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GIS newsletter

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GSA To Initiate Project To Promote Earth Sciences

(Editor's note: GSA President Leon T. Silver recently issued the following letter to AGI affiliated societies.)

Dear AGI Member Society:

In 1979, the Geological Society of America will initiate a major long-term project leading to the Society's centennial celebration in 1988. As the general geological society for North America with international membership and participation, it intends to create a multi-faceted program dedicated to the growth of both science and public service in the earth sciences throughout the continent in the forthcoming decade. Preliminary consultation with a number of major science organizations and institutions has shown great support for the concept of "The Decade of North American Geology, 1979-1988."

By this letter, I wish to make you aware of these plans and to invite your consideration of ways and means by which your organization might join the Geological Society in an effort to move the earth sciences forward in both scientific capabilities and service to society.

A major project already adopted by the Council of the Society is a major multi-volume text and map series on the geology of North America to be produced incrementally over the next ten years. Informal endorsement of this project and intentions to support or participate have already been indicated by the U.S. Geological Survey, Geological Survey of Canada, and the Canadian Geoscience Council.

We view the next decade as an opportunity for the earth sciences to demonstrate their capabilities in recognizing and defining the many problems involving man and the earth, and in providing informed and practical scientific bases for developing appropriate solutions.

I welcome your response to this initiative at your early convenience.

Sincerely,

Leon T. Silver
President,
Geological Society of America

First Satellite Map Of Arabian Peninsula Issued

Yemen is the first country on the Arabian Peninsula to be mapped using satellite images, according to a recent U.S. Geological Survey news release. The surface features of the country are revealed in a "false-color" mosaic made from twelve images recorded by

multi-spectral line scanners on a NASA Landsat Earth resources survey satellite, 570 miles (920 kilometers) above the Earth. The bilingual satellite-image map, entitled "Geographic Map of the Yemen Arab Republic (San' a)," has a scale of 1:500,000. It covers 75,000 square miles of land area, 79 per cent of which is desert. The 52x37-inch map is published as *USGS Map I-1143A*. Dr. J. R. Jones, Chief of the USGS Office of International Hydrology at Reston, Va., reports that the "mosaic represents one of many scientific cooperative projects undertaken by the Survey at the international level to aid developing countries in studies of their mineral, energy, and water resources and in strengthening their institutions and programs for training earth scientists and engineers. Such assistance, requested by foreign countries, is funded by either the Federal Government, international organizations, or other U. S. agencies, with approval of the Department of State." Copies of the mosaic may be purchased at \$1.50 per copy from the U. S. Geological Survey, Branch of Distribution, 1200 South Eads St., Arlington, Va. 22202. Orders addressed to the USGS should be prepaid with checks or money orders payable to the U. S. Geological Survey.

National Sea Grant Depository Housed At University Of R.I.

The National Sea Grant Depository, an information and documentation center at University of Rhode Island's Pell Marine Science Library, houses the only complete collection of publications generated by the Sea Grant Program. Its collection of technical reports, reprints, Marine Advisory reports, and analytics from conference proceedings concern America's oceans, coastal zones, and Great Lakes. They encompass such fields as aquaculture, fisheries, ecosystem research, coastal management, law, socioeconomics, pollution, and ocean engineering.

Publications generated by NSGD are prepared from the Depository's bibliographic data system. By the end of 1977, the data base contained approximately 5000 main entries and to date, nearly 1000 main entries are added each year. Each publication in the Depository is available on loan for one month, if the request is on institutional or business letterhead. The Depository compiles a yearly *Sea Grant publications index*, a monthly *Sea Grant acquisitions list*, and packaged literature searches on specific subjects. All activities and services are free of charge and are made available through a grant from the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of Sea Grant. Further information may be obtained by writing to the National Sea Grant Depository, Pell Marine Science Library, University of Rhode Island, Kingston 02881.

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GEOLOGY LIBRARY

Report From GIS President Julie Bichteler

The presidents of the societies associated with GSA and the GSA Executive Committee held their annual meeting in Boulder on February 1. We discussed a number of issues and events of interest to GIS members. I would like to report them to you.

GSA Bulletin

The new format of the *Bulletin* appears to be solving the previous problems associated with its publication. Costs of production have dropped; the backlog has been sharply reduced; and page charges have been eliminated. However, rate of submission of manuscripts to the *Bulletin* has dropped drastically. It seems that readers have generally accepted the new format, but authors remain hesitant. As information specialists, we in GIS are well aware of the problems faced by scientific and technical journals and of the necessary changes which are inevitable. How can we encourage acceptance among our clientele? GSA President Silver has asked us to do everything we can to make the transition to the new format easier: for example, by being sure that our users have access to sufficient numbers of readers and reader/printers. The *Bulletin* needs our support during this period of adjustment and change.

