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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

We've got a new administration here in Washington and weird things are happening. In an apparent last minute prank, all the W's were removed from the White House keyboards. While this might appear to be a problem of the greatest magnitude, it seems that the Bush Administration staffers were quick to find the 'W' in World Wide Web. All the information available on the Clinton Administration's White House Web site abruptly disappeared. It occurred to me to wonder what happened to the site. After all, this is the first time a transition of the Presidency has occurred post-Web. It appears there has been a long-term plan for the preservation of the Clinton Administration's site. Four different Web sites were used during the Clinton Administration. Clinton staffers picked four different times to copy to the Web site in its entirety and store it with the National Archives. This approach provides 'snap shots' of the web site and should provide most, if not all, of the information contained at the site when it was in use. This type of 'versioning' is one method of archiving Web sites. All four versions are available and searchable on the National Archives web site. Links don't work and no further updating will occur, but, at least, the information is not lost and gone forever!

As part of my transition into GIS administrative work, I have been struggling with committee assignments. Included

later in the Newsletter are the committees that I think are complete. This is by no means the full list. That list should be available in the April newsletter. If you haven't gotten around to requesting a specific committee assignment, please rush it to me as soon as possible.

My other great task of the moment is collecting papers for the Proceedings volume. By the time you read this, I hope to have the majority of the papers in hand. If I haven't gotten yours by then, don't despair. I'm sure I will be working on the volume for a long time.

Coming up in late February I'll be attending a gathering of representatives from the Geological Society of America's Associated Societies. This planning meeting will allow the Associated Societies to provide input to GSA on improvement of current interactions, as well as, possible future joint projects. Ideas, anyone?

VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Greetings! I submitted one of the 87 Topical Session proposals for the GSA Meeting in Boston in early January. Last year more than 150 sessions were proposed. Here is my proposal for the GIS session:

Short description: The last decade has brought about major changes in the format and delivery of geoscience information. The positions of those who publish, collect, catalog, interpret, and preserve geoscience information have changed also. This session focuses on the dynamic nature of geoscience information and its impact on the geoscience community.

Rationale: Odysseus wandered for ten years after the fall of Troy. In a sense, the last decade has been a long journey from a geoscience information system based on paper journals, maps, and CD-ROM discs to one that also includes electronic journals, preprint servers, geographic information
(continued, p. 3.)

Membership renewals for 2001 have been sent. The deadline for renewal is February 15, 2001. If you have any questions or have not received a renewal, contact Suzanne Larsen, GIS Secretary, at 303-492-4611 or Suzanne.Larsen@colorado.edu

GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY
2001 Officers

President

Sharon Tahirkheli
American Geological Institute
4220 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22302
phone: 703/379-2480 x231; fax: 703/379-7563
e-mail: snt@agiweb.org

Vice-President (President-Elect)

Michael Mark Noga
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Science Library
14S-134
77 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139-4307
phone: 617/253-1290; fax: 617/253-6365
e-mail: mnoga@mit.edu

Immediate Past President

Lois Heiser
Geology Library
1001 E. 10th Street
Indiana University
Bloomington IN 47405-1405
phone: 812/855-7170 fax: 812/855-6614
e-mail: heiser@indiana.edu

Secretary

Suzanne T. Larsen
Earth Sciences Library
Campus Box 184
University of Colorado
Boulder, CO 80309
phone: 303/492-4611; fax: 303/735-4879
e-mail: suzanne.larsen@colorado.edu

Treasurer

April Love
Science Library, R&I
P.O. Box 19556
University of California
Irvine, CA 92623-9556
phone: 949/824-7237; fax 949/824-3114
e-mail: amlove@uci.edu

Homepage:

<http://www.geoinfo.org>
Chair: Jim O'Donnell
Geology Library 100-23
Caltech
Pasadena, CA 91125
phone: 626/395-2199; fax: 626/568-0935
e-mail: jimodo@caltech.edu

Listserv: Geonet-L@listserv.indiana.edu

Editor: Carolyn J. Laffoon
Earth & Atmospheric Sciences Library CIVL 1210
Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN 47907-1210
phone: 765/494-0201; fax: 765/496-1210
e-mail: carolyn@purdue.edu

Newsletter Editor

Connie J. Manson
Washington Division of Geology & Earth Resources
P. O. Box 47007
Olympia, WA 98504-7007
phone: 360/902-1472; fax: 360/902-1785
e-mail: connie.manson@wadnr.gov

Publications Manager

Elizabeth Wallace
Science & Technology Libraries
Syracuse University Library
Syracuse, New York 13244-2010
phone: 315/443-2160; fax: 315/443-5549
e-mail: eawallac@library.syr.edu

Publicity Officer

Carol J. La Russa
Physical Sciences & Engineering Library
University of California, Davis
Davis, California 95616
phone: 530/752-0519; fax: 530/752-4719

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GIS members are encouraged to contribute materials for publication. Material for the April, 2001 issue should be received no later than March 23, 2001. If possible, please send materials by e-mail or on DOS-compatible disc.

(continued from p. 1)

systems, digital mapping, and Web access to large data sets, images, and databases. The editorial and distribution system has expanded from one primarily based on professional societies, commercial publishers, and geological surveys, to one that includes several individual researchers who provide direct access to results via their Web sites. Libraries have changed their focus. Preservation practices have evolved with changes in formats, and new media have presented challenges and opportunities for different types of instruction programs. The start of a new millennium is a good time to look at changes in geoscience literature and how those involved in its creation, distribution, and management have adjusted to changes in technology, funding, and focus toward users. This session will be an opportunity for speakers to describe evolving projects, show where they have avoided Sirens and steered their path between opposing obstacles, just as Odysseus steered between the whirlpool of Charybdis and Scylla, the six-headed monster.

