

# GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY

N E W S L E T T E R

No. 18                      January 1972

## GIS OFFICERS

The new GIS Executive Committee for 1972 is:

### PRESIDENT:

Dr. Roy W. Graves, Information Specialist, Information Services Dept, Univ of Tulsa, 1133 North Lewis Ave, Tulsa, Okla. 74110 (918/939-6351, ext.296 or 297)

### VICE-PRESIDENT:

Hartley K. Phinney, jr., Supervisor, Technical Information Center, Chevron Oil Field Research Company, P.O. Box 446, La Habra, Calif. 90631 (213/691-2241, ext.110)

### SECRETARY:

Mrs. Kathryn N. Cutler, Head Librarian, Branner Geological Library, Stanford University, Stanford, Calif. 94305 (415/321-2300, ext.2746)

### TREASURER:

Janet Meserve, Subject Cataloger, Subject Cataloging Division, Annex Bldg, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540 (202/426-5342)

### PAST PRESIDENT:

Dr. Cornelius F. Burk, jr., National Coordinator, Canadian Centre for Geoscience Data, Geological Survey of Canada, 601 Booth St, Ottawa 4, Ontario, Canada (613/994-9780)

The new officers assumed their positions on 1 January 1972.

## PRESIDENT GRAVES' LETTER TO GIS

I am highly sensitive to the honor you have awarded me and I am sorry that circumstances prevented my being at the Annual Meeting. Rest assured that I will bend all effort to further the objectives of the Society, and I hope that by the time the next Annual Meeting rolls around I will have been able to make at least a small contribution.

In a recent letter, Skip McAfee expressed the thought that the Society is "at a sink-or-swim crossroads regarding our function vis-a-vis the geoscience community". I certainly agree here and with the further thought that GIS should maintain a leadership role regarding geoscience information problems. I will do my best to help out.

A few days ago I received a letter from Harriet Smith expressing thoughts about the membership drop in GIS, and she included some pertinent membership promotional material from the American Library Association. From that material, I would

like to pass along and echo this thought:

"No organization amounts to much whose members' interest is confined to the annual gesture of writing a check. Meaningful membership calls for an active interest in the association's affairs; attendance at a reasonable number of meetings; reading its publications and communications; serving on committees when called upon to do so, and conducting one's business in a way that reflects credit on the organization. This kind of membership pays"

I will endeavor to let this thought start with me. How about you?

Best wishes for a successful year,

Roy Graves,  
GIS President 1972

## 1971 GIS ANNUAL MEETING in WASHINGTON, D.C.

The 6th Annual Meeting of the Geoscience Information Society was held 1-3 November 1971 in Washington, D.C., in conjunction with the annual meetings of the Geological Society of America (GSA) and its associated societies. The GIS meeting featured a technical symposium, the annual luncheon and annual business meeting, a workshop on guidebooks, a 3-day exhibit display, and an all-day field trip. Summaries of each event are given below.

## GIS SYMPOSIUM

The GIS program committee, chaired by George H. Goodwin, jr. (U.S. Geological Survey, Washington, D.C.), invited 7 speakers to participate in the GIS Symposium, entitled "Toward the Development of a Geoscience Information System", held in the poorly air-conditioned Executive Room of the Shoreham Hotel on the afternoon of November 1st. About 80 people attended the session. Presiding was GIS President, Dr. Cornelius F. Burk, jr., of the Canadian Centre for Geoscience Data, Ottawa.

The speakers were asked to discuss various issues raised in the report A concept of an information system for the geosciences, published December 1970 by the American Geological Institute's (AGI) Dept of Geoscience Information. The report summarizes the work carried out by AGI's Committee on Geoscience Information during the period 1967-1970, and represents the first phase in developing an integrated information system for the geosciences. Copies of this report were sent to all GIS members in June 1971.

The speakers and their topics (see GIS Newsletter no.17 for the abstracts of the papers):

A. Fred Spilhaus, jr., Exec Dir, American Geophysical Union, 2100 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037: Geoscience Publication. Due to increasing costs of the traditional methods of publication, the speaker warned publishers who do not adopt a flexible approach that maximizes the sum of the benefits to authors and information consumers that they are not likely to survive in the competition for author prestige and reader attention. AGU will experiment with publication of abstracts three months prior to publication of the papers.

Stella Keenan, Executive Director, National Federation of Science Abstracting and Indexing Services, 2102 Arch St, Philadelphia, Penna. 19103: Bibliographic Control and Thesauri. The speaker focused on the current status of abstracting and indexing services in the geological sciences in terms of bibliographic control, standards, and thesaurus development.

Wallace C. Olsen, Library Liaison Officer, National Agricultural Library, Beltsville, Md. 20705: A Library Network for the Geosciences. The speaker criticized the AGI report for its inadequate concern for the role of geoscience libraries and for slighting the importance of library networks. A "hard-nosed" consideration of users interfacing with a library network is lacking. The speaker outlined a point-by-point procedure for developing a formal library network.

S.C. Robinson, Chairman, IUGS Committee on Storage, Automatic Processing and Retrieval of Geological Data, Geological Survey of Canada, 601 Booth St, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E8: Data Standardization in Geology. The speaker's paper was read by Brian McGee (Canadian Centre for Geoscience Data, Ottawa). Geology lacks a consistent data base for recording comparable facts. What is urgently needed is standardization of observations (geologic benchmarks), of means for recording and transmitting data, and of input for computer storage and processing programs.

Frank T. Manheim, U.S. Geological Survey, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, Mass. 02543: Is There a Translation in Your Future? Noting that a very small percentage of geologists actually use a foreign language, that foreigners are increasingly writing papers in English, that colleges and universities are eliminating language requirements, and that NSF is dropping support of most existing translations efforts, the speaker believes there is a need for a "critical mass of linguistically competent scientists" (say, 20%) that know how to use a foreign language and suggests that schools should employ language entrance requirements and demand that students use a foreign language in their scientific work.

John F. Price, Assistant Chief for Reference and Referral Services, National Referral Center, Science and Technology Division, Library of Congress,

Washington, D.C. 20540: Inventory of Information Resources: A Comparison of the American Geological Institute AGI Pilot Project with the National Referral Center NRC Inventory. The speaker proposed a cooperative arrangement between AGI and NRC in a combined effort to enlarge and maintain a comprehensive current resource inventory.

