GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY

newsletter

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FROM THE EDITORS

Summer will soon be here and many of us will be taking a break from our regular routines by attending conferences or by going on vacation. But the Newsletter goes on, and again we extend our thanks to the members who contributed to this issue.

Because we hope to mail the October Newsletter no later than October 1 (so members can receive it in time for the annual meeting) we'll be moving the publication dates up. So, if you plan to submit Newsletter items, please get them to Judy Geitgey by July 20 for the August edition and by September 10 for the October edition.

This issue includes a short item about African geological publications, a Library Profile from Rosalind Walcott, and a report from Nancy Pruett on the GeoRef Advisory Council. There is also a questionnaire on microcomputer use in geoscience libraries, by Charlotte Derksen and Dederick C. Ward. Please take the time to fill that out and send it to Charlotte.

Enjoy the summer!

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GIS members are encouraged to contribute articles or news of general interest to the membership. Please send any manuscripts to the Chairperson of the Editorial Board. All other items, such as citations, letters to the editor, job announcements, publication notices, and general news should be sent to the Newsletter Editor.

Material for the August newsletter should be received by the Editor no later than July 20, 1985.

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 $20.00 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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Editor:

I am writing to express a concern I have had for some time. My concern is that many diagrams, photos (both aerial and ground), cross-sections and maps that are used by geologists to illustrate published periodical literature are not readily recoverable by current indexing systems used by most journals. I refer to the major journals of geological literature: Geological Society of America, American Association of Petroleum Geologists, Society of Economic Geologists, and others, both U.S. and foreign. Unless the name of an area being researched occurs in the title, and thus can be recovered by keyword indexing, it seems to be a hit-or-miss process to recover *all* original (or revisions of previously published maps) diagrams and maps published in periodical literature. I do not refer to individually published maps of the USGS, state surveys, geographical societies, etc., for they appear in published lists.

Do you agree with this assessment; and, do you perceive it to be a problem in the control and indexing of the total map literature?

I do recall that G. K. Hall published an "Index to Maps in Books and Periodicals" in ten volumes (at a price somewhat beyond the curious individual) but I don't know if it covered much of the geological literature and whether it is maintained on a current status.

Your thoughts, comments and suggestions would be welcome.

Sincerely yours,

Lowell E. Bogart
P. O. Box 761
Port Townsend, WA 98368
206/385-0815

Editors' note: We welcome any opinions or information that the GIS membership may have concerning this topic.

SEARCHING GEOREF IN ACADEMIC SETTINGS—SURVEY RESULTS

The GeoRef Advisory Council has been considering some form of subsidy for searching GeoRef in academic settings. A survey was included in the April 1985 GIS Newsletter to gather feedback from GEoRef's academic users. Twenty-six surveys were returned, and the results will be passed on to the GeoRef Advisory Council. Here is a summary of the responses.

Twenty-three of the responding libraries subscribe to the *Bibliography and Index of Geology*. Twenty (77%) of these charge back the costs of GeoRef searches to their users. 19% would like a reduced cost for a trial period while 69% would like reduced costs on a permanent basis; 73% would like to be able to do free demonstrations. If either demonstration costs or reduced costs could be provided, 73% would choose lower search costs. 39% said AGI should reduce search aid costs, 46% said there was no need to do so. 85% responded that they would be willing to work with their Geology Departments in teaching students/end users to search GeoRef.

Many thanks to those of you who participated!!

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

July 6-11, 1985—American Library Association; annual meeting; Chicago
Sept. 19-20, 1985—Western Association of Map Libraries; fall meeting; Davis, CA
Oct. 6-10, 1985—Society of Exploration Geophysists; annual meeting; Washington, D. C.
Oct. 28-31, 1985—Geological Society of America; annual meeting; Orlando.
Dec. 9-13, 1985—American Geophysical Union; fall meeting; San Francisco
March 1-5, 1986—Society of Economic Geologists and American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers; winter meeting; New Orleans
May 19-21, 1986—Geological Association of Canada/Mineralogical Association of Canada; annual meeting; Ottawa

GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY
AVAILABLE PUBLICATIONS - April, 1985

GIS Newsletter (annual subscription, 6 issues per year)
Price (U.S. and Canada) $ 20.00
Price (overseas) 22.50

Careers in Geoscience Information (brochure) free

Proceedings of the Annual Meeting
v. 2, *Toward the Development of a Geoscience Information System*, 1971 meeting, ed. by R. W. Graves, 1972.
sale price: $ 1.00
v. 3, [no volume title], 1972 meeting, ed. by H. K. Phinney, 1973.
sale price: $ 3.00
v. 4, *Geoscience Information*, 1973 meeting, ed. by M. W. Wheeler, 1974.
sale price: $ 6.00
v. 5, *Geoscience Information*, 1974 meeting, ed. by J. L. Morrison, 1975.
(out of print, see below)
v. 6, *Retrieval of Geoscience Information*, 1975 meeting, ed. by V. S. Hall, 1976. sale price: $ 8.00
v. 7, *Geoscience Information*, 1976 meeting, ed. by J. G. Mulvihill, 1977.
sale price: $ 8.00
v. 8, *Geoscience Information Retrieval Update*, 1977 meeting, ed. by R. D. Walker, 1978. sale price: $ 8.00
v. 9, *Geoscience Information: Publication - Processing - Management*, 1978 meeting, ed. by J. H. Bichteler, 1979.
price: $ 15.00
v. 10, *Collection Development in Geoscience Libraries*, 1979 meeting, ed. by R. Walcott, 1980. price: $ 20.00
v. 11, *Keeping Current with Geoscience Information*, 1980 meeting, ed. by N. Pruett, 1981. price: $ 20.00
v. 12, *The Future of the Journal*, 1981 meeting, ed. by M. W. Scott, 1983.
price: $ 20.00
v. 13, *Geologic Hazards Data*, 1982 meeting, ed. by R. A. Brown, 1984.
price: $ 20.00
v. 14, *Roles and Responsibilities in Geoscience Information*, 1983 meeting, ed. by U. H. Rowell, 1984.
price: $ 20.00
v. 15, *Maps in the Geoscience Community*, 1984 meeting, ed. by C. M. Kidd, 1985. price: $ 20.00

Ordering Instructions:

All orders (except standing orders for the *Proceedings*) must be prepaid in U.S. funds.

Make checks payable to Geoscience Information Society.

All overseas orders (except *GIS Newsletter* subscriptions which are sent airmail) are sent surface mail, uninsured. If you desire airmail delivery, please state so and add $ 2.50 (U.S.) per item.

Mail all orders (including standing orders for the *Proceedings*) and all payments to:

Publications Manager
Geoscience Information Society
c/o American Geological Institute
4220 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22302 USA

Note: Volume 5 of the *Proceedings* is available from:

Books on Demand
300 N. Zeeb Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48106
order number: 2025408

OUT OF PRINT GIS PROCEEDINGS AVAILABLE

Volume 5 of the GIS Proceedings (1975 meeting, Miami Beach, ed. by J. L. Morrison) is out of print. However, the very last copy was sent to University Microfilms and is now available from Books on Demand. Write to them at:

Books on Demand
UMI
300 N. Zeeb Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48106

Order number 2025048; price $24.80 (paper cover), $30.80 (cloth).

Along the same line, Volume 1 has been out of print for some time, but UMI would be happy to add it to their BOD program if we can find a copy to send to them. Does anyone have an extra they would be willing to donate to the cause? It will not be returned. If so, please write or call Jim O'Donnell at 512/736-7343.

REPORT ON THE GEOREF ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, MAY 23-24, 1985, DALLAS-FORT WORTH AIRPORT

by

Nancy J. Pruett

The GeoRef Advisory Committee is an advisory body to the AGI Executive Board. It makes recommendations about GeoRef policies and budget to the AGI Executive Board. Because of this structure, what occurs at the GRAC meetings is not final. This report is not the official minutes, but merely a personal report of things that should be of interest to GIS and the GeoRef User Group members.

