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## Vice President's Column

By Robert Tolliver

We are currently working on planning for our sessions and other activities at the GSA/GSIS annual meeting in Seattle this coming October 21-25. Clara McLeod is putting together our Geosciences Librarianship 101 workshop again on the Saturday before the official start of the conference. If you're new to geosciences librarianship, haven't been to the workshop, or it's been a few year's since the last one you attended, I hope you'll consider signing up and learning from something new from our wonderful instructors. Chris Badurek has graciously volunteered to be our topical sessions convenor again this year and has put together oral and poster session in collaboration with the GSA Geoinformatics Division. Please consider submitting an abstract for this year's meeting. Speaking of collaborating with the Geoinformatics Division, we will be doing a joint reception with them on Tuesday night. Both of our organizations will be presenting our primary member awards at the reception, which in our case is the Mary B. Ansari Distinguished Service Award. Our other awards for information resources will be presented at the annual luncheon on Tuesday. I'm working on

one or two field trips, as well, and will keep you updated as things are confirmed.

As I noted above, GSIS and GSA Geoinformatics division are collaborating on some of our activities at this year's annual meeting. Our hope is that this will give us opportunities for our members to engage with each other and possibly find areas where we can work together outside of the annual meeting. Also, in this issue, Sophie Hou writes about the Earth Science Information Partners (ESIP) as another possible collaboration opportunity for geoscience librarians. ESIP works with the geosciences community on data management of earth science data and I encourage to read her article and learn about ESIP.

This past year was our first year of our new mentoring program and I've received some good feedback. If anyone is interested in participating as a mentor or as a mentee this coming year, let me know. We're planning to have an informal mentorship lunch for Sunday

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# Geoscience Information Society 2017 Officers

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## President

Hannah Winkler Hamalainen  
Geospatial and Earth Sciences Librarian,  
Geospatial Services Center  
University of New Hampshire  
Durham, NH 03824  
Phone: 603-862-1631  
e-mail: [hannah.hamalainen@unh.edu](mailto:hannah.hamalainen@unh.edu)

## Vice President (President-Elect)

Robert Tolliver  
Head, Science & Engineering  
Stony Brook University Libraries  
N2001B Frank Melville Jr. Memorial Library  
Stony Brook University  
Stony Brook, NY 11794  
Phone: 631-632-1122  
e-mail: [robert.tolliver@stonybrook.edu](mailto:robert.tolliver@stonybrook.edu)

## Immediate Past President

Matt Hudson  
Publications Manager,  
Geological Society of America  
Phone: 303-357-1020  
e-mail: [mhudson@geosociety.org](mailto:mhudson@geosociety.org)

## Secretary

Samantha Teplitzky  
UC Berkeley  
Physics and Astronomy Library  
351 Le Conte Hall  
Berkeley, CA 94720  
Phone: 510-664-7158  
e-mail: [steplitz@library.berkeley.edu](mailto:steplitz@library.berkeley.edu)

## Publications Manager

Richard Huffine  
Phone: 202-253-3511  
e-mail: [richardhuffine@yahoo.com](mailto:richardhuffine@yahoo.com)

## E-mail List:

<https://lists.princeton.edu/cgi-bin/wa?A0=Geonet>

Moderator: Louise F. Deis

## Publicity

Shaun Hardy  
Carnegie Institution for Science  
DTM-Geophysical Laboratory Library  
5241 Broad Branch Road, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20015  
Phone: 202-478-7960  
e-mail: [shardy@carnegiescience.edu](mailto:shardy@carnegiescience.edu)

## Treasurer

Lori Tschirhart  
Science Librarian  
University of Michigan  
3026E Shapiro Science Library  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109  
Phone: 734-936-3079  
email: [ltz@umich.edu](mailto:ltz@umich.edu)

**Web Site:** <http://www.geoinfo.org/>

Courtney Hoffner  
Science and Engineering Librarian  
University of California - Los Angeles  
8251 Boelter Hall  
Box 951598  
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1598  
Phone: 310-825-0190  
email: [choffner@library.ucla.edu](mailto:choffner@library.ucla.edu)

## Newsletter Editor

Vacant

## Newsletter Reviews Editor

Vacant

The GISIS Newsletter is published quarterly, in March, June, September, and December by the Geoscience Information Society. A digital subscription is included with GISIS membership (individual or institutional). All correspondence regarding dues, membership status, and address changes should be directed to the GISIS Secretary. GISIS members are encouraged to contribute content for publication. Material for the September issue should be received no later than September 1, 2017. Please send submissions by e-mail to Robert Tolliver, [robert.tolliver@stonybrook.edu](mailto:robert.tolliver@stonybrook.edu)

## President's Column, continued

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at the annual meeting this fall, so if you are currently a mentor or mentee, or you are interested in participating, please consider joining us in Seattle.