Joseph P. Riva, Chief, Earth Sciences Branch, Smithsonian Science Information Exchange, 1730 M St, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036: Toward the Development of a Geosciences Information System--Research in Progress. After describing the services of the Exchange, the speaker suggested that AGI's proposed geosciences information system be decentralized and consist of independent components which are coordinated to add their type of information to each inquiry received by the central system.

Moderator Burk described the history of AGI's Committee on Geoscience Information. The AGI "concept report" is not an action paper and very little has happened since its publication. There was little opportunity for exchange of views between the Committee and geologists at large. The Committee, having been forced to cut back on its activities, has decided to concentrate on only one aspect of the AGI report, viz. primary publications. Further reports on the Committee's activities will be distributed to GIS members.

During discussion following the presentation of papers, the concept of a "national geoscience library" was brought up. As chief librarian of the U.S. Geological Survey, George Goodwin admitted that the USGS library is a "national" library in every sense but for the actual wording. He briefly commented on the future of the USGS library, including its move to Reston, Va., within three years. A "branch" library for storage materials is currently being established in Silver Spring, Md. A new book catalog of the library's holdings is due in 1972. Mr. Goodwin views the geologic literature (in the library), not as being "dead", but simply "resting".

Harriet W. Smith (Univ of Illinois) urged AGI to develop a list of all geoscience serials, and to send copies of the list to major geoscience libraries asking them to indicate their holdings.

Dr. Burk concluded the symposium by indicating that GIS plans to publish the 7 papers within two months as volume 2 of the GIS Proceedings.

#### GIS ANNUAL LUNCHEON and BUSINESS MEETING

The Annual Luncheon was held November 2 at noon in the Executive Room of the Shoreham Hotel. The 45 GISers present at the luncheon was probably the largest single gathering ever of GIS members.

The Annual Business Meeting immediately following the luncheon was convened at 1:00 p.m. in the Executive Room of the Shoreham Hotel by President Cornelius F. Burk, jr. An abbreviated account of the minutes of the 5th Annual Business Meeting of GIS

(held in Milwaukee, Wisc., 12 November 1970) was read by Secretary Doreen M. Sutherland and approved. The minutes of future business meetings will henceforth be circulated to members.

Treasurer's Report. Mrs. Sutherland read Treasurer Howard B. Shirley's "informal" financial report. Most of the Society's income, \$2,030.00, was generated by membership dues. The sale of volume 1 of the GIS Proceedings continues to be a significant item with \$155.97 having been received this year. Expenditures for the remainder of the year are estimated to total approximately \$350. This allows \$200 for annual meeting expenses, \$100 for printing and mailing GIS Newsletter no.18 and 1972 invoices, and \$50 for miscellaneous charges. Income during this period is expected to be approximately \$200. This will give an estimated balance at the close of 1971 of approximately \$2,885 which represents an increase of almost \$600 during the year. An audit and certification will be conducted prior to transferring the books to the new Treasurer.

Newsletter. Editor Robert McAfee, jr. presented a brief report. Three issues were published during 1971 (January, June, October). A request for editorial assistance resulted in several positive responses from the members present. It was noted that the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists has patterned its newsletter after GIS'.

Guidebook and Ephemeral Materials Committee. Chairman Elizabeth Loomis (Mobil Oil Canada, Calgary) announced that Geologic field trip guidebooks of North America, second edition (1971), has been published by Phil Wilson Publishing Co., Box 19187, Houston, Tex. 77019. Price is \$20. The union list updates and expands the 1968 edition, and provides locations of specific guidebooks in 57 participating geoscience libraries; the expanded index gives access to the name of the sponsoring organization for each listed field trip, the geographic location covered, and the entry number for location in the participating library. An advertisement was placed in the September 1971 issue (p.40) of Geotimes, and flyers were available at the GIS exhibit booth during the GSA meetings. It was decided that a method of publicity satisfactory to both GIS and the publisher be suggested by members who know the publisher.

Membership. Mrs. Sutherland noted that the directory of members (as of 26 October 1971) has been distributed to the membership. The Society has 178 regular members (a net loss of 11 from last year) and 14 institutional members (a net gain of 5 from last year).

GSA Guidebooks. In past years, GIS has urged GSA that guidebooks for field trips conducted in connection with the GSA meetings have (1) sponsors and (2) over-runs to ensure that the publication remains in print. Accordingly, President Burk announced that GIS agreed to a request to finance (\$400) the printing of additional copies of Engineering geology in the Pittsburgh area, the guidebook produced for GSA Field Trip No.6 (Engineering Geology in Western Pennsylvania) and edited by Richard D. Thompson.

The field trip itself, scheduled for 30-31 October 1971, did not take place. The 47-page guidebook treats: multi-land use and solid-waste disposal; mine subsidence, support, and stabilization in western Pennsylvania; and engineering geology at sites along I-279 and I-79 northwest of Pittsburgh. The guidebook will be distributed by the GIS Secretary, and any surplus or loss is to be borne by GIS. Price is \$3.00 (prepayment required).

GIS Exhibit. Mark W. Pangborn, jr. (U.S. Geological Survey, Washington, D.C.), who planned and organized the 2-panel GIS exhibit on display during the GSA meetings, commented on the exhibit. He noted that one or two minor errors will be rectified. Harriet W. Smith (Univ of Illinois) questioned the definition of "exhaustive" as used by the display that indicates the "richness of geology collection". It is hoped that the exhibit can be used during forthcoming conferences and exhibitions. A complete description of the GIS exhibit is found on pages 6 and 7 of this newsletter.

Bibliography of Theses in Geology. Mrs. Sutherland read the report of Dederick C. Ward (Univ of Colorado), chairman of the Theses Bibliography Committee: "We continue to collect and edit thesis titles from U.S. and Canadian universities for inclusion in GEO-REF. Funds to extract the titles and publish them as the next Bibliography of theses in geology, however, have not been forthcoming. Thus far, GSA has declined to include thesis citations in the Bibliography and index of geology. In order to identify this type of unpublished information for geologists, I feel that GIS and AGI should continue their efforts to make the 1967-1971 titles available in print". Dr. Burk indicated that the GSA Publications Committee will review the matter of including thesis titles in the GSA's Bibliography and index of geology. A motion by Eugene Demeter (Kennecott Exploration Services, Salt Lake City), seconded by Eleanore E. Wilkins (U.S. Geological Survey, Menlo Park, Calif.), that GIS as a group support the inclusion of thesis titles in future printed editions of the GSA Bibliography and index of geology, was passed. It was again noted that the 1967-1971 titles are available only from the GEO-REF file. A motion by Richard D. Walker (Univ of Wisconsin), seconded by Mr. Demeter, that GIS look into the possibility of publishing separately the 1967-1972 thesis titles and any titles overlooked by the GSA in their bibliographies, was passed.