John Mulvihill reported that GeoRef has increased the number of references in the *Bibliography and Index of Geology* for the first four months of 1985 36.5% over last year. This is an average of about 2000 more references each month. John projects similar increases for the rest of the year and an increased level of indexing for the foreseeable future. This improvement is a direct result of the industry support funds and the GeoRef User Group questionnaire which pointed out the need for improved currency in the database. (The results of this questionnaire were summarized in the December GIS Newsletter.) The majority of users felt that 3 months was a reasonable time lag, and Mulvihill's study showed a 2 year lag as of November of last year. The GRAC asked John to have the GeoRef indexers begin to put the most recent materials in the database first, rather than last. Then once the backlog is taken care of, GeoRef should be much more current.

Because of the increased size of the Bibliography, the GRAC proposed increasing the subscription cost of the Bibliography from $995 to $1200.

There are two newly-established Task Forces of the GeoRef Advisory Committee. First is the Vocabulary Task Force, chaired by Barbara Pearson. This committee, established in December 1984, has already been effective. They've reviewed a number of lists of proposed index terms and are planning to review aspects of the new edition of the GeoRef Thesaurus in late summer.

The other Task Force is one on Serials and Coverage, chaired by Charlotte Derksen. This Task Force will be using a microfiche list of journal issues to determine gaps in GeoRef (particularly in the early '70's) and setting priorities on which gaps should be filled first.

Both Task Forces have taken on heavy responsibilities, but with the possibility of really helping improve the database.

The GRAC also spent some time investigating software packages designed to help end users use online databases. These included ProSearch, Notebook II, Personal Bibliographic System, SIRE, BIBLIO, and SciMate. Donald McIntyre and John Mulvihill will be investigating these further. The GRAC may decide to recommend one or more of these packages in marketing the database to end users.

There is a continuing attempt by the GRAC to get the AGI executive Committees to treat GeoRef as a separate cost center and to allow any surpluses to carry over to the next year. AGI, which has been in severe financial straits for the last couple of years, has been unwilling to separate GeoRef's budget, but the Committee feels it is essential for the future survival and health of the database that this be done. Also, the Industry Task Force members, who paid the emergency surcharges in 1984, did so with the understanding that the money would be used for GeoRef only, not for other AGI programs. Although the industry money was not used elsewhere, other surplus funds from 1984 were.

At this meeting we met for about half a day with Edd Turner, President of AGI and again made the case for this separate budgeting. Edd will present the case to the rest of the Executive Committee on August 2.

If anyone needs further information about the GRAC, please feel free to contact me.

Nancy J. Pruett
3144 Technical Library
Sandia National Laboratories
Albuquerque, NM 87185
505/844-6430

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

GEOLOGY LIBRARIAN

The University of Wisconsin-Madison General Library System is accepting applications for the position of geology librarian, a 12-month academic appointment. Benefits include 22 vacation days, sick leave, insurance, and retirement. Salary minimum: $21,000. The geology librarian reports to the Director of the General Library System. The Geology-Geophysics Library is a member of the General Library System and has a collection of over 44,000 volumes, 570 current serial subscriptions, and an annual circulation of over 15,000 items. It serves the research and information needs of students, faculty and staff of the Geology and Geophysics Department and other related disciplines, and the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey. It has a staff of 1 librarian, 1 LTE support staff, and student assistants.

Qualifications: MLS from an ALA-accredited program; at least 2 years of academic or research library experience, including administrative and supervisory experience; ability to communicate effectively; degree or equivalent experience in the field of geology. Traditional and on-line reference experience, foreign language knowledge and experience with microcomputers are desirable.

Responsibilities: The geology librarian is responsible for directing the program of service, collection development and administration of the Geology-Geophysics library and staff. Included in this are provision of reference instructional service, management, assessment and development of the research collection, allocation of resources, establishment of policies, coordination with the General Library System and other major collections on campus. Continuing professional development shall also be demonstrated by such activities as participation in professional associations, library committee work, or research to further the goals of the science of geology and the library community.