As you see, this session covers a lot of territory. I encourage you to think about sharing your experiences and ideas over changes in geoscience information and libraries.

I expect that most talks will be volunteered. The April issue of *GSA Today* will contain a call for papers and the electronic abstract submittal form will be available. The paper abstract deadline is July 17 and the electronic abstract deadline is July 24.

Please contact me if you have any questions about the Topical Session or if you have ideas for other events at our Boston meeting. My wish is to make our part of "2001: A Geo-Odyssey" both informative and enjoyable.

And now for our Boston anecdote: The biggest public works project in the US is the "Big Dig," a massive reconstruction of the Central Artery through downtown Boston. I had a chance to tour a small section of the new ten-lane highway tunnel during First Night, Boston's New Years Eve celebration. You will see part of the project if you come to the GSA meeting in November. An early by-product of the Big Dig might even be in your library's collection. It's USGS Digital Data Series 3: "A Geologic Map of the Sea Floor in Western Massachusetts Bay Constructed from Digital Sidescan Sonar Images, Photography, and Sediment Samples." The new third tunnel from Logan Airport to downtown Boston goes through that area.

GIS COMMITTEES: Preliminary lists

Archives		Patricia Cotosman	1998-2001	Connie Manson	2001-2003
Mary Krick, Chair	2000-2002	Lisa Dunn	1998-2001	Clara McCleod	1998-2001
Diane Baclawski	1998-2001	Katie Frohberg	2000-2002	Elizabeth Wallace	1998-2001
Nancy Duran	2000-2002	Lorraine Knox	1998-2001		
Lois Pausch	2000-2002				
		International Initiatives		Preservation	
Best Reference Work (Mary B. Ansari) Award		Claren Kidd, Chair	2001-2003	Elaine Clement, Chair	1998-2001
Janice Norris, Chair	1998-2001	Zelda Colodner	1998-2001	Regina Brown	2000-2002
Michael Farmer	1998-2001	Julie Hallmark	1998-2001	Gloria Chawla	2000-2002
Linda Musser	2000-2002	Dena Hanson	1998-2001	Kristi Jensen	2001-2003
Linda Newman	2001-2003	Shaun Hardy	2001-2003	Carolyn Laffoon	1998-2001
Sally Scott	1998-2002	Independencia Iselidh	1998-2001	Pauline Kamel	1999-2002
Charles Weston	2000-2002	Dorothy McGarry	1998-2001	Lois Pausch	1998-2001
Thomas Zogg	1998-2001	Nora Tamberg	2000-2002	Mary Scott	2001-2003
		Julie Triplehorn	2000-2002	Susan Skinner	2000-2002
		Nominating		Public Affairs	
Collection Development Issues		Lois Heiser, Chair	2001	Marie Dvorzak, Chair	2000-2002
Charlotte Derksen, Chair	2001-2003	Martha Andrews	2000-2002	Diane Baclawski	2000-2002
Barbara DeFelice	2000-2002	David Lapse	2000-2002	John Mulvihill	1998-2001
Li-Mei Chen	1998-2001	Janice Sorenson	1998-2001	Lisa Wishard	1998-2001
Timothy Keel	2000-2002				
Carol La Russa	1998-2001	Membership		Website Advisory Committee	
Pat Yocum	2000-2002	Barbara DeFelice, Chair	1998-2001	Jim O'Donnell, Chair	1998-2001
		Karen Bohm	1998-2001	Dennis Trombatore	1998-2001
Digital Data		Beverly Chen	1998-2001	Elizabeth Wallace	1998-2001
Adonna Fleming, Chair	2001-2003	Mary Krick	1998-2001		
Chris Badurek	1998-2001				
Roberta Brody	1998-2001				

GIS Annual Business Meeting
November 14, 2000
Reno, Nevada

I. MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 PM by President Lois Heiser, with 39 members in attendance. The minutes of the last Business Meeting, published in the December 1999 Newsletter, were approved with one correction: the meeting date should read "October 26, 1999," not October 28.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Heiser introduced the current Executive Board and our new officers for 2000-2001: Michael Noga (Vice-President/President-Elect) and Suzanne Larsen (Secretary). All present introduced themselves and new members/first-time attendees were welcomed. A get-well card for absent member Dona Dirlam was circulated.

III. OFFICERS

[Annual reports have been published in the Newsletter. Updates/announcements were made as follows.]

Secretary. Hardy reported that membership stands at 203 as of November 1 and acknowledged receipt of more than \$600 in gifts to the Society this year. He noted the special support provided by our sustaining members.

Treasurer. Love distributed copies of the 2000 budget report, noting that it is still a work in progress.

Vice-President/President-Elect. Tahirkheli reminded everyone about the upcoming poster session, Digital Database Forum, and Professional Issues meeting.

IV. COMMITTEES

[Annual reports have been published in the Newsletter. Updates/announcements were made as follows.]

Exhibits. S. Scott put out an urgent call for members willing to make a multi-year commitment to working on exhibits; interested individuals should contact her.

Guidebook Standards. Kidd reported that the Committee is hard at work disseminating the Standards; one hundred copies have been distributed through the AAPG and its affiliates.

Membership. DeFelice circulated copies of the new membership brochure/application form; plans are underway for a widespread mailing campaign.

Union List of Field Trip Guidebooks. McGarry reported that the Committee is trying to get the inputting/editing workflow moving again; more help is needed.