GSA's 100th Anniversary

GSA's 100th Anniversary meeting will be held in 1988. During the next ten years GSA hopes to stimulate and encourage the production of new publications from many sources and in a variety of formats. Projects might originate, for example, with the GSC, USGS, or the associated societies. Emphasis will be on the geology of North America. In addition to the publication program, GSA plans to call the public's attention to the earth sciences by improving public relations and promoting activities which relate to science education. In short, GSA is launching a ten-year effort in geology and hopes to enter its second century with carefully developed and coordinated plans and goals. GSA encourages the associated societies to contribute ideas for useful products and projects and may ask them to provide some financial support.

Annual Meeting

Considerable discussion occurred over a number of issues and problems associated with the annual meeting. Questions which were raised concerned: (1) length of the annual meeting; (2) the appropriate ratio of symposia to invited papers; (3) how the subject matter of symposia should be determined; (4) the number of and ratio among GSA-arranged sessions, division-arranged sessions, and associated society programs; (5) the appropriate degree of autonomy of associated societies in planning programs; and (6) the powers and duties of the Joint Technical Program Committee and the selection of its chairperson.

Attendees expressed a wide variety of opinions on these issues and reached no real consensus. It was generally agreed that the four-day annual meeting is preferable to three and one-half (the Atlanta meeting will be four days), and one representative raised the possibility of a five-day

meeting, with particular interests concentrated so that individuals could attend three of the five days. Many people felt that the JTPC and its chairperson have too much power and that the societies need much more autonomy in program planning. Perhaps the JTPC chairperson should be rotated among societies or elected by the membership. Certainly what is needed is a clear written policy which would precisely define the rights and responsibilities of the associated societies in relation to those of the JTPC, as far as planning the annual program is concerned.

ERA Proposal By GIS

You will recall that at our Toronto business meeting we voted overwhelmingly to urge the GSA to schedule meetings only in states which have ratified the Equal Rights Amendment. When I stated our proposal at the Boulder meeting, it received a very unsympathetic response. The Executive Committee had rejected a similar proposal last year, suggested by an individual member, and was in no mood to discuss the issue further. Their argument was the usual one: that GSA is a scientific organization and has no business getting involved in politics. I suggested the possibility of a membership-wide vote, an approach taken by various other scientific and professional associations, but this idea was also immediately rejected. I know you are disappointed in this outcome, and I hope you will continue to consider any other appropriate steps we might take to support the ERA.

USGS Open-file Reports

By Nancy J. Pruett

When the U.S. Geological Survey wants to make its work accessible without going through the review process its formal publications require, it announces in *New publications of the Geological Survey* that the material is available in open files in specified USGS Libraries and Public Inquiries Offices. Before October 1977, those interested in the *Open-file reports* were expected to go to those offices to see the material. In October 1977 the Survey set up the Open-File Services Section in Denver and began giving microfiche and hard copy order information in *New publications*. One can now order these reports, although not all reports are available and they are expensive.

On the order of 800 *Open-file reports* were issued in 1977. In contrast, there were only 64 *Professional papers*, 31 *Bulletins*, and 32 *Circulars*. The number of *Open-file reports* has been increasing and according to the USGS will continue to do so. As the number of reports has increased, the problems of access have become more critical.

The *Open-file reports* are not included in depository programs to make them widely available to the public as the other USGS series, nor are they consistently available

for Interlibrary Loan. To see one, one must purchase it. And while many government documents are priced lower than the full cost on the theory that they've already been paid for by the taxes that funded the agency, the *Open-file reports* are priced for full cost recovery.

The major problems for the Survey in increasing the availability of *Open-file reports* appear to be the cost of making them available to depository libraries, the Survey's hesitancy to distribute widely material which has not undergone their rigorous review process, and the fact that no one has or receives a complete set of the *Open-file reports* now (not even the Open-File Services Section.)

The Geoscience Information Society established in late 1978 a Committee on USGS *Open-file Reports*, charging it with investigating the problems with USGS *Open-file reports* and proposing some possible solutions and options which GIS might wish to adopt and "push" up as a group. The members of the committee are Nancy Pruett (UCLA), Chairman, Marie Dvorzak (U. Minnesota), Claren Kidd (U. Oklahoma), and Mary Scott (U. North Dakota).