AGI House of Society Representatives. Sara Aull (Univ of Houston), the GIS representative to AGI, reported on the 31 October 1971 meeting of the AGI House of Society Representatives, also attended by GIS President Burk. Two recommendations presented by Dr. Burk were accepted: (1) In view of the special interest and competence of GIS in the field of information and its involvement in all geoscience disciplines, that the President of AGI appoint an official representative of GIS to the Committee on Geoscience Information (Philip E. LaMoreaux, incoming President of AGI, has invited the GIS President to make the appointment of a GIS member to the Committee on Geoscience Information); and (2) Further to the recommendation above, that GIS be invited by

the President of AGI to form an Advisory Committee to the GEO·REF program to provide liaison with users of GEO·REF services, with special reference to matters of coverage, indexing, and utility. Dr. Burk and Miss Aull discussed the formation of a user-study group with Joel Lloyd (AGI director of science information), who said that he would welcome this arrangement whereby he could get feedback from experienced users and "grass-roots" professionals in the library and information science field. This is an important service which can be given by GIS and should receive priority during the coming year. These two actions thus provide a convenient mechanism whereby GIS has an official voice within AGI in regard to information activities. "Now is the time for GIS", said Miss Aull, "through the AGI Committee on Geoscience Information and through an advisory GEO·REF user-study group, to make effective contributions to the development of an indexing and abstracting service for the geological and geoscience literature". Miss Aull also commented on the revamping of the governing structure of AGI, the possibility of AGI changing its name to "American Geosciences Institute" (GIS voted in favor of the change), the addition of the Association of Earth Science Editors as a member society, and the new AGI Board of Directors. AGI action items regarding geoscience information will be excerpted regularly and sent to GIS members.

AGI Committee on Geoscience Information. Dr. Burk reviewed the history of the Committee. The Committee originally included a GIS representative (namely, Dr. Burk). In early 1971, NSF financial support was withdrawn; but AGI wanted to keep the Committee functioning in structural form by paring its membership to five geoscientists in the Washington, D.C., area so that committee meetings could be held frequently (once a month) and at no great expense. The Committee is now chaired by Dr. Robert Van Nstrand of Teledyne; the other members are A. Fred Spilhaus, jr., James Mello, George E. Becraft, and Kenneth N. Weaver. As mentioned above, GIS will again be represented in the immediate future. The Committee has decided to concentrate on a single concise project and follow it through to a logical conclusion. The experiment chosen was the publishing of abstracts of papers accepted by a review board and the furnishing of complete papers to persons requesting them specifically. The American Geophysical Union started publishing abstracts of some papers in the September 1971 issue of Eos; abstracts will appear 4 to 6 months before publication of the full papers. An intermediate but a very useful result in itself might be that a resulting abstract journal would take the place of the discontinued USGS' Geophysical abstracts, at least with respect to its most important sources of information.

GIS Policy and Objectives Committee. Dr. Burk proposed to form a three-member committee that will re-evaluate the objectives of GIS as stated in the GIS Constitution and review the general nature of past projects and activities in the light of the Society's objectives. Suggested changes and recommendations will be presented to the membership in

the Spring 1972 for discussion and comment prior to the Annual Meeting next Fall. There are a number of "strange items" in the Constitution that require modification, according to Dr. Burk.

Nominations for 1972 GIS Officers. Dr. Burk stated that the election procedure for choosing GIS officers for 1972 was "completely illegal" because the time of appointment of the Nominating Committee did not satisfy the requirements as set down in the GIS Constitution. Dr. Burk apologized for this omission, claiming that the oversight was due to professional and personal demands, and asked for a motion to authorize the election procedure. On motion by Sara Aull (Univ of Houston), seconded by Georgianna D. Conant (U.S. Geological Survey, Washington, D.C.), the membership at the meeting supported the election procedure as conducted and accepted the results.

Nominating Committee. The Committee consisted of Dederick C. Ward (Univ of Colorado), Marjorie W. Wheeler (Lamar State College of Technology), and Eleanore E. Wilkins (U.S. Geological Survey, Menlo Park, Calif.), chairman. Miss Wilkins thanked all the candidates for accepting nominations on such short notice and AGI for receiving the mailed ballots. Biographic information on the candidates was transmitted via xerox telecopier from Ottawa to Columbus, Ohio, where the ballots were mailed within 6 hours. A total of 59 ballots (31% of the membership) were received as of November 2nd. The winning candidates were introduced (see page 1 of this newsletter). Dr. Burk had phoned Dr. Graves earlier to advise him of the election results; Dr. Graves apologized for not being able to attend the meeting. Dr. Burk extended his appreciation to those who offered their services to GIS in the election procedure.

GIS Liaison with other Societies. Dr. Burk has appointed Robert McAfee, jr. (American Society for Information Science) as GIS liaison representative to ASIS. As an "associated society" of the Geological Society of America, Dr. Burk noted that GIS agrees to hold its annual meeting in conjunction with the GSA meetings, but that he finds such an arrangement "distracting" and wishes to consider other meeting possibilities. It was noted that oil-company librarians prefer to meet with the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, and that liaison with the Association of Earth Science Editors might be beneficial.

The business meeting was opened for New Business:

Permanent GIS Mailing Address. Dr. Burk proposed that GIS establish a permanent mailing address, as follows: Geoscience Information Society, 2201 M St, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037. This is the AGI address. Dr. Burk has talked with the AGI mail-room staff and they are willing to coordinate GIS mail and send it to the proper people within the Society.

Capability Index Project. Dr. Burk announced that he has received a proposal from Arleen N. Somerville (Univ of Rochester) for a research project to be sponsored by GIS. The project aims to develop a technique for evaluating geoscience libraries on a nationwide basis by determining their "Capability

Indexes" (i.e. the capability of a library to supply documents its users need on demand). The project would call for the assistance of as many as 10 GIS librarians at academic institutions. Copies of the proposal have been circulated to the Executive Committee for comment, and a decision on supporting the project is expected shortly.

GIS Proceedings, Volume 2. GIS has received about 60 standing orders for its Proceedings (volume 1, now out of print, was published in 1969). It is proposed that the papers given at the GIS Symposium on November 1st be published as quickly as possible as volume 2 of the GIS Proceedings series.