Ad Hoc Committee for the Directory of Geoscience Libraries. Wallace announced that an organizational meeting consisting of Manson, Clement, Hardy, and herself was held. The Committee resolved that publishing a new print edition of the Directory would not be profitable or desirable. A web-based publication, possibly with the availability

of "print on demand" for those who lack Internet access or prefer a paper product, was recommended. A poll of those present at the Business Meeting was taken and substantiated the recommendation: no one was interested in a new print edition; virtually everyone wanted an online publication and most preferred having the full-text available (e.g., in PDF format) as opposed to a search-only mode. Considerable discussion over security and ownership followed: Hardy expressed concern about possible piracy; Heiser and Manson, about copyright; Larsen, about misuse of the publication in generating "junk mail" lists. Haner concurred with Larsen's concerns and questioned whether the Directory would be "devalued" by being free. Dunn countered that the type of promotional mail that would likely result is actually of potential value to libraries and that she would welcome it. Jensen suggested that the PDF file could be placed behind a password-protected site, with only a searchable version publicly accessible. Heiser asked Tahirkheli to proceed with enlarging the Committee and charging it with beginning the compilation process, with the goal of having firm recommendations on format(s) ready by next year.

Ad Hoc Committee on Career Information. Haner distributed copies of the new "Careers in Geoscience Information" brochure and thanked the Committee members for their efforts. The brochure will be distributed to library schools.

Ad Hoc Committee on Instruction/Information Literacy. Yocum reported that members interested in the quantification and measurement of user literacy gathered the previous day to explore possible directions for GIS in this area. The Committee has no formal structure as yet, since discussions are still at an exploratory stage.

V. APPOINTED OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES

[Annual reports have been published in the Newsletter. Updates/announcements were made as follows.]

AGI Member Society Council. Derksen reviewed the principal topics of interest from the previous day's Council meeting: each member society has been asked to report to AGI on its Earth Science Week activities (Derksen asked for input from GIS members); progress is being made in the development of new earth science curricula (Derksen asked for ideas on experiments that can be conducted with simple equipment); AGI is working with the AIP in funding 60-second science features on television news broadcasts aimed at the general public. Derksen reported that the AGI budget is in good shape, thanks to GeoRef revenues and increased grant activity. A full report will be prepared for the Newsletter. A question was raised about the possibility of distributing AGI's government affairs alerts via Geonet-L; Derksen felt that this might be worthwhile for selected

messages.

AGI Government Affairs Program/GIS Public Affairs Committee. Dvorzak discussed her ongoing efforts to keep GAP apprised of important issues for libraries, especially the Federal government's move away from printed documents in favor of digital publication and the crisis surrounding NTIS (which is currently being investigated by Congressional committee). Heiser announced that she has sent a letter to Congress on behalf of the Society protesting the threat to the Federal depository library program. Dvorzak invited members to contact her with any additional concerns.

AGI GeoRef Advisory Committee. Larsen reported that the Committee meets twice each year and that she has been monitoring Geonet-L traffic for relevant items. She would welcome suggestions from members regarding improvements to the database.

Cartographic Users Advisory Council. McLeod gave a brief report on the last CUAC meeting. Commercialization of government information and its potential impact on depository libraries was a central theme. McLeod noted that a letter announcing the government's draft policy on electronic distribution was sent out to library directors, but apparently did not reach all government documents/maps librarians. Heiser expressed concern over the deterioration of old, brittle folios and wondered if any digital preservation efforts were underway. Blair responded that the USGS has started a prototype digitizing project for early annual reports and Professional Papers, which may be expanded later to include folios. Members with other cartographic concerns were urged to pass them on to McLeod.

GSA Publications Committee. Based on her experiences at a long-range planning meeting and the regular Committee meetings, Manson expressed her sense that GSA genuinely wants more interaction with libraries as it moves into electronic publishing. She cited service to members and fiscal responsibility as the two controlling factors in GSA's policy-making. Manson reported that free full-text access to the *Bulletin* and *Geology* will continue through the end of December; fee-based, institutional access will be limited to library workstations in 2001, but will hopefully be available campus-wide in 2002. Subscription prices will increase next year and package discounts have been eliminated. She further reported that GSA is exploring collaborative ventures with AGI and AGU and is now participating in the Cross-Ref initiative. Derksen noted indications that AGU and GSA may be considering joint e-journal production, and added that AGU intends to have a site license agreement for JGR ready by the end of next year. Larsen observed that a major problem with GSA is that their publications staff don't really understand how library users use online journals; she has offered to have them visit her library, which is close to GSA headquarters, but has had no takers so far. Manson also announced that GSA is now coordinating production of field trip guidebooks for the annual meeting.

SLA Geography & Map Division. Spohn reported that

the Division met at the June SLA meeting in Philadelphia and seems to be back on track.

Western Association of Map Libraries. Spohn thanked Linda Newman for hosting a great meeting and for organizing this year's joint WAML-GIS field trip.

AGI Secretary. Lerud spoke briefly on her experiences as the first GIS member to serve on the AGI Board. Important decisions on geoscience education, publishing, and policy all are made by this body and she strongly encouraged the Executive Board and other interested GIS members to consider taking an active role by seeking a Board seat.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Guidebook Database. Heiser solicited suggestions on how to improve progress on the Union List of Field Trip Guidebooks database and to encourage more individuals to participate. Several members expressed confusion about the data gathering and data entry process. Kidd stated that she has been sending photocopies (title page surrogates) to J. Mulvihill but has had no feedback. Larsen commented that photocopies often do not contain sufficient information for record creation and that a data entry tutorial is needed. Haner suggested that sample entry screens and a blank template be provided. Musser wondered if a better submission method could be devised than mailing photocopies. McGarry agreed that more examples in the instructional material are warranted and accepted a suggestion by Newman that a Newsletter article be written to clarify the entire process. She will communicate the various concerns to Mulvihill.