As part of the Committee's work, we have enclosed a questionnaire in this issue's *GIS newsletter*. What have been your problems with USGS *Open-file reports*? The enclosed questionnaire is intended to survey your problems and what you'd like to see as solutions, but please feel free to comment freely and to suggest people for us to contact. Also please send us copies of any correspondence you've had with the USGS on the subject of *Open-file reports*, particularly if you've tried to set up a depository.

At least one other group is active on the subject of *Open-file reports*. The Special Libraries Association's Map and Geography Division has a Cartographic Users Advisory Committee (CUAC) chaired by David Cobb (U. Illinois) which meets with the USGS twice a year to advise them on the needs of map libraries. This committee sent a questionnaire to the 508 USGS map depositories throughout the country in an attempt to gather statistics and to set priorities for CUAC. Of the 208 responding, 150 said that USGS *Open-file reports* were a high priority problem. Based on this response, the CUAC initiated conversations with the USGS about the *Open-file reports* at their meeting in Washington, February 23, 1979, and will continue discussions at the annual meeting of the Special Libraries Association in Honolulu in June. I have been invited to join the Committee in the June meeting and would like to take your feedback concerning *Open-file reports* to that meeting. CUAC's concerns embrace all USGS publications, so if you have problems with other USGS publications I would be glad to express those at the meeting also. Or you can write directly to David Cobb (Map and Geography Library, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois 61801), who is anxious that CUAC represent as broad a cross-section of users of USGS publications as possible.

The *Open-file reports* are an increasingly important and frustrating group of publications, particularly to those of us in geoscience information. The Committee on USGS *Open-file Reports* needs your help to document their importance and your problems with them, as well as to know what kind of solutions you prefer. Please fill out the questionnaire today and mail it to:

Nancy J. Pruett
GIS Committee on USGS *Open-file Reports*
UCLA Geology-Geophysics Library
Los Angeles, California 90024

Telephone 213-825-1055

AGI To Produce Indexes For USGS

The editorial staff of GeoRef is presently indexing, on a current basis, all U.S. Geological Survey serial publications occurring in the monthly *New publications of the Geological Survey*. These publications, averaging 150 to 200 per month, include *Open-file reports*, *Bulletins*, *Professional papers*, *Circulars*, *Water-supply papers*, *Water-resources investigations* and maps in series. As a result of a recent contract between AGI and USGS, subject and author indexes are computer-produced for the annual *Publications of the Geological Survey*. Thus, between 3100 and 3300 citations of Survey publications are being added to the GeoRef data base per year.

The *Open-file reports*, previously difficult to obtain, are now available from the USGS' Open-File Service Center, Branch of Distribution, in Denver. GeoRef coverage of *Open-file reports* extends back to 1977; coverage of all other USGS publications is complete back to 1969. All publications of the Survey from 1978 on, including monographic reports not covered under the new contract, are now being input into GeoRef. Prior to the agreement between AGI and USGS, staff at USGS prepared the indexes manually. In addition to the obvious time-saving value, the contract results in more complete GeoRef coverage of Survey publications.

AGI has also begun, in 1979, to publish the *Bibliography and index of geology*, derived from the GeoRef data base. The monthly *Bibliography* was previously published by the Geological Society of America. In 1969 it succeeded the *Bibliography and index of North American geology*, a USGS publication covering literature from 1785 to 1970, and the *Bibliography and index of geology exclusive of North America*, published by GSA from 1933 through 1968. AGI plans to continue the *Bibliography* unchanged.

New Publications

(GIS members in caps)

Computer-based files on mineral deposits: Guidelines and recommended standards for data content. A report by the Mineral Deposits Working Committee, National Advisory Committee on Research in the Geological Sciences. R. V. Longe, Chairman; C. F. BURK, JR., et al. Ottawa, published for the Canada Centre for Geoscience Data by the Geological Survey of Canada, 1978. 72 p. (Canada. Geological Survey. Paper 78-26) Can. \$4.00; other countries \$4.80. Available by mail from: Printing and Publishing, Supply and Services Canada, Hull, Quebec K1A 0S9 or Geological Survey of Canada, 601 Booth St., Ottawa K1A 0E8.

Environmental inventories: Antarctic area. August 1978- Free. U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Environmental Data and Information Service Dx7, Wash., D.C. 20235.