GIS Chapters. Eleanore E. Wilkins (U.S. Geological Survey, Menlo Park, Calif.) moved that the GIS Executive Committee take steps to provide local chapters of GIS (seconded by Margaret Marshburn of Standard Oil Company of California, San Francisco). Although GIS may be too small to support chapters, a mechanism is needed to transmit feedback from local groups to the national. After discussion of size, method of formation, liaison possibilities, and need for personal contacts, the motion was passed.

The Annual Business Meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m. The 7th Annual Meeting of GIS will be held in Minneapolis, Minn., during the annual meetings of the Geological Society of America, 13-15 November 1972.

#### GIS WORKSHOP ON GUIDEBOOKS

The GIS Workshop on Guidebooks was held November 2 in the Executive Room of the Shoreham Hotel, immediately following the GIS Annual Business Meeting. A panel consisting of two geoscience librarians and four guidebook editors or publishers discussed the questions of publication, distribution, and availability of geologic field-trip guidebooks. The workshop was organized and moderated by Hartley K. Phinney, jr., of the Chevron Oil Field Research Company, La Habra, Calif.

Thelma L. Guion, geology librarian at the Univ of Texas, told how guidebooks can be obtained by using such sources of information as: publishers' flyers; calendar page in Geotimes; listings twice a year in the Bulletin of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists; faculty members attending field trips; personal contacts in geologic organizations; collecting guidebooks at meetings and conferences; and standing orders (although most geological societies do not honor such orders). Bibliographic peculiarities of guidebooks include more than one geological society issuing guidebooks jointly and the lack of guidebooks for certain years.

Donald E. Hallinger, chairman of the publications committee of the Pacific Section of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, discussed the committee's role in helping Pacific Coast (California to Alaska) geological societies in printing, marketing, and distributing all publications of the

member societies of the Section. Advisory committees consisting of past editors of publications have been established to assist in the problem of orienting novice editors from one year to the next. He indicated that there is a "very slow response" to standing orders for society publications; thus, back issues need to be reprinted frequently.

Bradford B. Van Diver, editor of the 43rd Annual Meeting (7-9 May 1971) of the New York State Geological Association, discussed the printing of 800 copies of the 168-page guidebook for the meeting. During discussion, it was noted that guidebook editors do not always routinely deposit copies of guidebooks with certain libraries (such as the USGS libraries) and that the title and cover pages often carry conflicting titles of the work.

Seymour Subitzky, editor of the guidebook of excursions for the 1969 GSA meetings in Atlantic City, N.J., reported on the sale and distribution of the 1969 guidebook. For a 6000 print order, about 4400 copies remain in stock (some 300 to 400 were distributed gratis, 1050 were sold at the 1969 meetings, and about 200 were sold via special promotion). He suggested an appeal to GSA to undertake a project to assume responsibility for producing and standardizing their own guidebooks for the annual meetings. Lee Swift (GSA) replied that she will try to pull together a booklet on producing guidebooks.

John Allan Donaldson, regional editor for 13 (of 67) guidebooks in preparation for the 24th International Geological Congress (IGC) to be held in Montreal in August 1972, discussed the printing, availability, and distribution of the IGC guidebooks. These books will be pocket-size, paperback publications; their principal utility is the road-log aspect. Existing guidebooks of Canadian geology are currently being updated. Attendees will receive two copies of the guidebooks--one to keep at home, the other to use on the trip. The guidebooks will be available only in the full set (set A + C = \$100) before the Congress; at the Congress itself, individual guidebooks can be obtained (set B = \$15). After the IGC, the Geological Survey of Canada will handle distribution. A big problem facing guidebook editors is how many copies are to be printed: the present thinking is to print 2500 full sets of the IGC guidebooks, but such a figure is difficult to come by (so far, 70 individuals and 100 libraries have ordered full sets). The 23rd IGC in 1968 printed 700 guidebooks. Dr. Donaldson noted that the guidebooks from the 12th IGC held in Toronto in 1913 are still available at the original price (75¢ each).

Harriet W. Smith, geology librarian at the Univ of Illinois, read parts of her paper (co-authored by Nancy Anderson of the acquisitions dept, Univ of Illinois libraries) regarding specific problems confronting librarians in regard to guidebooks. These problems include misleading advertising (such as advertising a guidebook as a separate monograph, rather than as part of a guidebook series), varying titles of guidebook series (thus creating unnecessary bibliographic and cataloging problems), and need for standardization of the names of issuing

bodies. Among her specific recommendations are: a permanent address or source of distribution of guidebooks for a period of several years (especially for organizations that hold meetings in different locales each year); use of the term "Guidebook" as a standard title; more widespread use of standing orders; centralized distribution of guidebooks; larger press runs to ensure that the publication stays in print; issuing guidebooks in a series with their own covers rather than as part of another series; and establishment of a Library of Congress subject heading "Geology - Guidebooks". During discussion, Aphrodite Mamoulides (Shell Development Co., Houston) felt that these recommendations are harsh and somewhat presumptuous, that geology librarians should live with the situation, and that any recommendations should be "soft" in nature.

Addresses for guidebooks mentioned during the workshop:

- 1) Pacific Section of American Association of Petroleum Geologists: Mr. Donald E. Hallinger, Publications Committee, AAPG Pacific Section, 720 West 8th St, Los Angeles, Calif. 90017
- 2) New York State Geological Association (43rd Annual Meeting): Dr. Philip C. Hewitt, Chairman, Dept of Geology and Earth Sciences, State Univ of New York College at Brockport, Brockport, N.Y. 14420
- 3) Geology of Selected Areas in New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania (guidebook of excursions for the 1969 GSA meetings): Rutgers Univ Press, 30 College Ave, New Brunswick, N.J. 08903
- 4) 24th International Geological Congress, Montreal, August 1972: Secretariat, 24th International Geological Congress, 601 Booth St, Ottawa 4, Ontario, Canada.

#### GIS FIELD TRIP

Despite a light morning rain and a tight schedule, GSA Field Trip no.12, "Library Excursion throughout the Greater Washington Area", went off without a hitch, November 3. A full bus load of 51 GISers and others participated in the all-day tour of geoscience-oriented libraries in the Capital area. The trip was led by Myrl D. Powell (Library of Congress), who was also chairman of the GIS field trip committee that organized the excursion.

