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President's Column

How things have changed in the two months between columns! GIS now has a new **Publications Manager: Elizabeth Wallace**, of Syracuse University Library; a new **Auditor: Margy Walsh**, of Texaco, Inc. E & P Technology Dept.; and a new **GeoNet-L Moderator: Carolyn Laffoon**, of Purdue University, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences Library! A big "THANK YOU" to each of them AND to Lois Heiser who is stepping down as *both* Publications Manager and GeoNet-L Moderator, in order to be Vice-President/President Elect.

Since returning from Toronto, I have talked with and/or exchanged email messages with many of you about committee, representative, or appointed positions. It's been fun talking to so many of you. Even though every year I've seen the lists of members who hold offices or positions, I'm still surprised and extremely impressed by the number of members who willingly take on assignments. This is a very hard working and productive group. For the record, Lisa Dunn, last year's Secretary, told us all that GIS had 200 members. I have just mailed out 71 letters of appointment to members of this society; this means that more than one-third of the members hold some kind of office, committee assignment, representative, or appointed position! Quite a number of you do two or more different things for the society. In fact, at the moment I write this, we have 150

working positions within the society! If you're not one of those 71, but would like to be, review the list of the committees in this newsletter and get in touch with me.

Lois and I have been busy participating in GSA's Joint Technical Program Committee (JTTC), January Virtual Meeting. This year it was GIS's turn to be one of the seven reviewing societies for the Pardee [keynote] symposia proposals to be given at the annual meeting. It's been fun as well as challenging to participate!

New Committees: There are three new committees this year. The first is an Ad Hoc Committee on Career Information, chaired by Barbara Haner, which is already hard at work. They've been given until October of 2000 to get their work done, but they may well finish it a year early!

The second is a committee focusing on public affairs of significance to the society's members. It will be chaired by our American Geological Institute/Government Affairs Program (AGI/GAP) Representative, Marie Dvorzak, and is designed to function as a funnel for information to society members, as well as a sounding board for her.

The third new committee is reconstituted from the old Union List of Geologic Field Trip Guidebooks Committee, which, in times past, has been successive Ad Hoc committees, each charged with producing the next updated edition of the "list". Under the society's aegis, six different Ad Hoc committees have produced six editions to the Union List, which have then been published by AGI. The latest Ad Hoc committee examined the possibility of producing this valuable reference tool as a database and recommended that the society proceed. Since this will now be an ongoing project, Ad Hoc committee status was no longer appropriate and an ongoing committee has been set up to carry out the reformulated task. The committee has already been busy and the database is now up and available; if you missed committee chairman, John Mulvihill's, announcement on GeoNet-L, the URL for the database is: <http://www.agiweb.org/pubs/unionlist/>. If you have not yet tried out the database, do so—it's very easy to use. **Warning:** the database, at this point, is only the digital version of the sixth edition of the *Union List...*, which includes guidebooks published up through 1989. Thus there is a lot of work for the new committee to do. Consequently, we've established a large, complicated committee structure to meet this workload. In addition to the chair and six members, there are two Review Editors: Richard Spohn and Dorothy McGarry. Augmenting the work of the committee members, there are also a large number of transition or inputting "members", whose respective tasks are to input guidebooks from their own collections into the database, particularly titles from the ten year gap since the last printed version.

[continued on page 3]

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The GIS Newsletter is published bi-monthly in February, April, June, August, October, and December by the Geoscience Information Society. Subscription to the Newsletter is \$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 1999 issue of the GIS Newsletter should be received no later than 19 March 1999. If possible, please send materials by e-mail or on IBM-compatible disc (Word'97 or ASCII format).

This latter group will function more as Ad Hoc "members", since they are "performing a special task on a continuous basis for as long as needed." The Union List in its old format was a very valuable reference tool; in its new format, it should be even better; I'm excited that it will be available again.

Representatives: The society has a large number of representatives from us to other organizations. We still need to have a volunteer representative to the North America Cartographic Information Society (NACIS); duties include bringing the GIS view and information to the NACIS meetings, and sending a written report of NACIS activities to the GIS Newsletter Editor.

Clara McCloud and Richard Spohn are currently the GIS representatives to the Cartographic Users Advisory Council (CUAC). Richard's duties this past year, in addition to representing GIS issues to the government agencies with whom the CUAC members interact, included serving as the CUAC Chair. Good work, Richard! Clara is already tapped to be CUAC chair in 2000. Go Clara!

Concluding Items: The Best Reference Work (Mary B. Ansari Award) Committee and the Website Advisory Committee each could use one or two more members. For neither of these two committees is it necessary to be at the Annual Meeting. If you are interested in working with either of these two groups, or have an interest in one or more of the others, please contact me (650 725 1102 or cderksen@marine.stanford.edu).

Papers for the *Proceedings* volume are coming in; it promises to be an information-packed volume. The due date for all papers to be turned in to me was February 1.

Charlotte Derksen
GIS President

Vice President's Column

It seems traditional to start this column with a comment on the local weather, and though Bloomington has seen a pile of snow and ice and snow, today we are enjoying a typical southern Indiana day – almost Spring-like. I am only missing a glimpse of the snow-capped Rockies to think myself already in Denver. But on to reality...

