

## 1969 GIS CONVENTION in ATLANTIC CITY

The 4th Annual Convention of GIS will be held in Atlantic City, N.J., in conjunction with the meetings of the Geological Society of America, 10-12 November 1969. GSA Circular 1 describing the meetings has been mailed to GIS members.

Plans for GIS activities are progressing and include the following:

- 1) Technical Session. GISers who wish to present papers are urged to consider this session. Abstract forms, obtainable from the Geological Society of America, P.O. Box 1719, Boulder, Colo. 80302, must be submitted by August 1st.
- 2) Business Meeting. The meeting will be kept short and held in connection with a luncheon meeting.
- 3) Workshop Session. This session is entitled "GIS Directions '70". The workshops are designed to provide forums (held concurrently) for discussions of problems regarding: (a) automation (emphasis on compatibility); (b) special geologic materials (maps, guidebooks, serials, etc); and (c) editorial matters (citations, abstracts, formats, etc).

GIS members who have ideas for the workshops or wish to present short papers should contact Melvin Weinstock, Herner & Co., 2431 K St NW, Washington, D.C. 20037.

GIS members can obtain the GSA Abstracts with programs for \$3.00 (saving 25¢) by informing Donald H. Owens, Battelle Memorial Institute, 505 King Ave, Columbus, Ohio 43201, before July 15th.

Further information pertaining to the GIS Convention will be announced in Newsletter no.11.

## GIS ACTIVITIES

Membership Chairman William Sanders (U.S. Geological Survey Library, 345 Middlefield Rd, Menlo Park, Calif. 94025) is developing a regional approach to augment GIS membership, both individuals and institutions. Present GIS members are requested to send the names of prospective members to the chairman.

Mark W. Pangborn, Jr., chairman of the Manpower Committee, reports that the GIS, with the generous support of the Geological Society of America, has again run a series of advertisements in Geotimes, as a part of its annual drive to recruit geoscience-trained persons into geoscience librarianship and information work. About 100 letters of inquiry have been received, and the chairman estimates that perhaps eight or ten young geologists may be enrolled in graduate library schools for the coming academic year. Last year's campaign seems to have persuaded about 12 persons to make a career of geoscience librarianship.

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The Pacific Section of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists has established a depository of its field-trip guidebooks in the library at the University of California at Santa Barbara. We applaud this action and would like to know of other such depositories for the publications and guidebooks of local geological societies.

We would like to see GIS members around the country work with their local groups and libraries to develop sources for locating these materials.

Such a program would further another GIS program: the growth of a network of information resources in the geosciences. This kind of project requires grass-roots activity and we

hope to hear from some of our members--just drop a line to me at the U.S. Geological Survey Library, 345 Middlefield Rd, Menlo Park, Calif. 94025.

The "GIS Directions '70" workshops planned for the annual convention in Atlantic City in November are designed to give our members a chance to discuss their own projects, problems, and ideas for programs for GIS to develop. Rather than discuss these during the business meeting, we are structuring the sessions so that groups of somewhat related problems can be taken up by those most interested in them. We hope that each group will present recommendations for action or planning to the Executive Committee.

Let's have a good turnout for the workshops and for our technical session.

Eleanore E. Wilkins, GIS President

#### EDITORIAL

"The purpose of this Society shall be to initiate, aid, and improve the exchange of information in the earth sciences through mutual cooperation among librarians, earth scientists, documentalists, editors, and information specialists"

Like the Pledge of Allegiance, these words warrant occasional review and repetition. GIS provides a forum for communication, and one of the principal available media is the Newsletter. "Available" is stressed since the Newsletter, at present, is not being utilized to anywhere near its true capacity.

While the GIS Newsletter should be of, by, and for the members, it is currently OF and BY the Editor and FOR the members.

We want to encourage member participation in Newsletter activities and increase its utilization. However, full realization of the potential will only come when contributions come independently from the members.

In order to encourage communication among the members, the Newsletter will publish brief announcements or notices from members soliciting help. For example: are you work-

ing on a special project or search where you want to expand your coverage? Or would you like to identify and correspond with colleagues who are facing problems similar to yours? Or are you searching for a journal, book, report, monograph, or map to fill a gap in your collection or a request from a reader?

If you have problems similar to those mentioned above, send a letter to the Newsletter editor and your request for help will appear in the next issue.

Let's all read the Society's objectives and then review our own files and activities for items that should be communicated to the GIS members. Then submit them to our editor. Let's fill his basket so he is forced to screen items to hold the Newsletter to a reasonable size.