A letter of application, resume, and the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of 3 references should be sent to:

Sandra Pfahler, Assistant Director
360 Memorial Library
728 State Street
Madison, WI 53706

Application deadline is June 30, 1985.

USE OF MICROCOMPUTERS IN EARTH SCIENCE LIBRARIES - A QUESTIONNAIRE

Please fill out the following survey on the availability and uses of microcomputers in earth sciences libraries. The results of this survey will be presented at the annual Geoscience Information Society meeting in Orlando, October, 1985.

We hope the results of this questionnaire will help GIS librarians develop uses for microcomputers and also assist them in formulating arguments for acquiring microcomputers for their libraries.

Geology is a highly visual and data intensive field. Geologists use microcomputers (singly or as workstations to minis or mainframes) to create graphics from data and to manipulate data collected from the field. Are there also uses for microcomputers in geoscience libraries which reflect the unique character of geoscience information? Uses of a micro that might be thought of as specific to a geoscience library are important to identify, because they might be considered by those of us seeking funding for micros. Please list these uses in your answer to Question 9.

Please feel free to add as many comments as you would like to the answers to the questionnaire. The more information that you can give us, the more ammunition we can provide those who are struggling to acquire microcomputers.

Charlotte Derksen
Dederick C. Ward

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EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCES LIBRARY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT STONY BROOK
STONY BROOK, NY 11794-2199

BY

ROSALIND WALCOTT

The State University of New York (SUNY) was created in 1949 and is now the largest system for higher education in the United States, with 64 separate campuses and an enrollment of 370,000 students. SUNY Stony Brook is one of the 4 university centers in the system, and is located on the north shore of Long Island, 60 miles from Manhattan. Being part of such a hugh system has definite disadvantages as all administration is centralized (including budget control).

The Stony Brook campus was started 25 years ago and has grown rapidly to include 100 buildings on 1000 acres, with a faculty of 1300 and a student enrollment of 16,000. Stony Brook is recognized as the "science campus" of the SUNY system and this specialization means that all science library materials are processed "RUSH".

The Earth and Space Sciences (ESS) Library was founded in 1968 and is the newest and smallest of 5 departmental science libraries on campus. It has a staff of 1 librarian, 2 full-time clerical assistants and 10 part-time student assistants. The Library supports 3 separate research groups, geologists, astronomers, and oceanographers, (approximately 60 faculty and 100 graduate students). The Library also supports the fledgling meteorological group on campus, whose main research interests are in planetary atmospheres, so they interact closely with the planetary astronomers. The ESS library collection covers the subjects of geology, geophysics, geochemistry, physical and chemical oceanography, astronomy and planetary science, with lesser coverage of climatology, meteorology, hydrology, geomorphology and mining sciences. The major research interests of the geoscience faculty are in geochemistry, mineral physics, rock physics, seismology and sedimentary geology. The astronomy faculty offer specializations in observational astronomy and theoretical astrophysics, with emphasis on extragalactic astronomy, exploration of the solar system, planetary atmospheres, infrared astronomy, interstellar molecules, stellar atmospheres and nuclear astrophysics. The oceanography faculty, located in the Marine Sciences Research Center, specialize in various aspects of coastal oceanography, such as physical, chemical, and biological. (Biological oceanography is covered by the Biological Sciences Library.)

The ESS Library collection now numbers 40,000 volumes with current subscriptions to approximately 620 serials. The library lends twice as much as it borrows on the OCLC inter-library loan network. The library has an annual acquisitions budget of $25,000 for monographs and maps and approximately $75,000 for serials. Most government documents are received as depository items. The small map collection, 6,000 sheets, is fully cataloged on the OCLC database and is arranged by Library of Congress G classification in a separate Map Room within the library. Since the geoscience faculty are not field-oriented in their research interests only a basic map collection is needed.

