeton University**

Available: Immediately

Description: Responsible for the management and operation of the Plasma Physics Laboratory Library, a library located at Princeton's nearby Forrestal campus. This library serves the needs of 400 Laboratory faculty, staff, and graduate students, and houses materials on thermonuclear fusion, plasma physics, and fusion reactor technology. In light of the recent redirection of the U.S. Department of Energy's fusion program, the Lab is broadening its research into new areas of plasma science and technology, while continuing its research mission in fusion energy. The PPL Librarian is responsible for building the library's collections, offering in-depth instructional and reference services using both electronic and print resources, maintaining a local database of citations to fusion-related literature, and keeping in close touch with the Lab's staff. Because the needs and interests of the Plasma Physics Laboratory are changing, as is the power of information technology, the PPL Librarian is expected to manage change effectively and rapidly, including shaping the library's services, collections, and structure for the next century. The Librarian supervises one library assistant and works closely with the other science library staff at Princeton. This position reports to the head of the Math/Physics Library.

Qualifications: Required: MLS from ALA accredited library school; knowledge of and experience with electronic information resources in the physical sciences as well as knowledge of computer applications in libraries; ability to work independently as well as collaboratively with all levels of staff and users; demonstrated ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing. Preferred: Academic background with at least a BS in physics or related science and/or relevant academic or special library experience; prior supervisory experience.

Benefits: Twenty-four (24) vacation days a year, plus eleven (11) paid holidays. Annuity program (TIAA/CREF), group life insurance, health coverage insurance, and disability insurance, all paid for by the University.

Salary & Rank: Dependent upon qualifications and experience.

Review of applications will begin on February 28, 1998 and will continue until the job is filled. Nominations and applications (resume and the names, titles, addresses and phone numbers of three references to be contacted) should be sent to:

Search Committee for Librarian,

Plasma Physics Library

c/o Maria G. Gopel, Human Resources Librarian

Princeton University Library

One Washington Road

Princeton, New Jersey 08544

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY IS AN EQUAL  
OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION  
EMPLOYER

**Physics and Earth and Atmospheric  
Sciences Librarian  
Purdue University Libraries**

Responsibilities: Responsible for the management of the Physics Library and the Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Library, including the Purdue Libraries map collection and the Geographic Information Service. Serves as liaison with faculty and develops collections in both print and electronic formats. Plans, develops and implements ongoing and innovative services, with the goal of fostering user self sufficiency. Instructs faculty and students in the effective use of local and remote print and electronic resources, developing programs as an integral part of the Libraries system-wide information literacy curriculum. Collaborates with fellow members of the Libraries' Engineering and Physical Sciences Cluster (Chemistry, Engineering, Aviation Technology, Mathematical Science, Physics, and Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Libraries). Participates in library wide planning and management through consultative committee and team structures. Reports to the Science Librarian. Members of the Libraries faculty must meet Purdue requirements for promotion and tenure.

Requirements: Master's degree in Library Science (ALA accredited). Bachelor's or advanced degree in the physical sciences or a related field, or demonstrated knowledge of the physical sciences literature through a combination of educational background and experience.

Desired qualifications: Excellent grasp of information needs in physics, geology, atmospheric sciences and related fields; enthusiasm for new methods of disseminating scientific information. Demonstrated interest in the applications of current and emerging technologies to meet the changing needs of users. Two years recent experience with collection management, reference, or instruction in an academic or special library. Strong service orientation. Excellent communication and presentation skills and ability to work well with all levels of users and staff. Demonstrated commitment to user instruction and to consultation with users on their information management needs. Supervisory experience.



Salary: \$32,000 and up depending upon qualifications.

Status and Benefits: Faculty status and responsibilities. Rank of Assistant Professor. Twelve month appointment with annual vacation of 22 working days. Flexible benefit programs with open enrollments annually. Medical, group life, disability insurance programs are in effect as are flexible spending accounts, TIAA-CREF retirement and Social Security coverage.

Libraries: The Physics Library and the Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Library are the principal library resources for the Departments of Physics and Earth and Atmospheric Sciences respectively and also serve the University at large. The departmental faculties (72) are involved in research supported by external funding of more than \$8 million annually. Over 130 graduate students major in these programs, while undergraduate course enrollment exceeds 4700 students. The Physics Library holds over 56,000 volumes on site and currently receives 280 serial publications. The Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Library holds over 27,000 volumes on site, a map collection of about 196,000 pieces, and currently receives 260 serial publications. The staff includes the Physics and Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Librarian, a Professional Librarian, four (4) support staff, plus student assistants.