By the time you read this, the GIS schedule for Denver will have been submitted to the Geological Society of America meeting organizers. While nothing is set in concrete at this point, you may wish to highlight your calendar for our field trip on SATURDAY, October 23rd. This will be a major change to our usual fare and you will have to plan your travel accordingly if you wish to hit the road with this

group. The reason for this change -- the Western Association of Map Libraries is meeting just before GSA and we hope have members of both organizations on the field trip.

GIS will be having only one paper presentation session "*Communication Divides: Perspectives on Supporting Information Bridges in the Geosciences*"

As I tried to outline in the December GIS Newsletter, I hope many of you are planning papers related to Geoscience "literature" and worldwide data needs. Our plans for a half-day session depend on your submission of abstracts, so please put on your thinking caps and contribute your research thoughts on these issues. This is a wonderful opportunity to exchange ideas and working applications with your professional colleagues. In addition, researchers not in libraries often attend our sessions and they pick up and contribute new ideas for creating or finding geoinformation. While the call for abstracts has not yet been sent by GSA, the abstracts must be submitted by July 12th. You can already get copies of the Abstract, Registration, Housing, etc. forms at the GSA Web Site: <http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/99/infoform.htm>

In addition to formal papers presented at the Topical Session (as they are now to be called) I wish to encourage submission of abstracts for POSTER sessions as well. These provide yet another opportunities to put Geoscience Information before the geoscience community. The poster model is more conducive to illustrative materials, and to opening discussions about research in the formative stage.

We will, of course, have committee programs, business meeting, and the ever-popular AWARDS LUNCHEON. By having our Field Trip early and only one papers session, GIS members will have more time to take in other interesting presentations, explore the exhibits, and enjoy Denver.

I am looking forward to a great meeting in Denver. Please feel free to contact me if you have issues you need to discuss, or concerns about papers you are considering. Remember, this is your meeting and your participation and input is very important.

Lois Heiser, GIS Vice President
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GeoRef Users Workshop

During the *GeoRef* Users Workshop at GSA in Toronto, Sharon Tahirkeheli of *GeoRef* suggested that the group should look over the core list of earth science journals and determine if some revisions should be made. The journals on this core list are given priority indexing by *GeoRef* indexers to insure that articles in the most frequently used journals are indexed first. A subcommittee of the *GeoRef* Users Committee will start to review this list during February and those who are interested are welcome to supply information. Although a major revision is not expected, changes in journals and in research emphasis may mean that a few journals are removed and replaced by others.

During the workshop, a study of the results derived from the same search on different platforms and difference in coverage between *GeoRef* and selected other databases was presented by Nancy Blair, chairman of the committee.

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Friends of the USGS Libraries Meeting 10/25/98

The meeting was called to order by Connie Manson (Washington Dept. of Natural Resources) as an open forum for discussion on the issue of a Friends group for the USGS libraries.

Nancy Blair (USGS) said that the USGS researchers and administration have supported the Library and recognize it as a national treasure. The USGS needs to work more closely with other geoscience libraries and make use of outside specialties. Blair indicated that they will listen to the external community and are interested in service to this community, but the Library cannot be involved at this level [establishing a Friends group]. There are national libraries in existence whose staffs provide support for their respective Friends groups. The USGS Library will assist with information and any other help they can give.

Linda Gundersen (USGS), Associate Chief Geologist, oversees the USGS Library and other areas. She said that she has heard from many constituents on what they envision as a national library of the geosciences. Gundersen reviewed the USGS' operational goals, which include maintaining a first-rate geoscience library. She feels that the USGS

Library is the premier earth science library in the nation and is a "national resource" (about 50% of its users are from the outside community). USGS objectives for the Library include the following:

- Create a publicly available system for computerized searches
- Increase holdings in environmental and biological sciences
- Explore cost recovery

Gundersen reviewed the Library's holdings situation. There is a feeling that costs should be held down, but she strongly expressed the opinion that it be accepted for planning purposes that libraries are dynamic and grow as a matter of course, and costs will grow alongside. Gundersen stated that a national library is the USGS long-term goal. Short-term goals include: (1999) a WWW catalog; the move towards a digital library; establishment of a library advisory board composed of both internal and external users and librarians; (2000) the Library will have a line-item on the USGS budget; (2000+) establishment of a National Library Foundation for fundraising; establishment of a national library. Gundersen also talked about improving communication with the outside. The library advisory board will be a part of this, as will a biannual newsletter to keep users informed of Library activities.

Dave Applegate (AGI Director of Government Affairs) reiterated that the USGS Library is vital to AGI member societies and individual members. It was a "shock to the system" for the USGS when outside users became involved in public policy to support the Library last year. Applegate commended Bill Holser (University of Oregon) and the Geoscience Information Society for their efforts. He said that the USGS has responded very positively to this feedback with the activities outlined by Gundersen and that it is important for all to work with the USGS to improve the Library. Partnerships are encouraged, and Applegate said that the new USGS Director, Chip Groat, will give the Library his attention.