Bristol Fund. Dvorzak announced that Ruth Bristol passed away around September. Heiser deferred discussion of disbursement of the Bristol Fund to a later date.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Listserv Archives. Heiser reported that negotiations are underway to move the Geonet-L archives (1993 to present) from Indiana University to Purdue; however, she questioned the necessity of archiving all of the messages in perpetuity. Kidd suggested that the Archives Committee be asked to decide what to retain. O'Donnell replied that he has already spoken with M. Krick about the possibility of their selectively weeding ephemeral material. Musser felt that such an effort would be unjustified, since the entire message archive could simply be downloaded to a CD. Heiser will ask the Archives Committee to make a recommendation.

GeoInfo VII. Heiser gave a status report on plans for the next International Conference on Geoscience Information, tentatively set for 2002 in Australia. The Australian Geoscience Information Association (AGIA) has notified GIS that they are still uncertain if they can host the meeting, and have asked us to put plans on hold for a few more months pending their decision. Lerud expressed concern about this indecisiveness and suggested setting a deadline of 6-12 months for a firm commitment. Haner observed that at least two years lead time is needed for planning, but Heiser

pointed out that there is no actual requirement that the conference be held on a quadrennial basis. Kidd reviewed the discussions which took place at GeoInfo VI in 1998 and some of the logistical difficulties experienced with past conferences. She reminded everyone that there is no central organizing body for the International Conference and that GIS is only one of many involved parties; she consequently advised taking a "wait and see" attitude pending further communication from AGIA, even if it meant delaying the conference by a year or two. Heiser agreed to keep the lines of communication open, but suggested we begin thinking about possible alternatives in case the Australian plans do not materialize.

Sponsored Member Program. Hardy pointed out that, although nearly \$400 was donated this year to the Sponsored Member Fund, no formal mechanism exists for the awarding of these memberships, apart from individual nomination by members (none of which were received). He pointed out that in 1999, sponsored memberships were given to the 12 finalists in the 1998 International Fellowship competition, but that last year no Fellowships were awarded and we consequently had no one to sponsor in 2000. Hardy recommended that the administration of the sponsored member program be de-coupled from the Fellowship program and become the responsibility of the Membership Committee. Further, the Membership Committee proposed that the scope of the program be expanded to make American and Canadian library school students eligible, in addition to information professionals from outside the U.S. and Canada. Hardy explained that the Committee envisions working through library school deans to identify students with an interest in geoscience librarianship.

Vigorous discussion followed, with most speakers agreeing on the need to cultivate new members for the Society, but advocating differing approaches. Suggestions ranged from subsidized conference registrations and/or travel grants to Newsletter-only subscriptions. Yocum proposed offering a "welcome to the profession" package, including a free one-year membership, for new geoscience librarians. Lerud challenged members to consider a more ambitious endeavor--such as an endowed scholarship--that would have an impact on both the profession and the Society. Jensen and Dunn pointed out the importance of providing sponsored members with a contact person or mentor. Haner and Manson advised focusing on the geographic area surrounding each annual meeting site. Heiser indicated that the Executive Board will consider the matter further.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Noga announced that the theme of next year's meeting in Boston will be "Geoscience Information: A Dynamic Odyssey," focusing on *change* and *decision-making*. He has asked Tahirkheli to appoint a program committee to assist him with developing the conference sessions; program ideas from members are welcome. Lerud reminded everyone

about the GSA Global Meeting in Edinburgh in June, 2001. O'Donnell invited members to attend the evening's AGI reception, which will recognize Lerud for her service as AGI Secretary. Several members announced job openings at their institutions. Dvorzak urged members to consider serving as mentors to library school students and Manson suggested posting resumes of promising new library school grads on Geonet-L. Kidd put forth an appeal on behalf of our International Fellow, Theodhora Zoto, for surplus geoscience literature and thanked Heiser and the Executive Board for their service to the Society.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 PM.
Respectfully submitted,
Shaun J. Hardy, Secretary

GIS Executive Board Meeting Summary November 15, 2000 Reno, Nevada

The GIS Executive Board met at the conclusion of the annual meeting. New officers assume their positions at this meeting. Attending were Lois Heiser (Past President), Sharon Tahirkheli (President), Michael Noga (President Elect), April Love (Treasurer), Suzanne Larsen (Secretary), Connie Manson (Newsletter Editor), and Elizabeth Wallace (Publications Manager).

A tentative calendar of GIS annual activities and deadlines for the Executive Committee was distributed and discussed as well as a draft of the proposed budget for 2001.

Dates for submission for the GIS Newsletter were set as follows: February issue, due by January 26; April issue, due by March 23; June issue, due by May 25; August issue, due date to be announced; October issue, due by September 21.

During a discussion of budgetary issues, April Love suggested that it would save a good deal of money not to have a computer in the GIS booth. She observed that it was rarely used for more than e-mail. She also suggested that the booth for the Boston meeting center around the 35th anniversary of GIS, with photographs and information about the society.

Awards given by GIS will be posted in the booth from now on. Chairs will be reminded to submit the information in a timely manner so that this can be done.

Following the discussion in the Business Meeting regarding mentorships, it was decided that Larsen will send the names of new members to Tahirkheli so that she might send a message of welcome to them as President of the society. It was suggested that an article on being a mentor be written for the newsletter.