The Purdue University Libraries system, which consists of the Undergraduate Library and 14 school and departmental libraries, has holdings of over 2 million volumes. Staff totals more than 200, including 60 faculty and professionals. The Libraries home page may be viewed at <http://thorplus.lib.purdue.edu/>

Application Process: Send statement of interest, resume and a list of references to:

Thomas L. Haworth, Personnel Administrator,  
Purdue University Libraries, 1530 Stewart  
Center, West Lafayette, IN 47907-1530.

Applications will be accepted until position is filled. Priority consideration will be given to applications received by February 15, 1998.

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer



## 6th International Conference on Geoscience Information Geoinfo VI.

Geoscience information specialists from around the world will meet September 9 - 14, 1998, in Washington D.C., for the 6th International Conference on Geoscience Information Geoinfo VI. The meeting entitled "Science Editing and Information Management across disciplines . . . across boundaries . . . through time" will include attendance and participation of international science publishers and editors.

On September 10, 1998, keynote speakers, formal papers, panel discussions will bring into focus for better understanding the broad topics of electronic publishing, ethics, intellectual property, archiving and information retrieval, education and training.

On September 9, 1998, large and small, bibliographical, graphical or digital geoscience databases will be demonstrated at AGU Headquarters. Workshops will also be offered. That night the welcoming party will officially mark the beginning of the four-day conference.

Abstracts for papers are welcome and should be sent by March 15, 1998 to

e-mail: [edinfo98@knsmos.agu.org](mailto:edinfo98@knsmos.agu.org)  
WWW : <http://earth/agu.org/editorinfo98>  
FAX : Attention Fred Spilhaus +1 202 328 0566  
Mail: Science Editing & Information Management  
1998 International Meeting  
American Geophysical Union  
2000 Florida Ave. NW  
Washington DC 2009  
USA

The above addresses can also be used to gain more meeting information.

- Formal field trips of the Mid-Chesapeake Bay area, Maryland Paleozoic rocks, Building Stones of Washington D.C., and Urban Geology of Washington will be offered on September 14, 1998.
- Trips to DC vicinity libraries will be a part of the meeting.

Other attractions:

- Visits to one of more of the Smithsonian Institution's museums and government attractions;
- Western Association of Map Librarians meeting to be held at the Library of Congress in early September 1998.

Claren M Kidd  
100 E Boyd R220  
University of Oklahoma  
Norman, OK 73019-0628  
USA

Telephone 405 325-6217  
Fax 405 325-6451 or 405 325-3180  
email [ckidd@uoknor.edu](mailto:ckidd@uoknor.edu)





**GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY  
1998 FELLOWSHIPS FOR GEOSCIENCE LIBRARIANS**

Fellowships to geoscience librarians from developing countries are available for a six-week program in the U.S. and Canada, from September 9 through October 29, 1998. Sponsored by the Geoscience Information Society (GIS), the fellowships will enable recipients to participate in the Sixth International Conference on Geoscience Information in Washington, D.C. (September 10-14) and the GIS annual conference in Toronto, Canada (October 26-29), and to enhance their professional skills through hands-on educational opportunities in American and Canadian earth science libraries.

Fellowships will cover travel expenses to the Washington and Toronto conferences and to host libraries, meeting registration fees, housing (including placements with host librarians), and a small per diem.

**REQUIREMENTS**

- 1 - Full-time employment in a professional position in an academic or governmental geoscience library in a developing country.
- English language proficiency, written and verbal. (See "LANGUAGE SKILLS" section, below.)
- Submission of a completed application form, including a letter of institutional support from your supervisor, by postal mail, fax, or e-mail by [\*\*\*DATE\*\*\*] to: [\*\*\*ADDRESS\*\*\*]

As part of the selection process, finalists may also be asked to participate in a pre-arranged telephone interview (paid for by GIS).

Fellowship recipients will be expected to take part in an open discussion at each of the conferences and to present a paper on their particular library programs. Six months after their participation, recipients will be asked to evaluate the experience of their training and how their libraries have benefited from it.

**PERSONAL DATA**

Name:

Sex: Male / Female

Date and place of birth:

Citizen of:

Permanent resident of:

Home address:

Home telephone:

Current position (job title):

Work address:

Work telephone:

Work fax:

E-mail:

Immediate supervisor:

Preferred mailing address: home / work / e-mail



## **EDUCATION/WORK EXPERIENCE**

Academic degrees (indicate college/university, year, and major subject):

Professional positions held, starting with your current job:

Describe your library (collections; facilities; staff; users; services; computer equipment; etc.)