The tour first visited the Library of Congress (LC). Meeting in the Whittall Pavilion, the group heard Lenore Maruyama (information systems specialist, MARC Development Office) discuss automation activities at LC, and Richard Stephenson (head, Reference & Bibliography Section, Geography and Map Division) discuss the acquisition, cataloging, and servicing of maps (3½ million) and atlases (35,000) at LC. After a short coffee break, the group was divided into 3 smaller groups for a brief walking tour of some of LC's more spectacular points of general interest, including the Great Hall, the

view from the balcony overlooking the Main Reading Room, the Gutenberg Bible (the St. Blasius-St. Paul copy, one of three perfect copies on vellum now extant), and the Giant Bible of Mainz. (a 500-year-old illuminated manuscript).

The trip next stopped at the National Agricultural Library (NAL) in Beltsville, Md., for a one-hour tour of this ultramodern, 15-story tower of pre-cast concrete and rock-faced brick. The facility has a gross space area of 275,000 square feet and stack space for 2 million volumes. Divided into 3 groups, the field trip attendees toured the lobby entrance display of rare books, the public use space, the technical and staff areas, the computer well area, the closed-circuit TV system, and the stacks. John Sherrod, director of NAL, addressed the group on the preliminary plans for the Agricultural Sciences Information Network (ASIN), and in particular the library component of ASIN, or the National Agricultural Library Network (NALM). The network is viewed as a political and administrative effort at coordinating information resources, and not a technological approach to networking.

The excursion continued on to Rockville, Md., to visit the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) at the Washington Science Center. After a short talk by John S. Cook (chief of the Marine and Earth Sciences Library), the group roamed the library (formerly the Coast and Geodetic Survey Library, and later the Geophysical Sciences Library) and the Map Information Office. During lunch at the nearby S&W Cafeteria, John P. Webber (chief, Libraries Division, Environmental Science Information Center, NOAA) gave a brief summary of the Division and introduced Palmer Haughland, librarian of the National Oceanographic Data Center (NODC), who talked about the services available from NODC.

The last stop on the tour was the library at the U.S. Geological Survey in downtown Washington. Chief Librarian George H. Goodwin, jr., introduced his staff, and Joseph Kohut (reference librarian) and Mark W. Pangborn, jr. (map curator) summarized the USGS library services. The group was then allowed to roam through the library and talk with other staff members, including the three branch librarians: Irvil P. Shultz (Denver), Eleanore E. Wilkins (Menlo Park, Calif.), and James R. Nation (Flagstaff, Ariz.). An exhibit of rare and particularly interesting books and maps were on display, and a brochure, "Historic books in geology", describing the 35 rare books (published between 1502 and 1840) on display, was distributed. Coffee and three dozen cookies were served by the USGS staff.

#### GIS EXHIBIT

Mark W. Pangborn, jr. (U.S. Geological Survey, Washington, D.C.) planned and organized a two-panel GIS exhibit which was on display in the Exhibit Area during the GSA meetings. The exhibit was assembled by the U.S. Geological Survey, and manned during the meetings by GIS volunteers. The Society owes a measure of appreciation to Mr. Pangborn for his efforts

in putting the exhibit together.

One panel was entitled: "Geology Libraries ... And Geology Collections in Academic and Research Libraries". The display consisted of a map of the U.S., on which colored dots, indicating "richness of geology collection", were placed to show the geographic location of 46 geology libraries and collections. The dots represented three levels of holdings: (a) exhaustive (nearly all U.S., most foreign literature) - 2 libraries; (b) rich (most U.S., much foreign literature) - 17 libraries; and (c) good (much U.S., considerable foreign literature) - 27 libraries. The information gathered for this display was taken from Richard D. Walker's Directory of geoscience libraries; U.S. and Canada, published in 1968 by GIS.

The other panel was entitled: "The Geoscience Information Explosion". It consisted of 5 graphs that "demonstrate the growth of the geological literature and the increase in the number of users during the period 1900-1970". The display noted that "geoscience libraries and documentation services must adjust to meet these expanding demands". See page 11 of this newsletter for a photograph of this panel and a description of the five graphs.

#### GISers in the NEWS

Logan O. Cowgill, assistant manager of the U.S. Interior Dept's Water Resources Scientific Information Center, is chairman of the Standards Committee of the Special Libraries Association and thereby SLA representative to the Statistics Coordinating Committee of the American Library Association.

George H. Goodwin, jr., chief librarian of the U.S. Geological Survey, Washington, D.C., will spend a month in early 1972 at the library of the Geological Survey of Indonesia in Bandung. He will assess the operation of the 20,000-item collection and submit recommendations to improve the service.

H. Robert Malinowsky, assistant director of libraries at the Univ of Kansas, is chairman of the Education Committee of the Special Libraries Association and thereby SLA representative to the Joint Committee on Library Education of the Council of National Library Associations. He also edited the "Science and Engineering" section of American reference books annual published 1971 by Libraries Unlimited, Inc., Littleton, Colo.

Jeanne C. Moody, senior analyst at Herner & Co., is co-compiler (with Saul Herner) of Exhibits of sources of scientific and technical information, published 1971 by Information Resources Press, Washington, D.C. The 190-page book depicts 101 major scientific and technical information tools, techniques, and resources in pictorial form, thus enhancing the understanding and ready familiarity of these sources.

Loyd R. Rathbun, library officer at MIT Lincoln

Laboratory, Lexington, Mass., is the Conference Chairman for the 1972 Annual Conference of the Special Libraries Association to be held 4-8 June in Boston.

Peter J. Smith of the Dept of Earth Sciences, The Open Univ, Walton, Bletchley, Eng., is co-editor (with I.G. Gas and R.C.L. Wilson) of Understanding the Earth; a reader in the earth sciences, published 1971 by MIT Press (\$7.95). The 355-page book was prepared for The Open Univ's foundation course in science.

George J. Snowball of the Sir George Williams Univ Library, Montreal, has prepared a 37-page report entitled "An inventory of Canadian library holdings of earth sciences material for English speaking countries south of the Sahara" (March 1971). It is recommended that "a limited number of libraries should augment their present holdings so that the geographical distribution within Canada of comprehensive collections of African earth science materials can be widened" (p.ii).