Several other administrative matters were discussed.
Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne T. Larsen, Secretary

Preparing Problem Maps for Cataloging: Reflections of a New Earth Sciences Librarian

by
Kristi Jensen
Penn State University

Creating access to a library's collection of maps sounds like a simple task to a novice Earth Sciences Librarian. The reality of working on such a project, however, can be anything but simple. Having worked with primarily digital maps in my previous incarnation as a Resident Librarian at the University of Michigan, I had little background to support me as I began working on the preparation of the "leftover" maps in a large maps cataloging project in my new position at Penn State's Earth and Mineral Sciences Library.

The first set of maps to organize and prepare for cataloging included several sets of German geologic maps, ranging in age from the 1870's to the 1960's. All of the maps were at the same scale, so one might be deceived into believing no challenge would be involved with this task.

In order to understand the difficulties that arose, a brief description of the maps is required. The sets included a variety of maps covering and published by the different "states" in Germany with a shared index numbering scheme. The index ran numerically from west to east and did not end or wrap where one state bordered another. In other words, the indexers failed to realize that these maps were published by different entities and, according to cataloging rules, would have to be entered into the library catalog as "separate" items and therefore might not be interfiled as one big set of German maps.

One way to get around this oversight on the part of the map indexers was to catalog each set separately yet give them the same call number so that the sheets would interfile nicely and the sheets that appeared next to each other on the index map would be next to each other in the drawer as well. Of course this solution was too easy. As it turns out, the systems folks who control the local catalog had something to say about the use of duplicate call numbers. And what they had to say was NO. At least this was the first answer I was given. After much cajoling about the need to make these resources as accessible as possible to users, I was granted the right to utilize duplicate call numbers.

In addition, to the more recent German maps (1950's and 60's) a related set of older "Preussen" or Prussian maps covering areas in both Germany and Poland needed to be cataloged. All of the various "sets" were incomplete but would, as I mentioned above, interfile given a shared index numbering system. The problem with the Prussian maps was that they were numbered based on an older indexing system using different numbers. At first this appeared to be a small hurdle to overcome. Although the maps would need to be cataloged separately, I envisioned creating a handy joint index map that would translate the dual numbering schemes for users, thereby providing them with access to maps covering areas of Germany but not cataloged as German

maps. Both the sheet maps and the index maps have latitude and longitude lines that can be used to place them in the appropriate spot on the index map. Several of the Prussian maps were checked and everything appeared to fit together well on the "new" index.

As work on the joint index progressed, however, some strange longitude numbers began to appear. The numbers did not fit with the index grid in use. I soon discovered that the longitude on some of the older Preussen sheets was based on a different meridian system; the Ferro or Hierro meridian was used as zero prior to the adoption of the Greenwich meridian in 1884. Now an additional step had to be added to the process as work progressed on the joint index. Subtracting $17^{\circ} 40'$ from the beginning or ending longitude allowed these maps to be placed in the appropriate spot on the "joint index". The maps varied in their use of the Greenwich or Ferro meridian so attention to detail was important.

One more aspect of this collection had to be dealt with as well. In addition to many uncataloged explanations accompanying the maps, I also discovered several sets of explanations that had already been cataloged with differing call numbers for each "set". A decision had to be made regarding the best method for linking these pieces to the corresponding maps in the online catalog.

In the beginning a decision had been made to catalog each "map set" on one record rather than as individual sheets. The pros and cons of set records vs. sheet records could be discussed at length but I won't go into that debate here. With many sheets on one record, the holdings list at the bottom of each record did get rather lengthy. However, users trying to locate a particular sheet number could clearly see what we do and don't have; an important feature since our sets are so incomplete.

Now a decision had to be made whether or not to include the explanations on the same record as the maps, making the holdings even lengthier. Other decisions related to the explanations had to be made as well. Each cataloged item had already been assigned its own call number. Should we now change the call numbers to be the same for all sets (except for the Preussen maps) in order to interfile these items too? In the end the decision was made to assign all explanations a shared call number, meaning those items that had already been cataloged had to be remarked. In addition, the explanations were added to the set record for each group of maps rather than linking them through a note in the maps records. While the maps had been given a G call number, the explanations were given a QE call number so two holdings lists appeared on each record.

Finally, the first problem set was cataloged and it was

time to move on to the next group of problem maps. From start to finish the process of cataloging these German maps took approximately 5 months – 5 times longer than I ever would have expected and filled with more decision points than I had ever imagined. Based on my experiences with the German maps, I was able to move at least a little more quickly through the remaining problem sets.

What do I know now that I didn't know then? First, it pays to find out the limitations of your system as soon as possible. Even if you come up with a brilliant plan for cataloging items so that users can easily access them, your plan is irrelevant if the system won't or can't accommodate it. In addition to the limitations of the system, some cataloging departments also have rules regarding how they will catalog large sets of items. The system might not be the only variable that limits your choices.

Second, I still wish I had a better understanding of how users approach maps in our collection. As a novice user of paper maps, many of my decisions were based on how I

would go about looking for maps. Possessing a greater knowledge of users' approaches to locating maps would help inform my future decisions related to cataloging maps.

Third, I learned more about my philosophies concerning access via existing library tools. Many of my decisions along the way were made to facilitate seamless or transparent access to related items. Despite the limitations of the tools, I chose methods I thought would increase access for the novice user.

Finally, having a stronger knowledge of the history of cartography might have helped me through that idiosyncratic Ferro meridian problem. As was the case with this project, "live and learn." Preparing these German maps for cataloging turned into a complex research project that taught me more than I ever expected and began my journey into a new collection. This one project was an introduction to the myriad of collection decisions and problems I have faced since. If nothing else, this experience always reminds me that I still have many lessons to learn.