Bill Holser (University of Oregon) emphasized the importance of public action as a benefit both to the community of users and the community of professionals. He felt that only in the last few weeks has the direction of proposed activities become clear and he is encouraged. Holser also mentioned that the National Research Council is involved in studying the issue of national libraries.

Manson distributed a handout explaining the purpose of Friends groups and called for discussion. There was discussion on the involvement of federal employees in such activities. Holser said that restrictions should be better defined, perhaps by legal council. Applegate

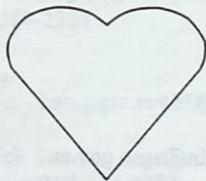
indicated that laws prohibiting government employees from involving themselves in promotional/lobbying efforts have been loosened and said that he would look into this. Blair said that according to her understanding, lobbying and soliciting funds was prohibited, as were activities during work time.

Lois Heiser (Indiana University) suggested that the USGS advisory board determine whether a Friends group was needed. Gundersen indicated that a Friends group might be integral to the further development of the Library as proposed. She repeated that feedback has centered on electronic access, communication, a budget line item, a Friends group and/or a Foundation, and the admission that the USGS Library is a national resource.

Lois Pausch (University of Illinois) suggested that a Friends group be modeled after an existing group, such as the Friends group of the Map and Geography Division of the Library of Congress. Manson emphasized that any Friends group must work very closely with the USGS administration. She urged the USGS to make use of the Geoscience Information Society in any way necessary. Holser expressed concern about the budget, to which Janet Morton (USGS) responded. Mrs. Holser indicated that having the Library represented by a line item in the budget gave it more visibility and recognition, and improves the ability of a group such as those present to support it. Holser mentioned previous discussions on a National Library of the Environment, which has been studied by Congress. Gundersen indicated that, while she didn't know if that would have an impact on the USGS Library, she felt that "natural resources" was an appropriate grouping for a library.

Manson emphasized the need for continued feedback from interested parties, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa G. Dunn, Colorado School of Mines
Secretary, Geoscience Information Society



Are You Ready If It Rains In Your Library?

Many of us have had the unfortunate experience of having it rain in our library. Whether it is caused by a leak from a lab upstairs, the radiator or the roof it is always a stressful and action-packed experience.

Here's a little list of some things you'll need to have on hand if that 'rainy day' rolls around to your library:

- plastic sheeting (and lots of it!)
- paper towels (lots of them)
- newspaper (good for sopping up puddles)
- fans
- string/cord and clothespins (for hanging up maps and sheet material)
- wax paper or freezer paper (to wrap books)
- boxes or crates (for packing materials to send to be freeze-dried)
- people (the more the better)

As soon as the rains begin, get your collections covered with plastic sheeting. Have someone call for help to get the leaks stopped and gather as many people as possible to start examining materials for water damage. (Of course, this assumes you know the liquid is water! Plastic gloves are a good idea, especially if your library is located in a laboratory building!). Dry off each item with paper towels and stand them up and fan the pages open. If the paper is clay-coated, a paper towel must be inserted between EACH page to prevent them from sticking together.

For severely damaged materials, you may want to wrap them in freezer or wax paper and send them out to be freeze-dried. Be sure you know the location of the nearest freeze-drying facility. Large sheets or maps can be laid out flat or hung from lines using clothespins to dry. Start fans immediately to keep air circulating, promote drying and minimize the opportunity for mold to grow. Periodically turn and fan the pages of the books being dried. When dry, shelve the books tightly to help press the pages and bindings. You may want to shelve water-damaged items separately for a few days in order to monitor potential mold growth. (This isolation will help thwart the spread of mold to the rest of the collection.). Leave the fans blowing for several days to be sure drying is complete. Finally, it is extremely important to store these supplies in an obvious and, particularly for the paper towels, watertight place. There's nothing quite like having it rain on your disaster supplies.

Linda Musser & Lisa Wishard
Penn State Earth and Mineral Sciences Library

Member News - February 1999

Welcome to the following new members and former members who have rejoined GIS.

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Guidebook Database Now Online

As of 12-30-98, the Union List of Geologic Field Trip Guidebooks of North America database is online at <http://www.agiweb.org>

This database contains the information in the print publication, *The Union List of Geologic Field Trip Guidebooks of North America*, sixth edition, compiled and edited by the Geoscience Information Society, Guidebooks Committee, Richard Spohn, Chair, and published by the American Geological Institute, in 1996.

To be included in this database, a field trip write-up must include a road log. Typically, the guidebook contains descriptions of the geological features along an itinerary, and is thus a resource for local geology. The database includes a geographic index and a stratigraphic index by which a user can zero in on a particular local.

Since most field trip guidebooks are not available through bookstores and not widely distributed, the database includes at least one library which has each guidebook. The database also includes an up to date directory of the libraries that have been listed as guidebook sources, for use in requesting a copy or interlibrary loan of a guidebook. These libraries have generously contributed to the building of the guidebook database. In most cases, one or more members of the Geoscience Information Society work in the contributing library.