Arleen N. Somerville of the Univ of Rochester libraries is co-author (with M. Kay Allard and Diane Smith) of "An AV workshop approach to teaching the use of CA indexes" published in Special libraries, Oct 1971, v.62, no.10, p.435-437. The AV presentation is a slide-tape modification of three units on the use of Chemical abstracts selected from the "Audio Visual Instructional Systems" developed by O. Bertrand Ramsay of Eastern Michigan Univ.

#### NEW MEMBERS of GIS

Garrabrant, William A.: Assistant Science Librarian, Newman Library, Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State Univ, Blacksburg, Va. 24060  
 Halgren, Mrs. Joanne V.: Science Librarian, Univ of Oregon, Eugene, Ore. 97403  
 Kessler, Edward J.: Graduate Student, Univ of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz. 85712  
 McCullagh, Mrs. Hilary M.: Assistant Science Librarian, Univ of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66044  
 Price, John F.: Assistant Chief for Reference and Referral Services, Science and Technology Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540

#### GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA USES CAN/SDI

The Geological Survey of Canada and the Canadian National Science Library (NSL) are offering a new service to Canadian geologists.

Since 1969, a system of selective information retrieval and dissemination (CAN/SDI) has been operated by the National Science Library. With a special subject responsibility in the earth sciences, the Library of the Geological Survey of Canada forms an essential part of the Canadian science information network and it is apparent that in order to fulfill its role in the earth sciences it should be in a position to offer a similar retrieval service for geology and re-



lated sciences. Collaboration with NSL permits an extension of their CAN/SDI service to the earth sciences by introducing a geological data base to be made available by the Geological Survey Library.

A magnetic tape for the earth sciences with world-wide coverage is produced by the American Geological Institute in cooperation with the Geological Society of America for the Bibliography and index of geology. The NSL has made arrangements to lease these tapes regularly on a royalty basis. The bibliographic material is derived from GEO·REF (Geological Reference File), and is published once a month. There are 19 people now using GEO·REF, and more are expected (one comment on GEO·REF was: "It is a beauty! This really works"). Thus it will be possible for geologists to be informed of current information by a regular printout of references covering their specific fields of research, based on interest profiles.

The Survey Library is the first decentralized unit of the system, although others will undoubtedly follow in different disciplines. One member of the library staff acts as "search editor-in-chief" for the system: he prepares or checks the interest profiles, does the administrative work, answers letters, prepares statistics, and analyses feedback from users.

Users receive a monthly printout of the articles published on the data appropriate to each individual profile. The printout from GEO·REF contain references approximately three weeks ahead of the printed version published monthly in the Bibliography and index of geology. Subscriptions will cost \$111 per year. The system will only be available to scientists and institutions in Canada.

CAN/SDI is an information retrieval system operated by NSL in Ottawa for Canadian scientists, researchers, and technical personnel. The service scans regularly (weekly, bi-weekly, monthly) the current literature and provides to subscribers bibliographic references to relevant publications. More than 10,000 scientific journals are scanned and also books, proceedings, reports, and patents. CAN/SDI is supported by the literature resources of NSL and by nationwide interlibrary loan services so that the full text of each retrieved citation can be obtained in Canada.

For full information on CAN/SDI, including prices, contact: Tape Services Branch, National Science Library, National Research Council of Canada, 100 Sussex Dr, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0S2 (613/996-3549).

#### EARTH SCIENCES RESEARCH CATALOG

Volume 1 (1970) of the Earth sciences research catalog was published in early 1971 by the Information Services Dept of the Univ of Tulsa. The 602-page catalog provides "a convenient guide to current earth sciences research", quickly revealing "what is being done and where". There are 2,236 Notices

of Research Projects, furnished by the Smithsonian Science Information Exchange. The subject areas covered include geology, geochemistry, geophysics, hydrology, oceanography & limnology, and mining and petroleum engineering.

The catalog provides a reference to selected research projects funded by government and private sources during 1969-1970. Its primary objective is "to quickly disseminate information on research projects being initiated, currently in progress, or just completed". Summaries of projects are printed along with a subject index; names of research institutions, sponsoring agencies, and principal research investigators are listed in supplemental indexes.

The catalog was cooperatively sponsored by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the Society of Exploration Geophysicists, the SSIE, and the Information Services Dept of the Univ of Tulsa. It is available from the latter (1133 North Lewis Ave, Tulsa, Okla. 74110) for \$75.

#### REGIONAL ARID LANDS INFORMATION NETWORK

The National Science Foundation has awarded \$66,300 to the Univ of Arizona for a feasibility study for a regional arid lands information network. Under the direction of the university's Office of Arid Lands Studies, a group consisting of representatives from several other institutions in the western U.S. are meeting regularly and "trying to deal in a dynamic and intelligent way" with such topics as compatibility of hardware among the various members, assignments of responsibility for subject coverage for input, user studies among various constituencies, cost analyses, and other matters that must be attended to before a consortium is created that will develop and operate the full-blown system.

Thus far, the Office of Arid Lands Studies has developed the computer program and system for storage and retrieval, the thesaurus of terminology that is used to control the indexing, the format for input, and a systematic and regular program for library searches to keep current. Several foreign countries are awaiting a decision to invite them to participate and thus make the program an international network.

For further information, contact: Patricia Paylore, Assistant Director, Office of Arid Lands Studies, College of Earth Sciences, Univ of Arizona, 1201 E. Speedway Blvd, Tucson, Ariz. 85719 (602/884-1955).

#### NATL COMMISSION ON LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

Charles H. Stevens, Associate Director for Library Development, Project Intrex at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been appointed the first Executive Director of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, Washington, D.C.

Dr. Frederick Burkhardt, President of the American



Council of Learned Societies, who was named chairman of the new commission by President Nixon earlier this year, expressed satisfaction with the Commission's choice. "The library field and the information community as a whole have awaited this appointment with some anticipation, and we are fortunate indeed to find a man who is at once a librarian of acknowledged national stature and an expert on the technical aspects of information retrieval systems", he said. "We have every expectation that Mr. Stevens will bring to his new duties a balanced consideration for the mounting problems of traditional libraries as well as for innovations in the field".

The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, which has only recently come into being, was created by act of the 91st Congress in July 1970 in response to the multitude of problems facing library systems throughout the country. Established as an independent agency within the Executive Branch, the Commission is charged with developing plans, studies, and analyses with librarians and others interested in information problems in the various library systems that exist in federal, state, local, and private agencies, and with advising the President and the Congress on overall policies to meet national needs for library and information services. The Commission consists of the Librarian of Congress and fourteen members appointed by the President.

