



**GEOSCIENCE
INFORMATION
SOCIETY**

newsletter

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Vice President's Column:

By Jenna Thomson

The Geoscience Information has a number of exciting events coming up next week. This includes GeoScience Librarianship 101 (GL101), held October 28th and 29th and the Geoscience Professional Issues Forum, GSIS Awards, and GSIS Annual Business Meeting, all held on October 30th. Please see below for details on registration for GL101 and the times and zoom link for the events on October 30th.

The GSIS business meeting includes an update on the absorption of ASLI into GSIS and a change to some bylaws (see full agenda below), so members are encouraged to attend to ensure we reach quorum.

Please let Elise Gowen (egowen@smith.edu) or me (jennat@sfu.ca) know if you have any questions.

See you all next week!
Jenna Thomson
GSIS Vice-President

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A Note from the Editors

Hi All,

This is an abbreviated newsletter edition, that is mainly a reminder of the GSIS Meeting and Geoscience 101 workshops being held next week. This newsletter is documenting the schedule and agenda for the online sessions. We will be back to our more complete newsletter for the Winter edition with GSIS Committee reports. As always, if you have any content you would like to share for a newsletter, please send it our way! We are always looking for content like:

- GSIS updates, news, or announcements
- News or updates from your library/institution
- Interesting insights from your meetings, conferences, or readings
- Member news
- GeoWonders - Cool Geological stuff you have come across in your travels or otherwise
- Other topics or articles welcome!

GeoWonders | Amanda Bielskas

In August I went on a Birding trip to central Ecuador. We birded around several regions around the Andes Mountains within a few hours of Quito. Before the trip started I was shaken awake by a 4.6 magnitude earthquake while still in Quito which was an interesting experience. I've felt a few earthquakes in NY before, but this one was a bit stronger!



We also stopped one day at the *Cueva de los tayos*. Tayos is the local name for the Oilbird. The limestone cave is located on the eastern slopes of the Andes Mountains in the Morona-Santiago province of Ecuador. It owes its name to being the home of the native nocturnal birds called tayos (*Steatornis caripensis*), which live in numerous caves in the Andean jungles of South America. Oilbird is the only living species in the genus *Steatornis*, the family *Steatornithidae*, and the order *Steatornithiformes*. They are colonial nesters and live in caves, they are nocturnal feeders, and feed on the fruits of the oil palm and tropical laurels. They navigate by echolocation in the same way as bats, one of the few birds to do so. It's nice to see a bird that appreciates geology & caves; overall a very cool experience.



Member News

Andrea Twiss-Brooks (Director, Humanities and Area Studies) retired from the University of Chicago Library on October 1, 2025. Her colleague, Jenny Hart is taking on the responsibility of liaison to geophysical sciences. Andrea states that GSIS has been a tremendous source of support, knowledge and experience and she is deeply grateful for all the assistance that we provided this geosciences librarian with no geosciences degree over the years.

GSIS Annual Meeting

Thursday, October 30, 2025 11:30 am-5:00 pm (EST)

Location:

<https://sfu.zoom.us/j/85148861373?pwd=ulJQbzY2wsWsytXQ6K17zhVnaaxq7S.1>

GSIS Professional Issues Forum 11:30-12:45 pm (EST) ([zoom](#))

Attendees will join Zoom breakout rooms to discuss the developments affecting them as geoscience information professionals and share challenges, ideas, and success stories.

Planned topics include:

- Geoscience Collection Development
- Communicating Publishing Agreements with Users
- AI Uses, Challenges, and Concerns in Geoscience Librarianship
- Outreach Programming for Geoscience Libraries
- Pedagogy and Instruction for the Geoscience Librarian
- Strengthening Relationships with Geoscience Faculty
- Supporting the Preservation of Geoscience Specimen Collections and Datasets

GSIS Award Presentations 1:00-2:00 pm (EST) ([zoom](#))

- Best Reference Award
- Best Guidebook Series Award
- Best Paper Award
- Mary B. Ansari Distinguished Service Award