LITERATURE REVIEWS

by

Carol J. La Russa

The December 2000 issue of *American Libraries* has an article by Ron Chepesiuk which describes JSTOR and its history. JSTOR, short for "journal storage", is a program which digitizes back runs of journals and provides online access to them. ("JSTOR and Electronic Archiving", v. 31, no. 11, p. 46-58).

Victor T. Oliva tells how the Adelphi University Library greatly increases use of GPO depository items by selectively cataloging them in their OPAC. He also discusses other methods for adding GPO depository items to library OPACS. ("Bringing Federal Documents to the Forefront for Library Users: Selective Cataloging Using an OPAC," *College & Research Libraries*, v. 61, no. 6, p. 564, Nov. 2000).

Laura B. Cohen castigates librarians who endorse Yahoo! as a reference tool in her article in the January 2001 issue of *American Libraries*. She dislikes Yahoo! because of the voluntary (by the site producers) nature of its listings web sites, the highly commercial nature of its listings, and its non-use of library selection standards. She believes librarians should not recommend a substandard tool even if it is widely known to users. ("Yahoo! and the Abdication of Judgment," v. 32, no.1, p. 60-62).

Michael D. Cooper shows how the University of California has used transaction logs to learn about patterns of use of their web-based catalog in his article in the *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*. Analysis of transaction logs shows such disparate things as usage peaks based on the academic calendar and hits by Internet spiders. ("Usage Patterns of a Web-Based Library Catalog," v. 52, no.2, p. 137-148, 2001).

In a rather philosophical article in the *Journal of the*

American Society for Information Science, Ross Atkinson examines the future place of the library in providing information services. In addition to the more traditional roles of the library he sees a place for the library to provide intellectual context for the ideas presented in works in its collection. ("Contingency and Contradiction: The Place(s) of the Library at the Dawn of the New Millennium," v. 52, no. 1, p. 3-11, 2001).

Also in the *Journal of the American Society for Information Science*, Clifford A Lynch contrasts the past when indexing, such as cataloging, could be generally trusted to be reasonably accurate to the current situation where meta-data attached to web pages is widely and correctly regarded as suspect. He describes potential technical methods of establishing trust and the difficulties of their implementation. ("When Documents Deceive: Trust and Provenance as New Factors for Information Retrieval in a Tangled Web," v. 52, no.1, p. 12-17, 2001).

The November/December 2000 issue of *Online* has an article explaining XML (eXtensible Markup Language) and how it relates to SGML (Standardized General Markup Language), and XHTML. Darlene Fichter and Frank Cervone describe the flaws of HTML as a markup language and why XHTML (which conforms to the XML specification) is superior to it. The article gives contrasting examples of HTML and XHTML coding. The authors conclude that librarians who are concerned about the future should make sure that the HTML coding of their web pages is "well formed" and "valid" so it will be useable with XML. ("Documents, Data, Information Retrieval, & XML," v. 24, no. 6, p. 31).

BOOK REVIEW:

GIS for Earth Surface Systems--Analysis and Modelling of the Natural Environment.

edited by R. Dikau and H. Saurer.

Gebruder Borntraeger Verlagsbuchhandlung, 1999. 197 p.
ISBN 3-443-01041-5. DM68.00.

reviewed by

Mary Lynette Larsgaard
Geology Fund Manager, Davidson Library
University of California, Santa Barbara

For those of us who work at universities with geography departments, ordering books with the acronym "GIS" in the title has become almost a knee-jerk reaction, and having the word "earth" in the title intensifies our acquisitive instincts. At the same time, many of us have also acquired a kneejerk reaction - in this case negative - as far as ordering symposia; and we have become cynical about the content of a volume composed of papers each by a different author.

We have also become nervous about how library users are going to find that one specific paper within such a publication, when the best we can offer--beyond the general subject headings for the work as a whole--is table-of-contents searching through the online catalog, since all too often database search services (such as Geobase) do not index individual papers in the publication but rather just the main title. This publication serves as an example of each of these problems, except that the individual chapters are generally quite useful.

The first sentence of the well-written preface is admirably clear and to the point (p. v): "The intention of this book is to demonstrate GIS applications in physical geography." One wishes the last five words had been the title, since after all, almost all GIS systems are for earth surface systems. The editors go on, very cleverly taking the words out of this reviewer's mind with the first clause of the following sentence: "Despite a large number of publications and journals on GIS, we are under the impression that there are some basic problems with the current use of GIS technologies." The editors go on to point out that these problems are: the efficiency of commercial GIS applications; and the extent that new methods have been developed to solve specific problems.

Looking at the papers, it appears that the writing was done in late 1997 and early 1998, with the translation following, and publication in 1999. There is no indication that the articles were initially published elsewhere, e.g., in periodicals. While the translation is in general quite good (for example, the sentence structure is English, not German), occasionally some of the sentences are unclear--but perhaps they were just as unclear in German. The bibliographies are respectable and in some cases extensive. Overall, the papers are Europe-centric, as one would expect, given that the book is a contribution of the GIS working

group of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Geographie.

It would have helped if the papers had been arranged by category (e.g., climatology; hydrology; topography; ecology) rather than--I never thought a librarian would live to say this--in alphabetical order by the last name of the author. This leads into the previously mentioned access problem, that the LC subject headings assigned to the work ("Geographic information systems" and "Environmental sciences -- Data processing") are sufficiently general as not to be very useful for providing subject access to some of the papers (e.g., the papers on: snowmelt; central Kenya Rift; stagnant water bodies). Persons seeking that one specific paper that is right on their topic would have a difficult time finding these papers just from the general subject headings for the book as a whole.

