

# GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY

BY HARRIET E. WALLACE

## History

Following a "Panel Discussion on Geology Library Problems" planned by the American Geological Institute, sponsored by the National Science Foundation, and held during the meeting of the Geological Society of America in Miami Beach in 1964, the geoscience librarians on the panel gathered to discuss the advisability of creating an organization concerned with the many problems of geoscience literature. During the following year, studies were made to determine the interest of the geoscience community in such a group, the type of organization to be formed, the type of members who would be attracted, the societal affiliation to be considered, and other factors. On November 5, 1965, during the meeting of the Geological Society of America, a meeting was held to organize an information group as an independent society. The name Geoscience Information Society was chosen, and a constitution was adopted. During the next two years steps were taken to incorporate GIS in the District of Columbia, to have it granted non-profit status by the Internal Revenue Service, and to affiliate with both the Geological Society of America and the American Geological Institute. The first annual meeting was held during the meeting of the Geological Society of America in San Francisco in 1966.

## Purpose

The primary purpose of the Geoscience Information Society is to facilitate the exchange of information in the geosciences by cooperation of an international membership of scientists, librarians, documentalists, editors, and other information specialists. Promotion of cooperative efforts to provide access to and control of various types of geoscience literature, to provide guides for types of literature, for collections in secondary schools, colleges, and universities, and to attract geoscience students to librarianship are also areas of concern for the Society. It cooperates closely with the Geological Society of America, the American Geological Institute, and other geoscience information groups.

## Membership

Any person, institution, or other organization interested in the purposes of the Society and whose professional activities are related to geoscience may become a member upon payment of the dues which are established by the Executive Committee. Currently there are about two hundred members in the Society.

**Dues:** Dues are payable at the beginning of every calendar year and are tax deductible.

1. Personal member \$ 12.00
2. Institutional member \$ 25.00
3. Sustaining member \$100.00

**Privileges of Membership.** All members in good standing receive the bi-monthly *GIS Newsletter*, and a copy of the *Proceedings* of the annual symposium, and an annual membership list. Membership also provides an opportunity for professional development, to participate in the annual meeting, to develop an acquaintance and working relationship with those sharing a common goal, and to aid in promoting the exchange of information in the geosciences.

## Organization

The affairs of GIS are administered by the Executive Board composed of the officers of the Society (President, Vice-President and President-Elect, immediate Past President, Secretary, Treasurer) and the chairpersons of the standing and active committees. Various Executive appointees handle matters pertinent to the operational aspects of GIS (representation on the AGI Governing Board, representation on the GSA Joint Technical Program Committee and others as the need arises).

## Annual Meeting and Symposium

The annual meeting and symposium are held every year in conjunction with the annual meetings of the Geological Society of America and associated societies. The Geological Society of America and its local committee arrange for space for the meetings, hotel rooms for the participants, registration, and other such matters. A typical program for the annual meeting includes a technical session or symposium on a pertinent topic of geoscience information or information retrieval, a business meeting, a luncheon, and possibly a field trip or panel discussion. The Vice-President plans and is in charge of the program.

## Publications

**GIS Newsletter** published from 1966 to date.

**GIS Proceedings** (of annual program or symposium) published for meetings, 1966 to date.

**Geologic field trip guidebooks of North America:** first edition 1968, second edition 1971, third edition due late 1977.

**Directory of geoscience libraries; U. S. and Canada:** first edition 1968, second edition 1973.

**A buying list of 100 good geology books for the high school library,** 1967.

### **Bibliography of theses in geology.**

1964 published in *Geoscience abstracts*, December 1965

1965-66 published by the Society and the American Geological Institute

1967-70 published as *Geological Society of America special paper* no. 143

1971-to date included in the *Bibliography and index of geology*

### **Bibliography of earth science bibliographies of the United States of America, 1971.**

### **Future Meetings**

#### **Annual**

- 1978 Toronto
- 1979 San Diego
- 1980 Atlanta
- 1981 Cincinnati
- 1982 New Orleans

#### **Special**

1978, April 10-12, International Conference of Geological Information, London. Sponsored by GIS and the Geological Information Group of the Geological Society of London together with the Australian Geoscience Information Association, Editerra, and the Association of Earth Science Editors.

### **For further information about the Geoscience Information Society please write:**

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