The database resides on a server at the American Geological Institute. The American Geological Institute copyrights the database. There is no charge for using the database. Most of the guidebooks cited are from the period 1940-1988. A few are from earlier. The Geoscience Information Society, Guidebooks Committee, is undertaking to add guidebooks for the period 1989-1998 to the database. Members of the Geoscience Information Society will add guidebooks to meetings held in 1999 and subsequent years. GIS

members will add to the database remotely and volunteer editors will review it.

A User Guide for the database is under preparation by the Guidebooks Committee. A second Guide to adding new guidebooks to the database is also under preparation. Both Guides will be accessible online, along with the database.

The guidebook database is now available from the American Geological Institute web page <http://www.agiweb.org> and will also be available from the Geoscience Information Society web page <http://www.geoinfo.org>. There is no charge for using the Guidebook database. Questions about the database can be e-mailed to John Mulvihill, saurus@patriot.net or to Kay Yost, kyost@agiweb.org.

Literature Review By Miriam Sheaves

In the October 1998 issue of *Library Resources & Technical Services*, 42 (2):282-291, Richard E. Sapon-White and Mary Hansbrough discuss "The Impact of Subject Heading Assignment on Circulation of Dissertations at Virginia Tech". Louise Zipp called this article to my attention and noted that "the authors statistically demonstrate that dissertations with subject headings in the OPAC are checked out at a higher rate than those that lack subject access. Science dissertations were very profoundly affected. Of course, we all knew this from anecdotal observations, but it's nice to have a confirmation."

Volume 42 of *LRTS* has a feature article on sci-tech serials by Stephen J. Bensman and Stanley J. Wilder, "Scientific and Technical Serials Holdings Optimization in an Inefficient Market: a LSU Serials Redesign Project Exercise", 42(3):147-242, July 1998.

The fall 1998 issue of *Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship* available at <http://www.library.ucsb.edu/istl/> has as its theme the serials crisis in science and technology libraries. This issue features articles by Albert Henderson, editor of *Publishing Research Quarterly*, and responses by Rob Kirby, David Flaxbart, and Emily R. Mobley. In her article, "Ruminations on the Sci-Tech Serials Crisis", Mobley introduces the players and issues in the crisis. She gives a historical overview and then discusses the roles of a number of events, people, and institutions that have contributed to the serials crisis either by action or inertia.

I recommend a recent issue of *Science & Technology Libraries*, v.17, no.2, 1998, which is chock full of articles of interest. Among these are two by **Julie Hallmark**, "Introduction: Sci/Tech Librarianship:

Education and Training" (with Ruth K. Seidman), and "Education for the Successful Geoscience Information Specialist". Also in this issue are an article by Jay Lucker, "The Changing Nature of Scientific and Technical Librarianship: a Personal Perspective Over 40 Years", and "Incorporating the Internet into Science and Technology Reference Instruction", by Gregory K. Youngen and Gary N. Davidoff.

An article in *Library Mosaics* 9 (6): 8-11, Nov./Dec, 1998 discusses

University of California at Irvines experiences at their science library in "Reference Desk Partnering: Success Story".

The Association for Library Collections & Technical Services has launched its new Web newsletter, *ALCTS Newsletter Online*. Formerly a print publication, it is now accessible via the ALCTS home page at <http://www.ala.org/alcts>. [from: ALCTS NETWORK NEWS, Volume 16, Number 19, December 11, 1998]

New Soils Book Highlights Environmental Concerns

ALEXANDRIA, VA - Without soil, life as we know it could not exist. *Sustaining our Soils and Society*, the new release in the American Geological Institute's (AGI) Environmental Awareness series, presents a refreshing nontechnical look at soils. The colorful 64-page book is filled with striking photos and illustrations that demonstrate the importance of our soil resources and how they are connected to our daily lives and the future of society. Each copy of the book contains a poster that will be of special interest to teachers and youth leaders. The 18" x 24" poster relates soils to the environments in which they occur; the reverse side of the poster contains a soil investigation activity for middle- and high school students.

The authors, Thomas E. Loynachan, Kirk W. Brown, Terence H. Cooper, and Murray H. Milford, are practicing soil scientists and members of the Soil Science Society of America (SSSA). Their expertise covers the range of environmental concerns, issues, and interactions that relate to soils. "Our objective in writing about soils," they write in the Preface, "is to relate them to environmental concerns that affect us all. Soil is a fragile, finite resource. It plays unique roles in maintaining air quality, storing water and nutrients for plants, and filtering contaminants from surface waters. Using soil as a medium for disposing of liquid and solid wastes raises environmental questions as does any soil-based construction project." In addition to highlighting these important topics, the authors focus on soil as society's primary source of food and fiber.

AGI produced *Sustaining our Soils and Society* in cooperation with SSSA and the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). *Sustaining Our Soils and Society*, additional copies of the soils poster, and a soils bookmark are available from AGI and SSSA. The list price for *Sustaining Our Soils and Society* is \$15.95. Members of AGI member societies, teachers, and youth leaders may purchase the book for \$9.95 - a discount of nearly 40 percent - plus shipping and handling. Call the AGI Publications Center at (301) 953-1744. For information on bulk discounts on the soils book, poster, and book mark, contact Robert Tiffey at AGI headquarters by e-mail, <rlt@agiweb.org>, or by phone, (703) 379-2480.