There are a goodly number of monographs on GIS and physical geography, and this one is a worthy addition to that number, especially for earth-sciences libraries whose users are interested in geographic information systems as a research technique.

NEW GIS MEMBERS

Robert H. Sydnor
California Division of Mines and Geology
801 K Street, MS 12-32
Sacramento, CA 95814-3531 RHSydnor@aol.com

Richard Stringer-Hye
Vanderbilt University Library
Baker Building, Suite 700
110 21st Ave. South
Nashville, TN 37203-2408 stringer@library.vanderbilt.edu

Ronald E. Jones, Jr
University of Cincinnati
Law Library
Cincinnati, OH 45221 ronald.jones@law.uc.edu

Susan Toussaint
U.S. Geological Survey Library
345 Middlefield Rd, MS 955
Menlo Park, CA 94025 stoussai@usgs.gov

RETURNING MEMBER

Elizabeth A. Fish
Geoscience/Geology Librarian
Lamon-Doherty Earth Observatory
Columbia University
New York, NY 10964 ef109@columbia.edu

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Nancy L. Blair
U.S. Geological Survey Library
National Center, MS 950
Reston, VA 20192

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reference Librarian, Colorado School of Mines, Arthur Lakes Library, Golden, CO

Colorado School of Mines' Arthur Lakes Library invites applications for the faculty position of assistant reference librarian. *Responsibilities include:* staffing the reference desk; providing instruction and assistance to library users, including instruction on electronic resources; database searching; reference collection development activities; serving as a liaison to academic departments; participating on library and campus committees; engaging in professional, scholarly, and service activities; participating in general operations of the reference section; and special projects as assigned. Must demonstrate potential for professional growth and development. Some evening and weekend hours required.

The Colorado School of Mines is a doctoral-granting institution devoted to engineering and applied science, particularly in the areas of energy, mineral, and materials science and engineering. The Arthur Lakes Library is a specialized technical library that supports the educational and research goals of the Colorado School of Mines and serves as a regional center for information in engineering and science. The Library staff consists of 9.5 FTE library faculty and 11 support staff. For more information about CSM, the Arthur Lakes Library, and the work environment please see: <http://www.mines.edu/library>

REQUIRED: Master's degree in library science, and either a bachelor's degree in a science/engineering field or at least one year of experience in science/engineering library reference. **PREFERRED:** A second master's degree in a science/engineering field; additional library experience in science/engineering; and experience with computer applications, including electronic applications. A strong public service orientation, adaptability to a rapidly changing information environment, and good communication skills are of extreme importance. Salary: Minimum \$36,000, negotiable commensurate with experience.

Candidates should send a letter of application, resume, photocopy of transcripts and the names and phone numbers of 4 professional references to:

Office of Human Resources- Search #00-461010
Colorado School of Mines
1500 Illinois Street
Golden, CO 80401

The position is currently available and first consideration will begin February 1, 2001 and will continue until the position is filled.

Colorado School of Mines is an EEO/AA employer. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

Geology and Digital Projects Librarian, University of Illinois Library, Urbana-Champaign, IL

Position Available: August 21, 2001. A full time tenure-track position.

Duties & Responsibilities: The Geology and Digital Projects Librarian is responsible for the administration and operation of the Geology Library. S/he sets priorities for the library in support of the University's teaching and research missions, provides in-depth user education and reference services required by faculty and students in geology and related fields, and maintains effective liaison and communication with appropriate faculty and departmental library committees. The librarian manages, develops, and evaluates print and electronic collections and administers the Geology acquisitions budget. S/he develops and maintains the Geology Library Web sites. The librarian supervises the personnel of the Geology Library, consisting of 2 FTE clerical staff and numerous student workers who provide services to all library users. The Geology and Digital Projects Librarian also supports the digital enterprises of the Physical Sciences and Engineering Division (PSED) libraries (Chemistry, Engineering, Geology, Mathematics, and Physics/Astronomy), a leadership role offering the opportunity for innovation and creativity. Based on the priorities set by the Division, the position creates digital projects from conception to completion, provides advice, expertise, and training to PSED librarians involved with digital projects, and proposes digital projects to support Divisional goals and objectives. This position has the opportunity to redefine service in the physical sciences through electronic outreach and education.

Qualifications: Required: MLS from an ALA accredited library school or its equivalent; at least 2 years of successful professional library experience in an academic, research, or special library; experience with the literature of physical or life sciences; ability to manage Web sites and an understanding of and experience with the research and development efforts necessary to support a digital library environment; strong communication and leadership skills; ability to work collaboratively. Librarians have faculty rank and must demonstrate excellence in librarianship, research, and university/professional/community service in order to meet university standards for tenure and promotion. Preferred: experience with the literature of the geological sciences; an undergraduate degree or coursework in the physical or life sciences; experience with GIS (Geographic Information Systems); knowledge of and experience with markup languages such as SGML or HTML; demonstrated skills in the uses and applications of database systems, programming languages, and popular operating systems such as NT or UNIX; experience with metadata collections; collection management experience; evidence of participation in professional organizations.

Salary and Rank: Salary is competitive, and is commensurate with experience and credentials. This is a full-time faculty appointment at the rank of Assistant, Associate, or Full Professor, depending on service and research record.

Apply: Send letter of application and complete resume with names, addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses (where available) of three references to: Cindy Kelly, Head, Library Human Resources, University of Illinois Library at Urbana-Champaign, 1408 West Gregory Drive, Urbana, IL 61801; e-mail mokelly@uiuc.edu. Electronic applications are acceptable initially, but must be followed by a hard copy with signature. Phone (217) 333-8169.