Mr. Stevens, who will take a leave of absence from MIT to accept the new post, has been on the staff of Project Intrex since its inception at MIT six years ago. Intrex (for information transfer experiments) is a computer-based prototype technical library system, combining recent advances in digital data processing and video technology to give the library user remote access to computer catalog data and microfiche texts.

#### MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS

Chakraborty, Ajoy Ranjan (March-June 1970) Scatter of Indian geological documents in Indian and foreign periodicals. Annals of library science and documentation, v.17, no.1-2, p.47-53.---The survey indicates that more than 90% of the documents (published in 1967) have been covered in Indian sources.

Colin, Hans J., and Hansenmüller, Ursula (July 1971) Das Dokumentations-system IBM/360 Information Retrieval and Management System (IRMS) beim Geologischen Landesamt Nordrhein-Westfalen. IBM Nachrichten, v.21, no.207, p.784-789:---The Geological Institute in North Rhine-Westphalia collects all documents containing geologic information (i.e. reports, conference minutes, results of analyses, and maps). Its stock consists of about 17,000 documents and 800-1000 additional documents are received annually. The IBM/360 IRMS is a programming package which enables the Institute to extend its stock of documents and to cope with a greater number of inquiries. Input consists of thesaurus data and bibliographic data.

There are 3 types of output from the thesaurus input: (1) the thesaurus containing descriptors together with their broader terms and authors; (2) a dictionary in which descriptors are listed in alphabetical order but without broader terms; and (3) the synonym dictionary in which descriptors are listed by number.

Harris, Chauncy D. (1971) Annotated world list of selected current geographical serials in English, French, and German. 3rd ed. Chicago: Univ of Chicago, Dept of Geography. 77p. (Chicago Univ. Dept of Geography. Research paper no.137). \$4.50. ---Lists 316 serials from 64 countries, including serials in other languages with supplementary use of English or other international languages. Entry information includes title, issuing agency, place of publication, date of first issue, frequency of publication, name changes, indexes, name & address of editor or editors, name & address of publisher, price, presence of abstracts, languages, and annotation of the nature of the contents.

Sears, M., comp. (1971) Oceanography indexes 1946-1970. Boston: G.K. Hall. 4v. (to be supplemented).---A working guide to journal articles & monographs on the marine sciences, held in the library of the Marine Biology Laboratory and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. It is also a cumulative index for the bibliography/abstracts section of Deep sea research from its inception in 1953 to date. The coverage is international with emphasis on biological and physical oceanography, marine chemistry, geology, and meteorology. Author cumulation: est.62,000 cards, 3v. (\$195 prepublication price, \$245 after January 1972). Regional cumulation: est.30,000 cards, 1v. (\$75 prepublication price, \$95 after January 1972).

U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. National Ocean Survey. Scientific Data and Service Division. Physical Science Services Branch (1971) Principal rivers & lakes of the world. Rockville (Md.): National Ocean Survey.---Useful compilation of non-technical information, Appendices list the world's largest rivers and lakes in order of their physiographic characteristics.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

A description of the Committee on Storage, Automatic Processing and Retrieval of Geological Data (Cogodata) of the International Union of Geological Sciences is found in the November 1971 issue of Geotimes (v.16, no.11, p.24-26).

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The publication Computers in the environmental sciences is an international list of people working in the environmental sciences using computers, including technical details of the programs involved and the problems they are being used for. It is designed to continue the work of Computers in geography and GOSSIP (geologically oriented scheme for sharing information on programming). It exists to promote the

dissemination of information about computer programs in the environmental sciences in order to minimize duplication of programming effort and to act as a source of reference over a wide field of inquiry. Edited by John R. Tarrant, the publication is annual and the 1972 edition is expected to be available during March 1972. Order from: Geo Abstracts, Univ of East Anglia, Norwich, NOR 88C, England.

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K.R. Honick presented a paper entitled "Microphotography of maps onto 35mm color film" during the 3rd International Congress on Reprography held 15-19 March 1971 by the Institute for Reprographic Technology of London, England.

The first-ever special edition of Roundup, the bi-monthly magazine of the Westerners, a Denver-based organization of Western history enthusiasts, will also mark the first time the magazine has been made available to the public. The 72-page edition will contain the just-discovered letters of F.V. Hayden describing his 1854-1855 Missouri River expedition which left from St. Louis and traveled to the North Dakota-Montana border. Copies of Roundup may be obtained by writing to the Westerners, 1430 Western Federal Savings Bldg, Denver, Colo. 80202.

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The Research Center Library staff of the Waterways Experiment Station, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, has developed a microthesaurus of technical terms in cooperation with specialists at the Experiment Station in the various engineering subject fields of hydraulics, soil mechanics, concrete, soil dynamics, rock mechanics, expedient surfacing, flexible pavements, nuclear weapons effects, ecology, geology, geography, environmental studies with military applications, trafficability and mobility, and related fields. The thesaurus is compatible with the Defense Dept's Thesaurus of engineering and scientific terms and other major thesauri. It has not been published because there is a possibility that it will be enlarged to include the other technical fields of interest to the Corps of Engineers. A proposal to that effect is pending. There are some 6200 terms in the microthesaurus exclusive of common standard terminology and proper & geographic names. It allows for processing material in considerable depth.

GIS Newsletter Editor: Robert McAfee, jr., Assistant to the Executive Director, American Society for Information Science, 1140 Connecticut Ave, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 (202/659-3644)

GIS members are invited (urged) to contribute to the GIS Newsletter. Please send news notices and other material pertaining to geoscience information activities or publications, and which would be of interest to the membership, to the GIS Newsletter Editor at the address given above.

#### EXCERPT FROM AGI PRESIDENT'S REPORT - 1971

"The Geoscience Information function is at a critical stage. The outpouring of scientific literature continues to accelerate at a time when funds for bibliographic and translation services are being curtailed. By the end of this year the U.S. Geological Survey will have ceased publication of all abstracts and bibliographies. The GSA Bibliography and index of geology, based on our GEO-REF data files, will be the only one available in English for the geosciences. But even if funds continued to increase, the physical bulk of material to be printed, shipped, and made available in libraries over the next few decades poses almost insoluble handling and storage problems. GEO-REF is our attempt to make up-to-date bibliographic material conveniently available to geoscientists through telephone service to a central computer data storage and retrieval facility. Funds are now being sought to expand current coverage of geoscience publications and to extend the coverage to include older literature. Economic and space considerations make it inevitable that some such system will ultimately supplement the local library. Geoscientists will be ahead of the field if we can make GEO-REF work".