The Stony Brook library system is in the process of changing its bibliographic utility from OCLC to RLIN. The library is also in negotiation with GEAC to purchase an integrated library automation system, with automated circulation for the departmental libraries, online catalogs, and acquisitions and serials control modules. Retrospective conversion of the ESS library collection has already been completed, so, finances permitting, online access to the whole collection will soon be possible.

The ESS library is open 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday; 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, and 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday. The telephone number is (516) 246-3616.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AFRICAN GEOLOGICAL MATERIALS

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Geology-Geophysics Library has recently added a considerable amount of geoscience materials published in or about Africa. In 1982/83 the Library's proposal for $10,000 for African purchases was approved by a departmental bequest fund committee. Over 100 letters were sent to all African geological or mining surveys and to all African universities large enough to possibly have earth science, mining, or groundwater study programs. While response was often slow and somewhat spotty—Libya never replied!—the Library acquired many publication lists and price lists from both schools and government surveys. The acquisition of these alone made the project worthwhile.

When it became apparent that the entire $10,000 could easily be spent, it was decided to build upon present holdings first, and then acquire the most useful materials from the remaining lists. Bales of survey bulletins were received from South Africa, Egypt and others. Materials arrived from Lesotho, Somalia, Nigeria and Zimbabwe. University Purchasing figuratively tore its hair as it paid out kwachas, pulas, and linganeris. Some African schools and surveys set up exchange programs with the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey and with the UW's Department of Geology and Geophysics, stretching the dollars further. All publications were cataloged as selectively analyzed series when possible. (Almost no maps were ordered.)

Luckily, staff did not realize how time-consuming all follow-up work would be, or the project might not have begun. Materials began arriving in 1983/84 and are still trickling in. Though an African documents jobber was contacted, even he could not supply missing publications lists or all the documents needed. Overall response has been very encouraging, but several countries still need to be contacted, perhaps through indirect channels.

Other geoscience libraries and their clients would certainly benefit from a complete listing of all African publications currently held in the UW-Madison Geology-Geophysics Library. This would also include publications about African geology received from England and France. Because these materials have been received so recently, they may not appear in standard union lists. If any library is interested in borrowing African geological publications, or in seeing publications lists from specific countries, remember Wisconsin! Interlibrary loan forms should be directed to the UW's Memorial Library ILL Department, Madison, Wisconsin, 53706.

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

A revised list of LC officers was published in LC's *Cataloging Service Bulletin* and included some important contacts for the geoscience community:

Descriptive cataloging (serials and monographs)
Ben R. Tucker
Chief, Office for Descriptive Cataloging Policy

Subject headings and LC classification
Mary K. D. Pietris
Chief, Subject Cataloging Division

Cartographic Materials
Dr. John A. Wolter
Chief, Geography and Map Division

All addresses are: Library of Congress, Washington, D. C. 20540.

These and other contacts (for Policy Matters, Decimal Classification, CIP, MARC tagging, the National Serials Data Program, and others) are listed in *Cataloging Service Bulletin*, no. 28, Spring 1985, p. 2.

BOOK SOUGHT

The Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology Library (Butte, Montana) is trying to locate a book titled *Johnson's Materials of Construction*, by M. O. Withey and James Ashton. They need the 7th edition, 1930, published by John Wiley and Sons, New York.

If you have a copy of this you are willing to part with, please contact:

Dena Fracolli Stepp
Montana Tech Library
Butte, MT 59701
406/496-4284

DIRECTORY OF GEOSCIENCE LIBRARIES

The GIS committee responsible for the *Directory of Geoscience Libraries* is preparing a questionnaire to gather new information and to revise entries in the 1974 edition of the *Directory*. New data will include electronic mail codes and availability of online bibliographic services; other suggestions are welcome. Questionnaires will be mailed to all GIS members, all U.S. and Canadian state or provincial surveys, and all departments in the AGI *Directory of Geoscience Departments*. Committee members will also send mailings to selected other addresses from various society and membership lists. If you know of a new library, special collection or other source of significant geoscience holdings in North America, please send the information to:

Nancy Crossfield/GIS
1324 Purvis Circle
Clovis, CA 93612

Thank you!