A continuing effort along these lines can assist in establishing rewarding professional contacts and friendships, and maintain the Society as a true communication media.

Howard B. Shirley  
Battelle Memorial Inst.  
Columbus, Ohio 43201

#### GISers in the NEWS

Nicholas Achéé, jr., formerly geology-zoology librarian at the Univ of North Carolina, has been appointed head of the science and technology division with the rank of associate professor at the Auburn Univ Library.

Mrs. Julie H. Bichteler, the former Julie Nott of the Southwest Center for Advanced Studies, is now at the Graduate School of Library Science at the Univ of Texas in Austin.

Dr. C.F. Burk, jr., Secretariat for Geoscience Data in Canada, is now quartered at the Geological Survey of Canada, 601 Booth St, Ottawa 4, Ontario.

Mrs. Helen Chiu, formerly Helen Ng, librarian at Placer Development Ltd, Vancouver, has moved to 304-1239 Seventeenth Ave NW, Calgary 43, Alberta, Canada.

Paul I. Eimon, formerly of Kennecott Copper Corp. in Salt Lake City, is now Exploration Manager--Special Projects, Minerals Exploration Co., Tucson, Ariz.

Anthony Peter Harvey, librarian of palaeontology at the British Museum (Natural History), has published "Directory of scientific directories; a world guide to scientific directories including medicine, agriculture, engineering, manufacturing and industrial directories" (published 1969 by Francis Hodgson Ltd, POB 74, Guernsey, C.I., U.K.). The 272-page directory has 1,618 entries arranged by continent and country and subdivided into 7 subject areas.

William H. Heers, for 34 years librarian at the U.S. Geological Survey in Washington, D.C., retired on 28 February 1969. His successor is George H. Goodwin, jr., formerly librarian at the American Museum of Natural History.

Mrs. Rita K. Llaverias of the U.S. Geological Survey has compiled "Bibliography of remote sensing of earth resources for hydrological applications, 1960-67" (published 1968, and free on request from the Office of Remote Sensing, U.S.G.S., Washington, D.C. 20242). The 71-page bibliography provides information on the selection, processing, and use of remote-sensing data for hydrological and water-resources applications, and includes references in oceanography, geography, geology, agriculture, and forestry.

Bill L. Long, formerly chief of Earth Sciences Branch, Science Information Exchange, is now in charge of the information services at the National Council on Marine Resources and Engineering Development (informally known as the Marine Sciences Council).

Harold (Bob) Malinowsky, science & engineering librarian at the Univ of Kansas, will become assistant director of libraries effective June 1969.

William H. Matthews, III, of Lamar State College of Technology, prepared the introduction to the two-volume "Scientific American resource library; readings in the earth sciences (offprints 801-874)", published 1969 by Freeman.

Sister M. Joseph Rosaire, science teacher at St. Mary's School, Poughkeepsie, N.Y., presented a paper, "Actual situation", at the National Science Teachers Association convention in Washington, D.C., 29 March-2 April 1969. The paper dealt with club activities after school for those junior high school students interested in earth science.

Dr. Evelyn Sinha of the Oceanic Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif., is editor of section "Current ocean abstracts" in the Journal of the Marine Technology Society.

Edward P. Thatcher, recently returned from Nigeria (see page 6 of this newsletter) by way of London, is a lab and field instructor for a plant-taxonomy course at the Univ of Oregon. In July, he expects to become Map Librarian in the geography department.

Mrs. Dorothy B. Vitaliano of the U.S. Geological Survey, Bloomington, Ind., has published a paper entitled "Geomythology" in the journal of the Folklore Institute of Indiana Univ (v.5, no.1, p.5-30, June 1968). Geomythology seeks "to find the real geologic event underlying a myth or legend to which it has given rise". Mrs. Vitaliano has signed a contract with the Indiana Univ Press to write a book on this subject; it is designed for the intelligent layman and, she hopes, will be "entertaining but at the same time geologically instructive".

Darinka Zigic-Toshich, research associate at the Subsurface Laboratory of Univ of Michigan, married GISer Dr. Louis I. Briggs, also of the Subsurface Laboratory.

New members of GIS: Dora M. Gerard (10761 1/2 Massachusetts Ave, Los Angeles, Calif. 90024), and Trends Publishing, Inc. (National Press Building, Washington, D.C. 20004).