We are a few years behind on getting out the proceedings of our conference presentations. We are working on getting caught up on publishing the past proceedings and hope to be caught up with all past proceedings over the next year.

This will be the last GSIS Newsletter that I will be able to edit. I've enjoyed working on the newsletter. It's really given me an opportunity to appreciate what so many of our members are doing to contribute to the geosciences, within our organization and in their real jobs. If anyone is interested in taking over as editor, I would be happy to pass the newsletter along and help you

get started. It's usually just a fair bit of work four times a year and it's a good way to get to know members of GGIS and begin getting involved in the organization. If we continue to have difficulty finding a newsletter editor, it may be that we need to change directions for the newsletter. Should it continue as a distinct quarterly newsletter? Should we move to a more immediate format such as a blog? How would this impact official organizational information, such as committee reports? If you have any thoughts on the future of the newsletter and communication with GSIS members, please let me know. This may be an issue for discussion at our annual meeting in October.

Wishing everyone a great year,

Bob Tolliver, GSIS Vice-President

## Member News

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Flora Grabowska retires from the Keith B Mather Library

It is with very mixed feelings that I retire from the Keith B. Mather Library at the Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska Fairbanks at the end of June.

January 1983, I joined what was then known as the ISPG library, a Geological Survey of Canada library in Calgary and became its director in 1984, just 2.5 years out of library school. I loved that position but left September 1985 to raise my second infant. Meanwhile I had happily acquired an acquaintance with geology.

March 1995, I left Calgary as an instructor in a library technician program at SAIT to become Science Librarian at Vassar College which included the small but energetic department of Earth Sciences in my liaison areas. By this time the internet had come along and online journals

were hotly debated but I encouraged Vassar to join a consortium to access IDEAL in its early days which subsequently was swallowed up by ScienceDirect. By 2007 I had become a passionate proponent of the Open Access movement and have continued to beat the OA drum. 15 years does seem to be the longest I can stay anywhere and I left Vassar to become the GI librarian in Fairbanks the summer of 2010 which I think is when I joined the Geonet listserv although I may have been on it during my Vassar years. Geonet and other library listservs have certainly helped me out and I've often learned something new from colleagues sharing their ideas there.

The last 7 years seem to have flown by. I have really enjoyed the Alaskan adventure although I wasn't certain that I would but this last winter was difficult going through cancer treatment. Horrendous health care costs made me rethink my notion not to retire for years to come. Lower

mainland BC, Canada certainly beckoned but the pull of Scotland which I left in 1974 is too strong so that's where I'm going.



Shrinking budgets and a huge OCLC invoice necessitated dropping OCLC membership in 2017 but the Keith B Mather library will continue to lend our materials to other libraries. Our materials are found in UAF's catalog. Go to [library.uaf.edu](http://library.uaf.edu). Email [uaf-gi-library@alaska.edu](mailto:uaf-gi-library@alaska.edu).

I leave the Keith B Mather library in the very capable hands of Robin Nicholson who has been learning the collection with various very hands-on projects.

Flora Grabowska

June 2017.

## Member Publications

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GSIS member Sam Teplitzky recently published the in article in the *Journal of Librarianship and Scholarly Communication* based on her presentation at last fall's GSA meeting. The article as available at:

<http://jlsccpub.org/articles/abstract/10.7710/2162-3309.2150/>

The full citation is:

Teplitzky, S. (2017). Open data,[open] access: linking data sharing and article sharing in the Earth Sciences. *Journal of Librarianship and Scholarly Communication*, 5(1).

## Geoscience Librarianship 101, October 22 in Seattle

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By Clara McLeod

Geoscience Librarianship 101: October 22, 2017, Seattle, Washington.

This year's Geoscience Librarianship 101 professional development seminar is scheduled to take place on October 22, 2017 in Seattle, Washington. Participation in this free event, held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America, is open to all professional librarians, information

specialists, and students in library and information studies.

Registering at GSA Annual Meeting is not required. For more information on the seminar or joining the GL101 team, email Clara P. McLeod ([cpmcleod@wustl.edu](mailto:cpmcleod@wustl.edu)) or check GeoNet for upcoming announcements.

# GSIS/GSA Annual Meeting Call for Abstracts

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By Chris Badurek

Now that summer is starting it must be time to work on our GSIS/GSA Conference Session abstracts! The GSA is hosting the conference in mid-October and we expect another excellent session of papers and posters with a variety of topics welcome. Here are the key dates for the conference:

August 1, 2017: Abstract submissions due

September 18, 2017: Early conference registration deadline

October 23, 2017: GSIS Oral Session at GSA

October 24, 2017: GSIS Poster Session at GSA

Please consider submitting an abstract for the Geoscience Information Society's (GSIS) session at the Geological Society of America's annual meeting, which will be held this October 22-25, 2017 in Seattle, Washington.