THE BBC RECEIVES AGI AWARD

The American Geological Institute has awarded its first "AGI Award for Outstanding Contribution to Public Understanding of Geology" to the British Broadcasting Corporation for its televison series, *The Making of a Continent*.

This three-part series, based on the book by Ron Redfern, shows how the North American continent was formed. Redfern chose North America because, as he said, "It so clearly illustrates one of the two basic concepts of... plate tectonics: the evolving anatomy of a drifting continent."

The series, which won the Peabody Award for best documentary television series of 1983, was co-produced by the BBC and WTTW, the Public Broadcasting Service's Chicago affiliate, and was filmed by the BBC's Natural History Unit.

GEOLOGISTS' LIBRARY FOR SALE

The collection includes books, monographs, maps, congresses, and symposia. Subjects include global and regional tectonics, petrology, mineralogy, oceanography, and history. There is a special collection of Arctic materials as well. Some items are in German and some have gone out of print. We would prefer to sell the collection intact but would consider selling individual items. For further information, please contact:

Susan M. Hall
15 Homer Road
Belmont, MA 02178
617/489-1076, or, 617/495-2351

COMPUTER SOFTWARE AVAILABLE

Two new geoscience computer software programs are now available for use on Apple computers. Both are useful for introducing students or others to basic geological concepts.

The first is a package of 12 programs covering Earth History, Earth Motion, Energy Flow, Erosion, Measuring the Earth, Minerals and Rocks, Observations and Measurements, The Oceans, The Restless Earth, Solar Radiation, Water, and Weather. A demonstration disk is available for $5. The complete set costs $195 and any individual program can be purchased for $29. Order from:

J & S Software
14 Vanderventer Avenue
Port Washington, NY 11050
516/944-9304

The second software program, called Galactic Prospector, is available from Disney's EPCOT Educational Media. It introduces the user to various aspects of energy exploration, including analysis of test data and satellite photos. The game is set on a distant planet. The player is given a limited amount of fuel for surveying the planet and must contend with a clever competitor from another world. For further information write to:

EPCOT Educational Media
500 South Buena Vista Street
Burbank, CA 91521

GEOREF INCREASES COVERAGE OF SOVIET AND EASTERN EUROPEAN GEOLOGICAL STUDIES

AGI announced June 7th that a recent search of the GeoRef database produced 113,428 references to Russian, Polish, Romanian, Hungarian, Yugoslavian, East German, Czechoslovakian and Bulgarian geological studies published from 1967 to the present. In May alone, 912 new references were added. Researchers will find Soviet geological studies especially well-represented in GeoRef, covering topics like permafrost, the Tunguska mystery, and the Kola Peninsula drilling project. Each GeoRef citation gives the full bibliographic reference with index terms, and foreign language materials include both the transliterated and translated titles and summary languages.

NEW MEMBERS

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Natalia E. Schoeck
BP Alaska Exploration, Inc.
100 Pine Street
San Francisco, CA 94111

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONTRIBUTORS

The GIS Newsletter welcomes original, previously unpublished English language papers related to geoscience information. Manuscripts should be typed on opaque paper, on one side only, double-spaced throughout, with 3 cm margins on all sides, and all pages numbered consecutively. Length should not exceed 12 pages.

The title page should include the title, the name(s) of the author(s) and their institutional address(es). References should be mentioned in the text (author and date), with a list of "References cited" appearing at the end of the paper, following GSA reference style. Provide on a separate sheet an informative abstract of no more than 200 words and a biographical sketch of the author(s), of no more than 100 words, which includes current position and education.

Clear, black and white (glossy) photographs and illustrations with strong contrast should be submitted on separate sheets from the text and numbered consecutively in order of reference in the text. Tables and figures should be submitted on separate sheets from the text, numbered, and referred to in the text by number.

Send two (2) copies of the manuscript to the Chairperson, GIS Newsletter Editorial Board. Include a phone number where the author(s) may be reached and a self-addressed stamped envelope for notification of receipt of manuscript. Each manuscript will be reviewed by at least two persons.

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