#### BRITISH GEOLOGICAL LITERATURE

GISer Prof. Keith M. Clayton, dean of the School of Environmental Sciences at the Univ of East Anglia, Norwich, Eng., has received a two-year grant of £7,968 from the Office for Scientific and Technical Information (OSTI), London, to collect and prepare abstracts of current British geological literature as a

basis for the U.K. contribution to the GSA/AGI computer-based Bibliography and index of geology.

The East Anglia team, with the cooperation of editors and publishers, will experimentally develop and publish a current-titles journal covering U.K. geological information, and is considering the preparation of an annual bibliography from the camera-ready copy of U.K. input, which AGI has agreed to supply. At a later stage AGI will make available the total input to their computer-based system for experimental use in the U.K., and OSTI is prepared to support a sound project for experimental assessment and use of these tapes.

The series British geological literature will cease publication with volume 5. It has been edited by GIsEr Edward L. Martin who recently left the Institute of Geological Sciences, London, to join the Tasmania Dept of Mines as geologist (publications officer) to take charge of the library and editorial section. His new address: Dept of Mines, GPO Box 124B, Hobart, Tasmania 7001, Australia.

#### AGI COMMITTEE on SCIENCE INFORMATION

At the 4th meeting of the AGI Committee on Science Information, held 14-15 March 1969 in Dallas, four studies (see below) were approved and all have been initiated.

The Committee noted that the establishment and maintenance of bibliographic control over the complete body of pertinent literature will be an essential element in any effective geoscience information system. The Committee recommended the continuation and improvement of a central bibliographic data base, to include citation, index, and repository information for current and retrospective literature.

It was also noted that a geoscience information system must be able to provide, to any user in any location, ready access to any document that has been brought under bibliographic control within the system. Accordingly, the Committee recommended the identification of libraries and services now providing or willing to provide document retrieval or access for items in the bibliographic data base.

The four studies approved by the Committee:

- 1) Geoscience journal publication alternatives
- 2) Design and implementation of an inventory system for specialized geoscience information resources
- 3) Inventory of the world's geoscience serials
- 4) Analysis of significant geoscience library resources and library services in the United States.

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#### Geoscience Journal Publication Alternatives.

This study will determine what might be done to improve the function of geoscience journals in the transfer of scientific knowledge. Various possible alternatives to the journal practices currently employed in the geosciences will be identified.

Primary focus will be an evaluation of "conceptual" alternatives, such as publication of separates with a common summary journal, the publication of a microfiche edition of the journal, or complete distribution of individual papers on a user-profile basis. The study will also consider "methodological" alternatives to current journal production, with emphasis on possible economical advantages such as the use of advanced processing equipment and techniques or the organization of collective journal production.

About \$5000 has been budgeted, and a report will be submitted to the Committee by 15 Sept 1969.

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Design and Implementation of an Inventory System for Specialized Geoscience Information Resources. A system is required whereby specialized geoscience information resources can be identified, described, and announced to prospective users.

The system should be designed in such a way as both to permit the rapid collection and analysis of information for immediate planning use and to provide a means for collecting, maintaining, and disseminating such information on a continuing basis. The system should provide a central point through which specialized information, data, and specimen resources of potential interest to U.S. geoscientists can be identified.

About \$5000 has been budgeted, and all reports

emanating from the study (performed by consultants) are to be completed by 15 Nov 1969.

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Inventory of the World's Geoscience Serials.  
A serials inventory and literature-analysis study is required for the analytical planning of a national geoscience information program. This project will concentrate on the identification of as many significant geoscience serials as possible, rather than emphasize extensive bibliographic analysis and description of each serial. Complete bibliographic data of the serials identified may be provided at a later time, and in a different context.

GISer H. Robert Malinowsky, science & engineering librarian at the Univ of Kansas, has agreed to undertake this project. He urges GIS members having any serial lists that cover the geoscience fields to send copies to him in care of the Geoscience Serials Project, Univ of Kansas Libraries, Spencer Research Library, Lawrence, Kans. 66044. He is particularly interested in the lists that cover the specialized areas of geoscience and any lists that give maps in series.

About \$20,000 has been budgeted, and the inventory and all related reports are scheduled to be completed no later than 1 December 1969.

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Analysis of Significant Geoscience Library Resources and Library Services in the U.S.  
Using the data compiled by the Geoscience Information Society in its recently issued Directory of geoscience libraries; U.S. and Canada, an analytical study will provide information about the universe of U.S. geoscience libraries for use in the planning associated with a national geoscience information program. The study will try to interpret current library services and resources with respect to their adequacy, completeness, and responsiveness to user requirements.

The GIS has been asked to undertake this study, and approximately \$5000 has been budgeted for support. A report must be completed prior to 15 September 1969.