Sustaining Our Soils and Society was prepared under the sponsorship of AGI's Environmental Geoscience Advisory Committee with support from the AGI Foundation. The objective of the Environmental Awareness series is to promote better understanding of the role of the Earth sciences in all aspects of environmental concerns and issues. As the authors of the Soils book note, "We, as citizens and policy makers, cannot afford to ignore the geoscience context, because Earth processes and systems affect all aspects of the environment."

Since its appointment in 1993, AGI's Environmental Geoscience Advisory Committee, co-chaired by Dr. Philip E. LaMoreaux and Dr. Stephen H. Stow, has assisted the Institute by identifying projects and activities that will help AGI achieve the following goals:

- Increase public awareness and understanding of environmental issues and the controls of Earth systems on the environment;

- Communicate societal needs for better management of Earth resources, protection from natural hazards, and assessment of risks associated with human impacts on the environment;

- Promote appropriate science in public policy through improved communication within and beyond the geoscience community related to environmental policy issues and proposed legislation;

- Increase dissemination of information related to environmental programs, projects, research, and professional activities in the geoscience community.

For additional information on AGI's environmental geoscience program, contact Travis L. Hudson, AGI Director of Environmental Affairs, by e-mail, <ageology@olypen.com>, or by phone: (360) 681 5107.

The American Geological Institute is a not-for-profit federation of 34 professional organizations in the Earth Sciences representing more than 100,000 geologists,

geophysicists, and other earth and environmental scientists.

Natural Resources of Russia

The American Geological Institute is proud to announce the distribution of *Mineral Resources of Russia: Economic and Management*, the official journal of the Russian Federation Ministry of Natural Resources. Published six times a year, this journal covers the latest news on energy and minerals development, economic policy markets, legislative regulations, federation and province prospects, and much more! This is a must read for those who need to know what is happening or about to happen in Russia's natural resources industries!

One-year subscription: \$110.00

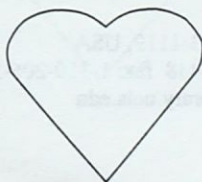
To order contact Robert Tiffey at AGI headquarters at 703-379-2740, or at rlt@agiweb.org.

Natural Resources GIS of Russia (CD-ROM)

This engaging CD-ROM provides access to regional-scale geoscience data. With the Natural Resources GIS of Russia, users can prepare customized maps for specific applications. The Russian Ministry of Natural Resources compiled and developed this powerful new research tool in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey. This CD includes all required software plus: regional-scale narrative overview of Russian-federation geology as well as energy and mineral resources; digital shaded relief map and vector topography; geological data, mineral locations, and petroleum basins map including gas fields.

Single user prices: Academic: \$99, Corporate \$450

For more detailed pricing information about the *Natural Resources GIS of Russia*, contact Robert Tiffey at AGI headquarters -- 703-379-2480, or at rlt@agiweb.org.



World-Wide Review of "Guidelines for OPAC Displays"

The Task Force on Guidelines for OPAC Displays invites your review of the proposed text for the "Guidelines for OPAC Displays."

The primary purpose of producing these guidelines is to bring together recommendations on a corpus of good practice to assist libraries in designing or re-designing their OPACs. Existing OPACs demonstrate differences in the range and complexity of their functional features. It was considered important to make recommendations on displays in order to work toward fulfilling recognized functions of catalogues.

The Task Force on Guidelines for OPAC Displays was set up by the IFLA Division of Bibliographic Control, with the Section on Cataloguing as the lead Section. The Sections on Cataloguing, Bibliography, Classification and Indexing, and Information Technology were represented with members, and commentators were appointed from a number of Sections and Round Tables. The first meeting of the Task Force took place at the 1997 IFLA conference in Copenhagen, with a follow-up meeting discussing a draft of the guidelines held at the 1998 IFLA conference in Amsterdam.

The draft guidelines were drawn up by Martha Yee, Consultant to the Task Force, with input from Task Force members and commentators.

Please send your comments to me on or before April 30, 1999, upon which date the review period will be completed. Following the review, comments will be considered in revision of this document, and a final version will be presented to the Standing Committees of the Sections on Bibliography, Cataloguing, Classification and Indexing, and Information Technology for a vote.

Thank you in advance for your comments. It is necessary to get a wide range of input, including comments from people from various cataloguing traditions and using various formats, in order to make the final guidelines meet the needs of libraries throughout the world.

The draft of the guidelines is available on the IFLA web site at:

<http://www.ifla.org/ifla/VII/s13/guide/opac.htm>

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Internet: dmcgarry@library.ucla.edu

Federal Geographic Data Committee Announces Plans for 1999 National GeoData Forum

Washington, DC * Mark Schaefer, Department of the Interior Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science announced plans to hold a public Forum on the future of geospatial data. Geospatial data means information that identifies the geographic location and characteristics of natural or constructed features and boundaries on the earth. Geospatial data are used in a wide variety of applications to help governments and the private sector make better decisions, analyze trends and provide information to the public. The Forum will be held on June 7-9, 1999 at the Marriott at Metro Center in Washington, D.C.