"This publication is first in a newly established series of publications from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Environmental Data Service (NOAA-EDS). Its purpose is to show in an easily understandable form the various types of environmental data available from EDS. The inventory illustrates in graphic form the types and amounts of data available from EDS for specific geographical regions. Future issues will cover the Arctic, Mediterranean Sea, and tropical oceans of the world (four areas in all)."

Glossary of geodetic terms in English, Portuguese and Spanish. 1978. \$5.80 (U.S.) including postage. Pan American Institute of Geography and History, Ex-Arzobispado 29, Mexico 18, D.F., Mexico.

List of recent publications and reports on *regional petroleum geology, topical petroleum geology and resource analysis.* 32 p. Appendix III: R.F. Mast's U.S. Geological Survey Oil and Gas Resource Investigations Program, Denver, Colo., December 1977, 81 p. (U.S. Geological Survey. Open-file report 78-303). Available for \$3.50 (microfiche) or \$12.00 (paper copy) from: Open-File Services Section, Branch of Distribution, U.S. Geological Survey, Box 25425, Federal Center, Denver 80225.

McGraw-Hill encyclopedia of the geological sciences, by the staff of the *McGraw-Hill encyclopedia of science and technology.* Daniel N. Lapedes, Editor-in-chief. New York, McGraw-Hill, 1978. 915 p. \$29.50. (LC 78-8983, ISBN 0-07-045265-2)

The 560 entries have been drawn from the *McGraw-Hill encyclopedia of science and technology* (4th ed., 1977) or have been commissioned especially for this volume. Every article is cross-referenced and followed by an up-to-date bibliography. The *Encyclopedia* contains nearly 900 maps, photographs, tables, drawings, graphs, and diagrams, an analytical index for easy access to all information, a 22-page appendix listing the properties of some 1500 mineral species, and a 5500-entry index.

Morton, David. *Directory of sources for films and other visual materials on natural hazards and their mitigation.* 1978. \$1.00. Available from: Natural Hazards Research and Applications Information Center, Institute of Behavioral Science #6, University of Colorado, Campus Box 482, Boulder 80309.

Ohio energy news. Quarterly. Vol. 1, no. 1, Spring 1978- Editor: Patricia B. Herdendorf. Free. Available from: OSU Program for Energy Research, Education, and Public Service, The Ohio State University, Room 111 Oxley Hall, 1712 Neil Avenue, Columbus 43210.

Reinhardt, Juergen and Van Driel, J.N. An abbreviation key for the DASCH system: a lithostratigraphic information storage and retrieval system. 1978. 28 p. Microfiche \$3.50; paper copy \$4.00. (U.S. Geological Survey. Open-file report 78-961) Available from: Open-File Services Section, Branch of Distribution, U.S. Geological Survey, Box 25425, Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225.

Positions Open

Librarian, Geological Sciences Library

Responsible for administration of a library of about 33,000 volumes and 350 active serial and journal titles. Duties include book selection, acquisitions, processing, reference, and interlibrary loan. Submits budget proposals and recommends policy changes to department. Supervises one assistant and students. Library is in the process of doubling in size as a result of the transfer of about 30,000 volumes, including 250 active serials from the MCZ Library.

Qualifications: MLS, several years of library experience, knowledge of German required; knowledge of Russian desirable. Background experience in a geology or science library, planning space utilization and integrating collections, and supervisory skills desirable.

Available: Immediately.

Rank: Librarian II.

Salary range: \$14,300 - \$16,000

Other Major Benefits: One month's vacation; 12 holidays; generous sick leave plan; Social Security; University-funded pension plan; Tuition Assistance Program; several health-related plans.

Send résumé to:
Philip E. Leinbach,
Assistant University Librarian for Personnel
Harvard University Library
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Office Of Personnel Management Reopens Librarians Register

The Office of Personnel Management (formerly known as the U.S. Civil Service Commission) has reopened the Librarians Register for the period **April 16-27, 1979**. Those interested in applying for professional library positions in the Federal Government should see that their names are placed on the appropriate register. This may be done by filing an application (Form SF-171) with the Office of Personnel Management—WAS, 1900 E Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20415.