Among the topics to be explored in this analytical study are the following:

- 1) From the standpoint of holdings, what are the twelve (or 20 or 30) "most important geoscience libraries in the U.S.?"
- 2) Which geoscience libraries maintain and currently have available lists of the serials they acquire?
- 3) Which geoscience libraries represent the best candidates to assume a national service responsibility for providing fast, economical photocopy service?
- 4) Which geoscience libraries participate in the Union List of Serials?
- 5) Which libraries have highly specialized collections of significance in the geosciences?
- 6) What are the major resource and service deficiencies in U.S. geoscience library community?
- 7) In what ways could U.S. geoscience libraries be improved, and how might these improvements be realized?

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

GISer Mrs. Rita K. Llaverias of the U.S. Geological Survey is compiling an extensive Spanish-English glossary of words and phrases in both languages that embraces the fields of hydrology, oceanology, geology, hydraulic engineering, and soil mechanics as they relate to water resources. She would welcome any contributions and will try to incorporate readers' want lists of words requiring translation to the other language. Send contributions to Mrs. Llaverias, U.S.G.S., Water Resources Division, Washington, D.C. 20242.

In an article entitled "Publishing in the geological sciences" (Lethaia, 1969, v.2, p.73-86), Anders Martinsson states that in order to master the "publication explosion", there must be a "clearer distinction between local, national, and international spheres of interest and between idiographic and nomothetic aspects of papers". One way to ease the burden for editors is the "organization of scientific serials and articles to meet modern bibliographic-documentalistic needs", for which a solution at the international level is urgently needed.

A Nigerian Leave; or sojourn on a savanna

by

Edward P. Thatcher  
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I had long wanted to go to a developing country to taste academic librarianship, and also to test our family's ways of relating to individuals and its adjustability in another human environment. After ten years of sporadic correspondence through various agencies and almost despairing, in 1967 a Nigerian university found us. The prospect of work in Northern Nigeria was attractive to us not only because it gave summer-long subsidy for travel to libraries of the United Kingdom, but the common language was ours, we thought; its educational system had been British, just how delightfully different we had not fully anticipated; and on the paper of atlases and geographers' references the physical environment of Northern Nigeria and Zaria, the location of Ahmadu Bello University, looked better than bearable to us.

The attractive climate we read of is a change from warm, dry, persistent winds of fall and winter, including two possible months of harmattan dust and cool early mornings, with a showery hot season of April to September. West African inselberg landscape is a savanna of thorny shrubs topped by a scattering of baobab and other trees from the legume-bearing and palm families. All of West Africa's many republics, once French or English protectorates, have similar human histories. There is a dense human struggle for a minimum diet in the very abundant villages varied by striving with more contemporary western tools and methods toward goodly living in the few old trading cities: Kano, Fort Lamy, Niamey, Sokoto, and Zaria. Since Arab penetration from across the Sahara began in the 9th century, these Hausa-land cities have provided points of viewing into the 20th-century European and Arab worlds for millions of rural Hausa and nomadic Fulani herdsman.

Ahmadu Bello University, named in 1962 for the then-extant Moslem and political leader of the North, incorporated three preexisting schools: an institute of business and law of British mold, an Islamic study center in Kano, and a Nigerian College of Agriculture and Engineering in Samaru ten miles west of Zaria. Each of these, now with a library and some liberal arts programs, is governed without benefit of active faculty committees by a strong administration on the large Samaru campus.

The Thatchers entered the Ahmadu Bello University community in early October 1967. The last few showers of the summer rains had passed, leaving the regional cash crops of cotton, guinea corn, and ground-nuts white, green, and wondrously strange to our tall-timber-accustomed eyes. I became Sub-Librarian for a serials collection of 1200 titles in a total library of 60,000 textbooks and 20,000-plus reference and research titles. The community included faculties of sciences, social sciences and arts, architecture, engineering, veterinary medicine, and agriculture. The school of agriculture, supported more from London and from Washington's office of AID than from Nigeria, had its own semiautonomous library. All departments guarded their text collections against acquisitive librarians.