The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC), chaired by Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt, is an interagency committee composed of representatives from 16 Cabinet-level and independent Federal Agencies. The FGDC in collaboration with public and private sector organizations coordinates the development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure.

The National Spatial Data Infrastructure or NSDI is a national initiative launched by Executive Order in 1994 to advance the nation's capacity to develop, use, share and disseminate geospatial data. The NSDI is the term used to describe the array of technologies, digital data, public policies, people and institutions needed to put current and accurate geographic data into the hands of citizens and decision-makers. The 1999 National GeoData Forum is the third in a series, following forums in 1993 and 1995.

The 1999 Forum will focus on the actions needed to attract private sector investment to the initiative. Public and private financing options, distributed leadership models, and emerging technologies are key topics. The FGDC sees the time as ripe for state, county, city and tribal governments and businesses to come together in the 1999 GeoData Forum to discuss and endorse a new set of Public, Private, Academic, Non-Profit and multi-organizational financing options and distributed leadership models. Emerging and converging technologies are making it easier than ever for geospatial data users to pool and share their data.

"This initiative is poised to take off because we can now provide decision-makers with concrete examples of how geographic information technologies are being used everyday to solve real world problems," said Schaefer. "This will be an exciting and timely meeting. We invite citizens and leaders in the public and private sectors to participate."

These organizations are represented on the Steering Committee the FGDC formed to plan the Forum: International City/County Manager's Association, National League of Cities, Urban Logic Inc., National Geographic Society, Geographic Data Technology, Inc,

Interoperability Advisory Group, University Consortium for Geographic Information Sciences, National States Geographic Information Council, Mapping Sciences Committee, National Association of Counties, Lucerne International, Open GIS Consortium, Western Governor's Association, and the National Association of Regional Councils.

"Using common solutions and sharing data will dramatically improve the way we make decisions," states U.S. Representative Paul Kanjorski, a member of the Steering Committee. "This is a great opportunity to get involved in setting the direction for this important national initiative."

For more information visit the 1999 National GeoData Forum website at <http://www.fgdc.gov/99Forum> or contact Kathy Covert, FGDC Staff, (703) 648-4144.

Please submit your letter of application, curriculum vitae and the names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of three current professional references to:

Dr. Frits Pannekoek
Director, Information Resources
750 MacKimmie Library Tower
University of Calgary
Calgary, Alberta Canada T2N 1N4
Fax: (403) 282-1218 or e-mail application to:
brayley@ucalgary.ca

Deadline for receipt of application is February 15, 1999. Early applications appreciated.

**University Of Calgary Library
Manager, Gallagher Library Of Geology And
Geophysics**

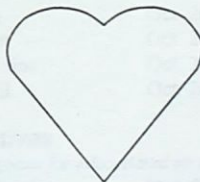
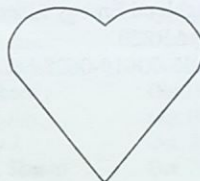
The University of Calgary Library invites applications for the position of Manager, Gallagher Library of Geology and Geophysics. This is a limited term position to December 31, 2000 at the Librarian III level. (Funding is being sought to confirm a tenure-track position).

The Manager, reporting to the Associate Director, Client Services, is responsible for developing and integrating the latest information technologies and resources to support the teaching and research directions of the department. This includes the development and delivery of innovative reference, instruction and information literacy programs and collection development strategies in Geology and Geophysics, areas of excellence at the University of Calgary. Further information on the University of Calgary and the Library can be found at (www.ucalgary.ca/library).

Candidates must have an ALA-accredited Master of Library Science or equivalent accreditation, relevant management experience, strong skills in information technology and web design, and a demonstrated contribution to scholarly endeavors. An undergraduate degree in geology, geophysics or earth sciences and experience in the oil and gas industry are strong assets.

Salary Range: \$41,231 to \$48,463 per annum

In accordance with Canadian immigration requirements, priority will be given to Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada. The University of Calgary respects, appreciates and encourages diversity.



Mugs & Paperweights for Sale!

GIS now has mugs and paperweights for sale. Each are &US6.00, postpaid.

The 13 oz white porcelain mug carries navy lettering (GIS on one side and Geoscience Information Society on the other).

The 2-inch clear acrylic paperweight has a colorful world globe inside the cube. GIS and Geoscience Information Society in white lettering are on one side of the cube.

If you want to place an order, send the order and a check payable to the **Geoscience Information Society** to:

Claren Kidd
L.S. Youngblood Energy Library
100 E. Boyd R220
Norman, OK 73019-0628.

GIS Logo Contest

We're pleased to announce a contest to choose a new GIS logo. The rules are simple:

1. The graphic must be readily reproducible at various scales.
2. It could include our society name and(or) initials, but doesn't have to.
3. You may submit as many entries as you like.
4. The entrants will remain anonymous (*you* can reveal your identity, but we won't).
5. Send your entries to **Connie Manson**; she will forward them to the GIS Executive Board.
6. **Entries must be received by June 1, 1999.**
7. The Executive Board will select the finalists, which will be voted on by the members.
8. The winner will receive a Prize (to be determined later).



GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY
Roster of Officers, Appointees, Representatives, and Committees
January, 1999

Elected Officers

President: Derksen, Charlotte Oct.1998-Oct.1999
 Vice-President/President
 Elect: Heiser, Lois Oct.1998-Oct.1999
 Past-President: Manson, Connie Oct.1998-Oct.1999
 Secretary: Hardy, Shaun Oct.1998-Oct.2000
 Treasurer: Goodman, Susan Oct.1997-Oct.1999

Appointees *

Auditor: Walsh, Margy 1999-
 GeoNet-L Moderator: Laffoon, Carolyn 1999-
 Newsletter Editor: Lembo, Mary Frances 1997-
 Newsletter: Reviews Editor: Sheaves, Miriam 1998-
 Publications Manager: Wallace, Elizabeth 1999-
 Publicity Officer: La Russa, Carol 1996-
 Web-Master: O'Donnell, Jim 1999-

* Includes Time appointment began

Representatives **

AGI/GAP: Dvorzak, Marie Oct. 1999
 AGI/GeoRef: Larsen, Suzanne Oct. 2000
 AGI/Mem.Soc.Cnl: Haner, Barbara Oct. 2001
 AGI/Secretary: Lerud, Joanne Oct. 2001
 ALA/Sci.Tech: DeFelice, Barbara Oct. 2001
 ALA/MAGERT: Pausch, Lois Oct. 2000
 ALA/MAGERT: Zogg, Thomas Oct. 2000
 ALA/PARS: Zipp, Louise Oct. 2001
 CUAC: McLeod, Clara Oct. 2000
 CUAC: Spohn, Richard Oct. 2001
 NACIS: VACANT
 SLA Map&Geog: Clement, Elaine Oct. 2000
 WAML: Spohn, Richard Oct. 2000
 WAML: Nancy Blair Oct. 2001

Committees: **

1999 Annual Meeting

Purpose: Assist VP in organizing annual meeting activities
 Chair: Heiser, Lois Oct. 1999
 Member: Clement, Elaine Oct. 1999
 Member: Dunn, Lisa Oct. 1999
 Member: Larsen, Suzanne Oct. 1999
 Member: Yocum, Patricia Oct. 1999

Ad Hoc Committee on Career Information

Purpose: Draft the text for a brochure highlighting career opportunities and/or needs in Earth Sciences Information.
 Chair: Haner, Barbara Oct. 2000
 Liaison / Ed. Initiatives: Scott, Mary Oct. 2000
 Member: De Felice, Barbara Oct. 2000
 Member: Hallmark, Julie Oct. 2000
 Member: Yocum, Patricia Oct. 2000

**Includes Date Term Ends

Archives

Purpose: responsible for archiving and preservation of society records.

Co-Chair: Krick, Mary Oct. 1999
Co-Chair: Pausch, Lois Oct. 1999
 Photographer: Baclawski, Diane Oct. 2001

Best Paper

Purpose: Determine winner of award for best paper in geoscience information.

Chair: Zipp, Louise Oct. 1999
 Member: Davis, Renee Oct. 2001
 Member: Green, Chip (Julian) Oct. 2001
 Member: Sorensen, Janice Oct. 2000
 Member: Spencer, Kathleen Oct. 2001
 Member: Walsh, Margy Oct. 1999
 Member: Zeidler, Patricia Oct. 2001

Best Reference Work (Mary B. Ansari Award)

Purpose: Determined winner of the Mary B. Ansari Best Reference Work Award.

Chair: Lerud, Joanne Oct.1999
 Member: Farmer, Michael Oct. 2001
 Member: Newman, Linda Oct. 2000
 Member: Noga, Michael Oct.1999
 Member: O'Donnell, Jim Oct.1999
 Member: Scott, Sally J. Oct. 2001
 Member: Tahirkheli, Sharon Oct. 2001

Collection Development

Purpose: Collect, analyze, disseminate, and publish data on geoscience literature costs; investigate, respond to issues; report on cooperative collection development issues.

Chair: Hiller, Steve Oct. 2000
 Member: Chen, Li Mei Oct. 2001
 Member: Hunter, John Oct. 2000
 Member: La Russa, Carol Oct. 2001
 Member: Merryman, Peggy Oct. 1999
 Member: Newman, Linda Oct. 2001
 Member: Noga, Michael Oct. 1999

Digital Data

Purpose: Monitor and evaluate new products; report to the membership via the Newsletter and/or Digital Data Forum.

Chair: Fleming, Adonna Oct. 2000
 Member: Brody, Roberta Oct. 2001
 Member: Cotosman, Patricia Oct. 2001
 Member: Dunn, Lisa Oct. 2001
 Member: Gordon, Ian Oct. 2000
 Member: Knox, Lorraine Oct. 2001
 Member: Stoffer, Phil Oct. 2001

Education Initiatives

Purpose: Develop programs for educational services.