GSIS Business Meeting 2:00-5:00 pm (EST) ([zoom](#))

Agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. Call for Changes and Approval of the Agenda
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2024 Business Meeting (see attached)
4. Announcements and introductions
 - a. Introduction of officers – Elise Gowen
 - b. Introduction of new members
 - c. Call for volunteers for 2025 committees & representatives – Jenna Thomson
 - d. Other announcements and introductions
 - e. Reports/updates to annual reports of Officers, Committees, and Representatives
- i. President and Executive Board report (Elise Gowen)
- ii. Vice President (Jenna Thomson)
- iii. Secretary (Jenn Simms)
- iv. Treasurer (Sharon Tahirkheli)
- v. Auditor (Cynthia Prosser)
- vi. GSA Publications Committee representative (Lisa Dunn)
- vii. ALA/ACRL/STS representative (Chrissy Klenke)
- viii. Past-President / Nominating committee chair (Bob Tolliver)
- ix. Archivist (Shaun Hardy)
 - x. Webmaster (Renee Schofield)
 - xi. Geonet moderator (Emily Wild)
 - xii. Publicity and Social Media (Dwight Hunter)
 - xiii. Newsletter (Amanda Bielskas and Michael Noga)
 - xiv. Membership (Clara McLeod)
 - xv. Guidebooks Committee (Kristen Adams)
 - xvi. Mary B Ansari Distinguished Service Award Committee (Clara McLeod)
 - xvii. Geoscience Librarianship 101 Committee (Clara McLeod)
 - xviii. Best Research Resource Award Committee (Chrissy Klenke)
 - xix. Best Paper Award Committee (Cynthia Prosser)

New Business

1. ASLI Dissolution and Absorption into GSIS
 - a. Discussion of future for ASLI members within GSIS
 - b. Discussion of future of ASLI listserv, website, archives, and awards within GSIS
 - c. Vote to ratify dissolution
 - d. Take names of those ASLI members who wish to join GSIS (these members should send their contact info to Jenn Simms)
2. Future of GSIS
 - a. Broadening scope to better serve science librarians who work across disciplines
 - b. Potential name change
 - c. Potential outreach to data librarians
2. Proposed Quorum Changes to the Bylaws
 - a. Proposed: Remove the section about checks from the bylaws as GSIS's payment process no longer involves checks. The manual will be changed to indicate that Society expenditures require approval by two voting members of the Board. That leaves the method (electronic, recurring, check) open.

Proposed language:

8.3 Execution of Checks All checks, drafts, notes, and orders for the payment of money shall require the signatures of two elected Officers or agents that the Executive Board from time to time may designate.

Will be changed to:

8.3 Execution of Payments All checks, drafts, notes, and orders for the payment of money shall be executed according to the Society policy manual.

b. Proposed: Since GSIS has struggled to meet the quorum at recent virtual annual business meetings, the number of members required to meet quorum will be lowered.

Proposed language:

6.3.4 Quorum A quorum for any Business Meeting of the Society shall consist of not less than 20 voting members. In the event there shall not be a quorum present at any Business Meeting of the Society, the President shall adjourn the meeting to a later date.

Will be changed to:

6.3.4 Quorum A quorum for any Business Meeting of the Society shall consist of not less than 15 voting members or 10% of the total membership, whichever is lower. In the event there shall not be a quorum present at any Business Meeting of the Society, the President shall adjourn the meeting to a later date.

c. Proposed: Shortening the length of time by which the annual election of Officers ballot must be submitted prior to the Annual Meeting, in order to give the Nominating Committee more time to recruit candidates.

Proposed Language:

7.3 Election of Officers The annual election of Officers shall be by ballot, prepared by the Nominating Committee and distributed to all voting members at least 12 weeks prior to the Annual Meeting at which the newly elected Officers are to begin their terms of office. The ballot shall contain instructions for voting and indicate that completed ballots must be received by the Nominating Committee no less than 10 weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. The Nominating Committee shall tabulate, inform the candidates of, and report the results at the Annual Business Meeting. For each office, the candidate receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected. The incumbent President shall have the power to resolve any ties.