Our sixth-grade son attended the campus school with students and staff from Nigeria, Ghana, Canada, Netherlands, India, Poland, United Kingdom, and United States. In a separate category I might include AID-sponsored families since they lived on a vastly different scale than others of North American origin. Some of the Nigerian families residing within the campus community were Hausa, some Yoruba. The Ibo families had been banished or liquidated during the troubles of the previous year. Thus, there

have been many diverse influences working toward and against the programs of Ahmadu Bello University. The university administration has had a difficult path, one beset by alternatives presented by conflicts from tribalism, religions, superstitions, and the generally noted distrust of one African for another. The distrust reactions seem very human after the recent liberation from the century-long colonial cord to England. It reminded the historian of our family of the early years of the American federation of jealous, eager states. The university administration and its individual faculties are even faced with minor tugs between American ideals for cutting traditional protocol and British concepts of orderly procedure through academic hierarchy.

My staff members of 6 or 7 conversed between themselves in Hausa or Yoruba. Since most university students were from these linguistic groups and students and staff preferred their tribal languages to conversation in English, I was more protected by my staff from student patrons than I wished to be. The spoken English of staffs and students was sufficient for business communication; the written English of my staff, even of the librarians-in-training and university graduates, was quaintly awkward.

My first job was to eliminate odd-and-ended serials of little relevance to the university's programs. All indications pointed to the conclusion that many short-run periodicals and subscriptions had been accepted as gifts without question from indulgent libraries, societies, and publishers of the British empire. I also had to discontinue several specialized research journals and abstracts for which potential use could not possibly justify their maintenance. I was charged primarily with reorganization of a physical, bibliographic, and financial mess. My second charge was to reclassify all serials from the Bliss System to that of Library of Congress. The University of Ibadan still uses Bliss. My third objective was to so train subordinates that, upon my leaving, Nigerians would be bibliographically organized and sufficiently critical of gift horses to continue in my spirit.

Beyond my library objectives, and most important to us as a family, we hoped to make friends from several nations, from more than one occupational group and from dominant tribes and chief scholarly disciplines represented at the university. Our house-boys became family members for the year; each usually owed us money. We became well acquainted with several Hausa traders who annually ranged over much of West Africa in search of crafts to sell to the "rich" ex-patriots. Because our appetites for magnificent leather, textile weaving, brass, and carved ebony increased at a greater rate than our bargaining abilities, we were often in debt to a trader. Also, these itinerant merchants could tell us of the living habits in the bush villages where they sought their wares. We related well to teaching staff, through my professional needs to join the scientists at morning coffee and for my wife's need to be active with several International Women's Club groups.

Few endeavors in Nigeria, including librarianship, are ready for the introduction of labor-saving devices, let alone information-storage files more specialized than catalogs. In order to reduce human error and random searching for completed journal volumes, I tried to initiate a title-date file for a binding-control system. Because there is too much unskilled manpower at the junior staff level, this failed to pass the approval of the library administration.

At Ahmadu Bello University I found that the only geologist, after less than a year of organization, was thinking of directing post-graduate research in cooperation with the physics staff, all of whom were geophysicists in this almost unique educational point within the zone of the magnetic equator. For other physical sciences, West Africa is a long, rough sea journey distant from sources of purchasable equipment and current sources of knowledge. Presently the country's war-economy has curtailed many imported goods

from Europe. Newspapers and certain airmail editions of periodicals arrived in a week from London. The weekly published Science arrived 4-5 months after date of publication. Good-to-superior library holdings and barely scratched research fields should invite more investigation from North Americans in anthropology, geography, and classical biology, in each of which the British and Dutch have opened the way.

I felt an obligation to work long hours in order to fully comprehend the demands of the academic community during the long opening hours observed for Serials. British ex-patriots and Nigerian administrators usually retired from offices and labs by mid-afternoon in favor of home or drinks beside the staff pool. I might have related better to the Nigerian administration had I joined them more often at pool-side.

We made one brief trip to the Bauchi Plateau of the central Northern region. We saw none of its tin (cassiterite) mines and few of its primitively unclad bush tribesmen. Without provocation other than engaging in an unusual activity, a plant-collector friend was incarcerated briefly by some of these folk. We saw none of the brass work, calabash carving, nor fine Nigerian pottery work in progress.

When a second opportunity to work in West Africa arrives we hope the Nigerian civil war has been forgotten history and the talented Ibos have been assimilated throughout a more trusting nation. We hope that the Nigerians of all occupations will have forgotten the oppression of colonial times and will be proud that ex-patriots from all continents want to work among them toward a more rapidly developing economy and more free scholarship.

For a view into present village life and changes within various strata of West African society since early European colonization, we found the fiction of Cameroun, Ghana, and Nigerian locales in remarkable agreement, and entertainingly helpful. Paper backs of the writers C. Ekwensi, C. Achebe, F. Selormi, and F. Oyono are available from the London publisher, Heinemann Company.

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