#### EXCERPT FROM AGI SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES for the 3-month period ending 30 Sept 1971

"A decision by the U.S. Geological Survey to discontinue its various abstracting and indexing services at the beginning of 1972 will affect the Institute's GEO-REF project. Plans are currently being made to include in the GEO-REF data file and to publish in the GSA Bibliography and index of geology that part of the North American literature formerly cited only in the USGS bibliographic publications. The GEO-REF staff also have had discussions with representatives from GSA about possible economies in preparing and printing the GSA bibliography".

"A proposal was submitted to the National Science Foundation on September 10, requesting \$404,000 for support of GEO-REF operations during 1972. The proposal anticipates that the project will process about 60,000 citations in this 12-month period and will receive about \$160,000 in non-grant income".

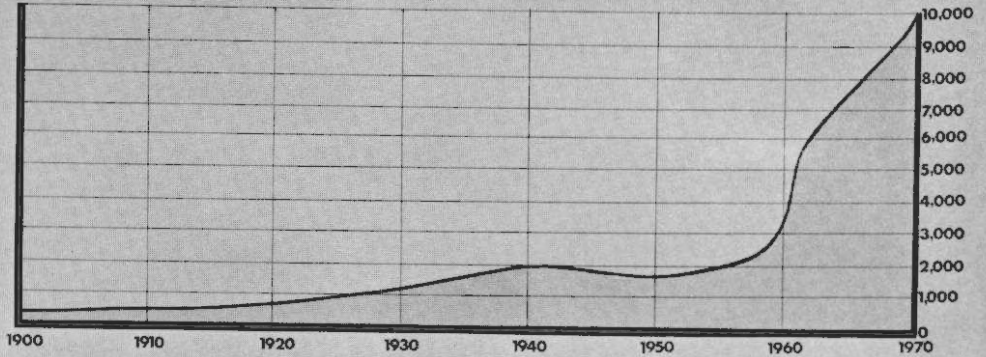
"Elsevier Publishing Company has asked AGI, through GEO-REF, to prepare indexes for three of its geoscience journals: Tectonophysics, Marine geology, and Geoderma. AGI may be requested later to prepare cumulative indexes for other Elsevier publications".

"The editor of the revised AGI Glossary expects to complete the processing of some 35,000 geological terms by the end of November. It appears possible that the revised glossary can be published some time next Spring".

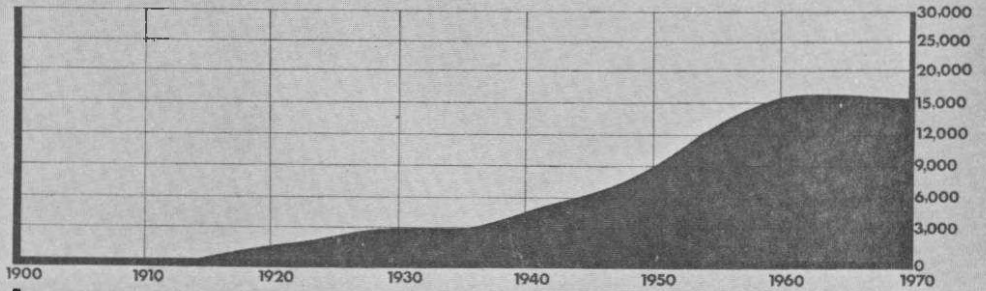
THESE GRAPHS DEMONSTRATE THE GROWTH OF THE GEOLOGICAL LITERATURE AND THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF USERS DURING THE PERIOD 1900-1970. GEOSCIENCE LIBRARIES AND DOCUMENTATION SERVICES MUST ADJUST TO MEET THESE EXPANDING DEMANDS.

# THE GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION EXPLOSION

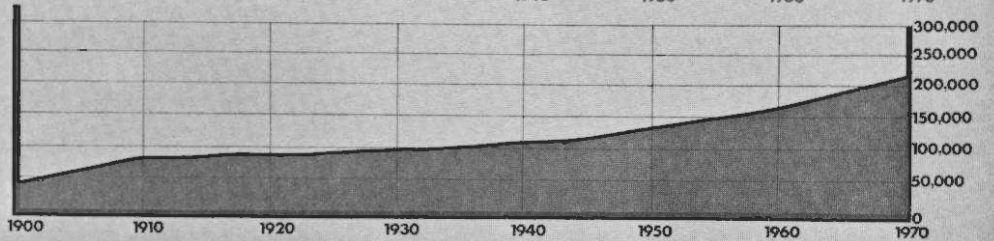
GROWTH IN NUMBER OF CITATIONS APPEARING ANNUALLY IN BIBLIOGRAPHY OF NORTH AMERICAN GEOLOGY



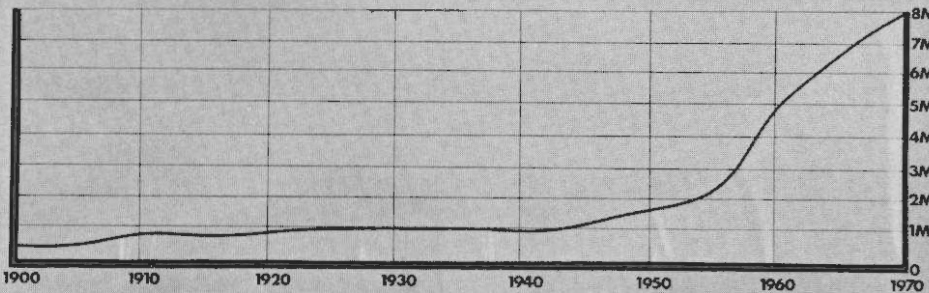
GROWTH IN NUMBER OF GEOLOGIST USERS OF THE LITERATURE, AS ILLUSTRATED BY GROWTH OF A.A.P.G. MEMBERSHIP



GROWTH IN TOTAL NUMBER OF BOUND VOLUMES IN U.S.G.S. LIBRARY (WASH., D.C.)



TOTAL NUMBER OF COPIES OF MAP SHEETS DISTRIBUTED ANNUALLY BY U.S.G.S.



TOTAL NUMBER OF COPIES OF U.S.G.S. WATER SUPPLY PAPERS, PROFESSIONAL PAPERS, AND CIRCULARS DEALING WITH WATER, PUBLISHED ANNUALLY