Will be changed to:

7.3 Election of Officers The annual election of Officers shall be by ballot, prepared by the Nominating Committee and distributed to all voting members at least 10 weeks prior to the Annual Meeting at which the newly elected Officers are to begin their terms of office. The ballot shall contain instructions for voting and indicate that completed ballots must be received by the Nominating Committee no less than 8 weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. The Nominating Committee shall tabulate, inform the candidates of, and report the results at the Annual Business Meeting. For each office, the candidate receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected. The incumbent President shall have the power to resolve any ties.

4. Officially ratify the change to dues for Student Members
5. Comments and Suggestions for the Good of the Organization
6. Welcome to the new GSIS President
7. Adjournment

Geoscience Librarianship 101

More details including speaker bios and to REGISTER Online see:

<https://guides.library.csupueblo.edu/gl101/home>

Tuesday, October 28th, 2025

3:00 pm (Eastern Time)	Welcome by: Clara McLeod
3:15 - 4:00 pm (Eastern Time)	The Data is Out There: A Librarian Tracking Geoscience Truths by: Emily Wild
4:00 - 4:30 pm (Eastern Time)	Conducting Literature Reviews in Environmental Research by: Tracy Englert
4:30 - 4:45 pm (Eastern Time)	Break
4:45 - 5:15 pm (Eastern Time)	GIS Concepts and Data Sources by: Ryan Wallace
5:15 - 5:20 pm (Eastern Time)	Introduction to Networking Session by: Joyce Shaw
5:20 - 5:40 pm (Eastern Time)	Fostering Belonging and Accessibility in a Geoscience Library by: Alma Parada
5:40 - 6:00 pm (Eastern Time)	Networking and Discussion with Presenters and Attendees by: Joyce Shaw

Wednesday, October 29th, 2025

3:00 pm (Eastern Time)	Welcome by: Clara McLeod
3:15 - 4:00 pm (Eastern Time)	Collection Development in the Geosciences by: Amanda Bielskas
4:00 - 4:30 pm (Eastern Time)	Geoscience Sample Metadata (Archival and Citation) by: Natalie Raia and Andrea Thomer
4:30 - 4:45 pm (Eastern Time)	Break
4:45 - 5:15 pm (Eastern Time)	Artificially Informed: AI, Misinformation, and the Problems of Potential by: Hannah Madonna
5:15 - 5:20 pm (Eastern Time)	Introduction to Networking Session by: Joyce Shaw
5:20 - 5:40 pm (Eastern Time)	Advancing Flood Hazard Assessment Through Library Historical Archives by: Shahinur Rahman
5:40 - 6:00 pm (Eastern Time)	Networking and Discussion with Presenters and Attendees by: Joyce Shaw

Geoscience Librarianship 101 | Presentation Abstracts

Wednesday, October 28th, 2025

3:00 - 3:15 pm (ET)

Welcome to Geoscience Librarianship 101 Workshop

Clara McLeod; Retired, Earth, Environmental, and Planetary Sciences and Environmental Studies Librarian; Washington University in St. Louis

3:15 - 4:00 pm (ET)

The Data is Out There: A Librarian Tracking Geoscience Truths

Geology librarians play a vital role in guiding researchers through a field shaped as much by political debate as by discovery. From the 1700s Neptunism vs. Plutonism clash to the 21st-century Earth History debate, geology has evolved through controversies that challenged prevailing worldviews and scientific norms. Understanding these disputes, such as plate tectonics, how the dinosaurs died, formation of the Grand Canyon, and modern concerns around fracking-induced seismicity, equips librarians to contextualize data, anticipate inquiry trends, and support various research perspectives. By recognizing how theories can reshape the discipline and funding opportunities, librarians can better assist users in locating authoritative sources, interpreting conflicting evidence, and navigating the complex interplay between science, society, and policy. This historical awareness empowers librarians to serve not just as information stewards, but as strategic partners in the pursuit of geoscience truths.