Deadline: In order to ensure full consideration, applications and nominations must be received by February 19, 2001. AA/EOE.

Director, Geospatial and Statistical Data Center, University of Virginia Library, Charlottesville, VA

The University of Virginia Library seeks a creative, energetic leader who will direct the future of the Library's Geospatial and Statistical Data Center as it serves a university community with expanding interests in accessing data for geographic and statistical analysis. The University and the Libraries have a strong commitment to achieving diversity among faculty and staff.

Environment: The University consists of eleven libraries, with independent libraries for health sciences, law, and business. The libraries serve 12,000 undergraduates, 6,000 graduate students and 1,600 teaching faculty. The Library's homepage can be accessed at <http://www.lib.virginia.edu>. Thomas Jefferson's Academical Village and the historic Grounds provide an inspiring environment for teaching, learning, and research.

The Geospatial and Statistical Data Center (Geostat) is located in Alderman Library, the University's humanities and social sciences library. Geostat serves the University Community's teaching and research needs by identifying, acquiring, and providing assistance in the use of machine readable data sets for geographic and statistical analysis. Staff provides consultation on the availability, acquisition, and application of data for analysis, mapping, and other GIS activities. Geostat also supports a large traditional map collection consisting of approximately 200,000 maps, atlases, gazetteers, and other reference materials.

Responsibilities: Provides direction and leadership for geospatial and statistical data services within the Library and University. Integrates Center activities with similar or

related activities across the Library's digital centers, digital library research program and other units as necessary. Supervises Associate Director and Map Services specialist. Consults with faculty colleagues on research and teaching projects requiring statistical and/or geospatial data, promotes the use of these data resources across the University and provides library-based instruction for these resources to classes and individuals. Supervises management of print map collections, atlases and related cartographic products, including collection development, organization, maintenance, and preservation.

Required qualifications: Master's degree or higher in a related field. Working knowledge of maps in all formats. Extensive knowledge of computer software for cartography and statistical applications. Experience with mapping and GIS software (ArcView and ArcInfo experience preferred), CD-ROM and on-line mapping products and services, and ability to consult with faculty, staff and students regarding these applications. Successfully demonstrated experience, preferably with cartographic formats, in a large academic or research library. Commitment to diversity in the workplace and ability to serve a diverse user community. Excellent interpersonal, oral and written communication. Strong service orientation. Commitment to professional growth and development.

Salary and Benefits: Salary competitive, depending on qualifications. General faculty status. The University of Virginia offers excellent benefits, including 22 days of vacation and TIAA/CREF and other optional retirement plans. Review of applications will begin on February 1, 2001 and will continue until the position is filled. Send letter of application, resume, and names, addresses (including e-mail), and phone numbers of three references to: Ms. Gail Oltmanns, Associate University Librarian, Alderman Library, University of Virginia, PO Box 400114, Charlottesville, VA 22904-4114. The University of Virginia is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. Minorities are encouraged to apply.

MAP/GIS Librarian, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR

The University of Oregon is seeking a creative, enthusiastic librarian who will manage the Library's Map and Aerial Photography (MAP) Collection, help to shape the Library's new geographic information system (GIS) program, and participate in a wide range of services and professional responsibilities in a dynamic environment.

For more information see:
<http://libweb.uoregon.edu/admnpers/mapgis01.html>

GIS PUBLICATIONS LIST

Proceedings of the Annual GIS Meetings (ISSN 0072-1409) \$45.00 each; standing orders are \$45.00 per year. (Proceedings volumes 1 through 25 are out of print and available from: Out-of-print Books on Demand, University Micro-films, Inc., 300 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106.)

- v. 30, 2000, *Communication Divides: Perspectives on Supporting Information Bridges in the Geosciences*, ed. by Lois Heiser, (ISBN 0-934485-32-1)
- v. 29, 1999 *Accreting the Continent's Collections*, ed. by Charlotte R.M. Derksen and Connie J. Manson, (ISBN 0-934485-31-3)
- v. 28, 1998 *The Costs and Values of Geoscience Information*, ed. by Connie J. Manson. (ISBN 0-934485-29-1)
- v. 27, 1997 *Expanding Boundaries: Geoscience Information for Earth System Science*, ed. by Barbara J. DeFelice. (ISBN 0-934485-23-2)
- v. 26, 1996 *Crossing the Bridge to the Future: Managing Geoscience Information in the Next Decade*, ed. by Nancy L. Blair. (ISBN 0-934485-26-7)

Proceedings of the International Geoscience Information Conferences

- 6th, 1998 *Science Editing and Information Management*, Proceedings of the Second International AESE/CBE/EASE Joint Meeting, Sixth International Conference on Geoscience Information, and Thirty-second Annual Meeting, Association of Earth Science Editors, ed. by Connie J. Manson. (ISBN 0-934485-30-5) \$ 25.00
- 5th, 1994 *Geoinfo V, Proceedings of the 5th International Conference on Geoscience Information*, ed. by Jiri Hruska. (ISBN 0-934485-27-5) \$ 45.00 (2 vols.)

Directory of Geoscience Libraries, North America. 5th Edition, 1997. (ISBN 0-934485-25-9) Paper. \$ 35.00

GIS Newsletter (ISSN 0046-5801) published bimonthly; calendar year subscriptions only. United States and Canada \$ 40.00; other countries (via airmail) \$ 45.00

Mailing labels: Geoscience Information Society member mailing labels: Single use labels \$ 100.00.

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newsletter

GIS Newsletter Editor
Connie J. Manson
2525 Sleater Kinney Road N.E.
Olympia, WA 98506