Co-Chair: Brown, Regina Oct. 1999
Co-Chair: Scott, Mary Oct. 1999

Exhibits

Purpose: Plan, design, and arrange for GIS exhibits and maintain booth materials.

Chair: Love, April Oct. 2000

Member: Blom, Karen Oct. 2001
Member: Scott, Sally J. Oct. 2000

GEOREF Users' Group

Purpose: Advise GEOREF on problems/enhancements; advise vendors on online implementation; share searching techniques; educate non-users; conduct workshops.

Chair: Blair, Nancy Oct. 2000

Member: Anceau, Annick Oct. 2001
Member: Laffoon, Carolyn Oct. 2001
Member: Priestman, Ann Oct. 2001
Member: Shields, Caryl Oct. 1999
Ex officio: Tahirkheli, Sharon

Guidebook Standards

Purpose: Revise, distribute guidelines; determine winner of best guidebook award.

Chair: Kidd, Claren Oct. 2000

Member: Knox, Lorraine Oct. 1999
Member: Messick, Carol Oct. 2001
Member: Newman, Linda Oct. 2000
Member: Spencer, Mary Oct. 1999
Member: Spohn, Richard Oct. 1999
Member: Thompson, Thelma Oct. 1999

International Initiatives

Purpose: Investigate, report on, and recommend internationally-focused activities for GIS.

Chair: Kidd, Claren Oct. 2000

Member: Chen, Beverly Oct. 1999
Member: Colodner, Zelda Oct. 2001
Member: Hallmark, Julie Oct. 2001
Member: Haner, Barbara Oct. 2000
Member: Hanson, Dena Oct. 2001
Member: Isellidh, Independencia Oct. 2001
Member: McGarry, Dorothy Oct. 2001
Member: Tahirkheli, Sharon Oct. 2001
Member: Tomgren, Torre Oct. 1999
Member: Yocum, Patricia Oct. 1999

Membership

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

Chair: DeFelice, Barbara Oct. 2001

Member: Baker, Kay Oct. 1999
Member: Blom, Karen Oct. 2001
Member: Chen, Beverly Oct. 2001
Member: Chen, Li Mei Oct. 2000
Member: Krick, Mary Oct. 2001
Member: Laffoon, Carolyn Oct. 1999
Member: McLeod, Clara Oct. 2001
Member: Soares, Richard Oct. 2001
Member: Wallace, Elizabeth Oct. 2001

Nominating

Purpose: Nominate candidates for elective offices; prepare, mail, count ballots, and report results.

Chair: Manson, Connie Oct. 1999
Member: Pausch, Lois Oct. 2001
Member: Sheaves, Miriam Oct. 1999
Member: Sorensen, Janice Oct. 2001

Public Affairs

Purpose: Identify actions of governmental bodies that may impact the Society or the dissemination of geoscience information.

Chair: Dvorzak, Marie Oct. 1999

Member: Mulvihill, John Oct. 2001
Member: Wishard, Lisa Oct. 2000

Preservation

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

Chair: Musser, Linda Oct. 1999

Chair: Wishard, Lisa Oct. 1999

Member: Clement, Elaine Oct. 2001
Member: Kamel, Pauline Oct. 1999
Member: Laffoon, Carolyn Oct. 2001
Member: McLeod, Clara Oct. 1999
Member: Pausch, Lois Oct. 2001
Member: Zipp, Louise Oct. 1999

Union List of Geologic Field Trip Guidebooks

*Purpose: update and maintain the "Union List of Geological Fieldtrip Guidebooks" database****

Chair: Mulvihill, John Oct. 2001

Member: Hanson, Dena Oct. 2001
Member: Joseph, Lura Oct. 2001
Member: La Russa, Carol Oct. 2001
Member: Messick, Carol Oct. 2000
Member: O'Donnell, Jim Oct. 2001
Member: Stoffer, Phil Oct. 2000

Review Editor: McGarry, Dorothy Oct. 2001

Review Editor: Spohn, Richard Oct. 2002

Transition/Inputting: Dvorzak, Marie 2000
Transition/Inputting: Haner, Barbara 2000
Transition/Inputting: Kamel, Pauline 2000
Transition/Inputting: Krick, Mary 2000
Transition/Inputting: Larsen, Suzanne 2000
Transition/Inputting: Manson, Connie 2000
Transition/Inputting: Masterson, Amanda 2000
Transition/Inputting: McLeod, Clara 2000
Transition/Inputting: Scott, Sally J. 2000
Transition/Inputting: Sorensen, Janice 2000
Transition/Inputting: Trombatore, Dennis 2000
Ex officio Inputting: Prensance, Jenny 2000
Ex officio Inputting: Shaikh, Juanita 2000

*** Transition /Inputting and Ex officio members will function as an Ad Hoc part of this committee

Website Advisory

Purpose: update and maintain the "Union List of Geological Fieldtrip Guidebooks" database.

Chair: O'Donnell, Jim Oct. 2001

Member: Plawman, Tom Oct. 2000
Member: Trombatore, Dennis Oct. 2001
Member: Wallace, Elizabeth Oct. 2001
Member: Wishard, Lisa Oct. 2000

**Includes Date Term Ends

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