Emily C. Wild; Chemistry, Geosciences and Environmental Studies Librarian

Princeton University Library, Princeton University

4:00 - 4:30 pm (ET)

Conducting Literature Reviews in Environmental Research

This workshop provides practical guidance on conducting literature reviews. A key component of the session is building database skills. We will explore default search fields, indexing, and filters, and how these differences affect search results. The workshop also introduces the RepOrting standards for Systematic Evidence Syntheses (ROSES), designed specifically for environmental and conservation research. Through checklists, flow diagrams, and protocol templates, participants will see how ROSES improves transparency, repeatability, and policy relevance in evidence syntheses.

Tracy Englert; Science, Nursing, and Health Librarian

University Libraries, University of Southern Mississippi

4:45 - 5:15 pm (ET)

GIS Concepts and Data Sources

Geospatial data is vital to many areas of the geosciences. The presentation gives a brief introduction to GIS concepts, tools and data types, and explores some of the most used GIS data sources.

Ryan Wallace;

GIS and Data Science Librarian and Data Curator; Washington University in St. Louis

5:15 - 5:20 pm (ET)

Introduction to Networking Session

Joyce Shaw; Head and Professor, Gunter Library

The University of Southern Mississippi, Gulf Coast Research Laboratory

5:20 - 5:40 pm (ET)

Fostering Belonging and Accessibility in a Geoscience Library

A geoscience library can be an active participant in fostering a more diverse and inclusive geoscience community. This presentation will discuss the opportunities and challenges to promoting access and inclusion through exhibits, events, collection strategies, and collaborations.

Alma Elizabeth Parada; Head, Branner Earth Sciences Library & Map Collections

Stanford University

5:40 - 6:00 pm (ET)

Networking and Discussion with Presenters and Attendees

Wednesday, October 29th, 2025

3:00 - 3:15 pm (ET)

Welcome to Day 2 of the Geoscience Librarianship 101 Workshop

Clara McLeod

Retired, Earth, Environmental, and Planetary Sciences and Environmental Studies Librarian

Washington University in St. Louis

3:15 - 4:00 pm (ET)

Collection Development in the Geosciences

In this presentation, a broad overview of Collection Development issues in the Geosciences will be covered, which includes the topics of Collection Development Policy; Selection & Acquisitions, Publications & Access; and Collection Assessment.

Amanda Bielskas; Director of the Science, Engineering & Social Science Libraries

Columbia University

4:00 - 4:30 pm (ET)

Geoscience Sample Metadata Stewardship: New Guidelines for Researchers and How Librarians Can Support Physical Sample Reuse and Metadata Management

Physical samples are fundamental to many Earth and environmental science disciplines (e.g. rock samples, fossils, biological specimens, water samples, and more) as a basic element for reference, study, and experimentation. The large investments of public funds being made to university researchers to collect and analyze new samples, and the unique potential for samples to be reused, demand that these samples (and their high-value metadata) be openly accessible, easily discoverable, and documented sufficiently to enable reuse. A growing number of funders and organizations recommend the creation of sample management plans (similar to data management plans) to better enable sample reuse. But despite their value, many physical samples languish in ad hoc storage and may eventually be discarded or rendered obsolete due to lost or uncurated metadata. Sharing sample metadata is a crucial step toward enabling sample reuse and long-term curation, and we believe that data curation librarians can become a key source of expertise to support researchers in tackling this challenge. In this webinar, we will present an overview of the problem - the nuances of sample metadata and data, the history and scale of the problem, the ecosystem of stakeholders, and the technical landscape for supporting this type of research

data management. We will provide the latest information on groups and initiatives working to further leading practices in this space.

Natalie Raia; Postdoctoral Scholar Research Associate, College of Information Science

The University of Arizona

Andrea Thomer; Associate Professor, College of Information Science; The University of Arizona

4:45 - 5:15 pm (ET)

Artificially Informed: AI, Misinformation, and the Problems of Potential

While AI has been touted as the next revolutionary technology, there is still a way to go before reality catches up to the promises made. AI is still developing and getting better, and the transformative potential is great. However, the drawbacks and issues with AI cannot be ignored. Looking at the role of AI in information literacy from a big-picture perspective, we will discuss what it is, the use cases and drawbacks, and what might lie in store for AI and information literacy in the future, as well as how libraries can help act as guides and stewards as AI is integrated further into the information landscape.