Literature Citations

(GIS members in caps)

- Barton, Phillip L. New Zealand metric topographical maps: 1:50,000 and 1:250,000. *Special Libraries Association. Geography and Map Division. Bulletin* no. 114, December 1978, p. 38-39.
- Hannabass, Darline, comp. Technical reports in geography and mapping. *Special Libraries Association. Geography and Map Division. Bulletin* no. 114, December 1978, p. 66-74.
- MARSHALL, KEVIN M. W. The limestone resources of Trinidad and Tobago: Trinidad resources of calcining stone. *West Indian science and technology*, vol. 3, no. 1, December 1978, p. 4-8.
- McArthur, J.L. Environmental science, environmental studies, earth science and physical geography: a comparative review. *New Zealand journal of geography*, no. 65, October 1978, p. 13-21.
- Real, Charles R. et al. Earthquake catalog of California, January 1, 1900-December 31, 1974. 1978. 15 p. (*California. Division of Mines and Geology. Special publication* 52)
- SCHROEDER, JOHN R. AACR II map cataloging alert. *Special Libraries Association. Geography and Map Division. Bulletin* no. 114, December 1978, p. 24-27.
- Shartran, Marilyn J. The bibliographic data file of WDC-A. *World Data Center A for Glaciology [Snow and Ice]. Glaciological data; report GD-3*, December 1978, p. 23-30. This issue, entitled "World Data Center A activities," is available free of charge from: Marilyn J. Shartran, Editor, World Data Center A for Glaciology [Snow and Ice], Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research, University of Colorado, Boulder 80309.
- Wise, Donald A. Cartographic sources and procurement problems. Appendix D: Selected list of United States dealers in out-of-print maps and atlases. Appendix E: Selected special subject or area bibliographies relating to maps and atlases. *Special Libraries Association. Geography and Map Division. Bulletin* no. 114, December 1978, p. 40-44.

Geoscience Information Society 1978 Financial Report

January 1, 1978 to December 31, 1978
(Audited)

Balance as of December 31, 1977			\$5,085.94
Miscellaneous deposits (Funds transfer from 1977 Treasurer to 1978 Treasurer)			50.00
Income			
Dues - Individual	\$2,343.46		
Corporate	275.00		
Subscriptions	201.50		
Publications	1,063.30	\$3,883.26	3,883.26
			\$9,019.20
Expenses			
Newsletter printing	\$ 847.75		
Newsletter postage	300.94		
Proceedings printing	687.96		
Proceedings postage	55.53		
Printing new GIS stationery	144.00		
Dues to American Geological Institute	325.50		
Travel expenses	1,352.64		
Misc. postage and supplies	310.98		
GIS annual meeting	149.41		
Refund (Membership)	3.00		
Refund (Proceedings)	12.00	\$4,189.71	4,189.71
Balance			\$4,829.49
Net Gain (loss)		(\$ 306.45)	
Savings account			
Passbook balance as of December 31, 1977			\$1,215.31
Interest earned during 1978			74.57
Balance			\$1,289.88

Submitted by Robert A. Bier, Jr.
Robert A. Bier, Jr.
Treasurer

Audit

I have examined the financial records of the Society and to the best of my knowledge, the figures given in this report are true.
Thyl S. Kirby (Auditor)

New Members

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Research Assistant
Paleontologiska Institutionen
Box 256
751 05 Uppsala, Sweden

Lynn M. Coppel
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Reston, Virginia 22092

1979 GIS Officers

PRESIDENT: Julie H. Bichteler, Graduate School of Library Science, The University of Texas at Austin, Box 7576, University Station, Austin, Texas 78712 (512/471-3821)

PAST PRESIDENT: Richard D. Walker, Library School, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 600 North Park Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53706 (608/263-2919 or 263-2900)

VICE-PRESIDENT and PRESIDENT-ELECT: Rosalind Walcott, Earth and Space Sciences Library, State University of New York at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, New York 11794 (516/246-3616)

SECRETARY: Caryl L. Shields, U.S. Bureau of Mines, Minerals Availability Field Office, Building 53 Warehouse, Denver Federal Center, Denver Colorado 80225 (303/234-6194; home: 303/449-9146).
Please send mail to home address: 510 22nd Street, Boulder, Colorado 80302.

TREASURER: Robert A. Bier, Jr., U.S. Geological Survey Library, National Center - Mail stop 950, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia 22092 (FTS: 703/928-6671; commercial: 703/860-6671)

The *GIS newsletter* is published bi-monthly in February, April, June, August, October and December by the Geoscience Information Society. Subscription to the *Newsletter* is \$12.00 per year and is included in the Society's annual membership dues. All correspondence relating to dues, membership status and address changes should be directed to the GIS Secretary.

GIS members are invited to contribute articles or news of general interest to the membership. Please submit all material to the Editor.

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614/422-2428