Describe your specific job duties and responsibilities:

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Memberships/activities in professional organizations:

Awards, honors, and fellowships:

Major publications and presentations:

Have you studied/worked in the U.S. or Canada before? (Explain.)

## **AUTOMATION SKILLS**

Are you able to use the following? (Yes/No. If yes, indicate ability: 1=beginning, 2=fair, 3=good)  
[will be set up as a table]

IBM-compatible personal computers

Macintosh computers

Microsoft Windows (3.x, 95, NT)

Word-processors (Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, etc.)

Spreadsheets or database management software (Microsoft Excel, etc.)

Electronic mail

Telnet

FTP

Web browsers (Netscape or Internet Explorer)

OCLC

DIALOG, STN, or other online systems (Specify.)

GeoRef

Local online catalog/circulation system (Describe.)



## LANGUAGE SKILLS

Non-native speakers of English are requested to provide TOEFL scores from tests taken in the past two years. (Holders of academic degrees earned in the U.S., Canada, U.K., Ireland, South Africa, Australia, or New Zealand are exempt from the TOEFL reporting request.)

TOEFL scores:

Date tested:

Which other languages do you understand/speak fluently?

Which other languages can you read? Easily or with some difficulty?

## FELLOWSHIP GOALS

What do you hope to gain from the experience of your GIS Fellowship personally and professionally?

How will your library and its users benefit from your participation? Discuss specific ways in which you plan to share your knowledge and new skills in your home country.

What areas of geoscience librarianship are you most interested in learning about during your visit? (e.g. database searching; Web-based information resources; conducting reference interviews; map librarianship; cataloging; collection development; acquisitions; electronic journals; automation/library systems)

Please list any additional skills or qualifications that you feel are pertinent to your application.

## RECOMMENDATION FOR PARTICIPATION (to be completed by your supervisor)

How long have you supervised the applicant?

Please rate the applicant's performance in the following areas: (Excellent/Good/Fair)  
[will be set up as a table]

Professional knowledge (librarianship)

Work habits

Dependability

Automation skills

Oral communication

Written communication

Relations with library staff

Relations with library users



Adaptability to new situations

Resourcefulness and initiative

Analytical skills

Leadership qualities

Why do you feel the applicant will be successful in the GIS Fellowship program?

Please discuss specific ways in which you will help the applicant share his/her knowledge and new skills within your institution and with the library community in your country.

Name of supervisor:

Title:

Institution:

Signature:

Date:

Claren M Kidd  
100 E Boyd R220  
University of Oklahoma  
Norman, OK 73019-0628  
USA

Telephone 405 325-6217  
Fax 405 325-6451 or 405 325-3180  
email ckidd@uoknor.edu





## CALL FOR POSTERS

The Gemological Institute of America will host the 1999 International Gemological Symposium in San Diego, California on June 21-24. More than 2000 people are expected to attend this pivotal event. The symposium program - with the theme "Meeting the Millennium" - will feature technical sessions and panel discussions on a variety of topics of vital interest to all members of the gem and jewelry industry. In addition, there will be an open Poster Session featuring original presentations on such topics as new gem materials, synthetic gem materials, treatments, gem identification and grading instrumentation and techniques, gem localities, gem exploration, jewelry manufacturing, and jewelry design.

Contributions are being solicited for this Poster Session. To be considered for this important event (space is limited), please submit a preliminary abstract (no more than 250 words) to one of the Poster Session organizers by October 1, 1998. For further information on the Poster Session, contact Dr. James Shigley at 760-603-4019 (Fax: 760-603-4021, E-mail: [jshigley@gia.edu](mailto:jshigley@gia.edu)) or Ms. Dona Dirlam at 760-603-4154 (Fax: 760-603-4256 or e-mail: [ddirlam@gia.edu](mailto:ddirlam@gia.edu)). For information on the Symposium, contact Carol Moffatt at 760-603-4406 ([cmoffatt@gia.edu](mailto:cmoffatt@gia.edu)).

Mary Frances Lembo, GIS Newsletter Editor  
2500 George Washington Way #237  
Richland, WA 99352

Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 193

Michael Noga  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Science Library  
14S-134  
Cambridge MA  
02139-4307 USA