Hannah Madonna

Arts and Humanities Librarian; Cook Library, The University of Southern Mississippi

5:15 - 5:20 pm (ET)

Introduction to Networking Session

Joyce Shaw; Head and Professor, Gunter Library

The University of Southern Mississippi, Gulf Coast Research Laboratory

5:20 - 5:40 pm (ET)

Advancing Flood Hazard Assessment Through Library Historical Archives

Coastal cities are at an increased risk from climate change, which contributes to sea level rise and frequent extreme precipitation that exacerbates the risk of flooding. Moss Point, Mississippi, located at the confluence of the Pascagoula and Escatawpa Rivers, faces an extreme risk of flooding due to its low elevation and proximity to both river systems as well as the Mississippi Sound. Additionally, the interaction of river discharge, storm surge, extreme precipitation and sea level rise increases the risk of this city to coastal compound flooding. My research explores how Nature-based Solutions (NbS),

hydrologic-hydraulic modeling, and stakeholder knowledge and input can help improve flood risk management for the city of Moss Point.

Exploring historical flood events is crucial for understanding the nature, extent, timing and impacts of flooding. Being an underrepresented community, Moss Point has data limitations, and I had to rely on the information available from many other sources. To verify and understand the flood related information, I have relied greatly on the various library resources like microfilm archives, historical newspapers, geological documents, books and research papers. These sources helped me get critical information about the historical flood heights, rainfall intensity, storm surges, duration of the flood events and responses from the community and government agencies.

By combining traditional geoscience data with these unique library resources, my work highlights the importance of interdisciplinary approaches, like including community insights to help inform the use of NbS in flood risk management. This process also underscores the continued importance of library resources in facilitating research that bridges science and policy.

Shahinur Rahman

Graduate Research Assistant; Division of Coastal Sciences, The University of Southern Mississippi

5:40 - 6:00 pm (ET)

Networking and Discussion with Presenters and Attendees

Letter to ASLI Members

28 August 2025

Dear ASLI membership:

The Board has come to a difficult decision to dissolve our organization, Atmospheric Science Librarians International.

Since its founding in 2000, ASLI has been an excellent resource and outlet supporting librarians and information professionals in the atmospheric sciences, meteorology, and related earth science disciplines, providing valuable networking and professional development opportunities over the years. Starting around 2021, we observed a noticeable (and alarming) decline of engagement, membership, and fiscal capabilities. We have not been able to recruit new leadership to replace the current leadership for two years now. After careful evaluation, we decided that we collectively are unable to sustainably continue ASLI.

The ASLI Executive Board is working closely with the Geoscience Information Society (GSIS) to provide continued support and sustainability for librarians and information professionals in the geoscience and earth science disciplines. GSIS graciously agreed to absorb any ASLI member – not currently a GSIS member – who chooses to retain their membership. In order to complete the process, we need members (paid up as members through 2024, the last year ASLI collected membership dues) to participate in a vote. We ask you to join us at GSIS's Annual Meeting on Thursday, 30 October, 2 PM - 5 PM ET, when we will hold the vote to ratify the official dissolution of ASLI. Any member not attending this meeting must submit their vote in writing prior to this meeting to Elise Gowen (egowen@smith.edu).

We expressed gratitude for those who supported ASLI throughout these years, particularly the American Meteorological Society as our primary conference and annual meeting sponsor, and the many volunteers who dedicated their time to making ASLI a valuable resource to the atmospheric science information community.

Please understand this decision was not made lightly and many emotions were involved.

Yours in librarianship,
ASLI Executive Board
Ashley Orehek Rossi, Chair
Jamie Stanfield, Treasurer
Elise Gowen, Secretary and GSIS President