This year GSIS is planning to have an oral technical session around the theme of:

Discovery and Preservation of Geoscience Data and Information Resources

What: GSIS/GSA Annual Meeting

When: October 22-25, 2017

Where: Seattle, Washington.

Deadline: Abstracts are due Tuesday, August 1, 2017 and can be uploaded online:

<http://community.geosociety.org/gsa2017/science-careers/sessions/abstracts>

This year GSIS is offering the following oral presentation session:

## **T136. Discovery and Preservation of Geoscience Data and Information Resources**

Sponsors: Geoscience Information Society; GSA Geoinformatics Division; GSA Environmental and Engineering Geology Division; GSA Energy Geology Division

This session addresses access and preservation of geoscience publications, developments in literature databases, data in repositories related to publishing, and discovery of geoscience research data resources spanning mapped to remotely sensed imagery. This session aims to provide a forum for discussion of geoscience information resources of all types and the impacts on researchers, government agencies, and academic libraries.

We welcome oral papers on geoscience publications, publishing trends, innovations in literature databases, access to geoscience data sets, kinds of geoscience data use, data repositories or clearinghouse projects, research data collaboratives, and special academic or museum data collections. We seek abstracts from researchers, federal data managers, information professionals, journal editors, and librarians in order to see a diverse range of topics and resources.

Poster Session:

## **T141. Use of Geoscience Data and Information Resources in Education and Research**

Sponsors: Geoscience Information Society; GSA Geoinformatics Division

This poster session examines the effective use of geoscience data and information resources in successful teaching or research activities. Posters highlighting use of geoscience data sets from repositories, federal data centers, academic research centers, or commercial sources for data visualization, mapping, or analysis are welcome.

Questions or need help? Contact: Chris Badurek, [cab484@drexel.edu](mailto:cab484@drexel.edu)

## Call for Nominations - Mary B. Ansari Distinguished Service Award

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By Clara McLeod

Please consider nominating a colleague for the 2017 Mary B. Ansari Distinguished Service Award. The award recognizes and honors significant contributions to the geoscience information profession. Named after Mary Ansari, a former GSIS President and strong supporter of the Society, the award will be given at the GSIS/GSA Annual Meeting in October in Seattle, WA. A monetary gift accompanies this award. Membership in GSIS is not a requirement to receive the award. A list of previous award recipients is available at:

<http://www.geoinfo.org/service.html>

Nomination letters should be sent by **July 3** and include the following:

- Your name and contact information
- Name, title, and contact information for the person you are nominating
- Resume or curriculum vita of the nominee
- Statement indicating why the nominee is deserving of this award

Nomination materials can be sent by email to [cpmcleod@wustl.edu](mailto:cpmcleod@wustl.edu) or by regular mail to Clara P. McLeod, Washington University / CB 1169, 1 Brookings Drive, St. Louis, MO 63130.

Sincerely,

The Mary B. Ansari Distinguished Service Award Committee  
Clara P. McLeod, chair  
Louise F. Deis  
Edward Lener

## ASLI Annual Meeting in Austin, January 10-11, 2018

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By Brian Voss

The Atmospheric Science Librarians International (ASLI) will hold their 21st Annual Meeting on January 10-11, 2018, in Austin, TX, in conjunction with the American Meteorological Society's 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. The theme for this year's meeting was "**Transforming Communication in the Weather, Water, and Climate Enterprise Focusing on Challenges Facing Our Sciences**", and our program will unite the theme with many areas of interest to librarians and researchers. We will also continue the ever popular "ASLI Choice Book Awards" in its thirteenth year. Our program will be available at

the AMS site (<https://annual.ametsoc.org/2018/>) as well as the ASLI site (<http://www.aslionline.org>).

Please join us. Our Chair-Elect, and program chair, is Fred Stoss, [fstoss@buffalo.edu](mailto:fstoss@buffalo.edu). Contact Fred, or me, with any questions, or to submit a paper. For more information about ASLI, our membership or conferences, please see our webpage at: <http://www.aslionline.org/wp/>

Brian Voss  
ASLI Chair, 2017  
[brian.voss@noaa.gov](mailto:brian.voss@noaa.gov)



## 51<sup>st</sup> AESE Annual Meeting, Yellowknife, September 6-9, 2017

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By Erin Palmer

Mark your calendars! The 2017 annual meeting of the Association of Earth Science Editors will take place in Yellowknife, N.W.T., September 6 to 9, 2017. Yellowknife is well known for its former gold mines and more recently for its diamond mines. It is also a world-class location to observe well-preserved geological features and formations from the Late Archean Era. Many geological features, including pillow basalt, glacial striae and permafrost features, can be seen right in town. We hope that you will take some time to enjoy the region's many natural attractions, including its geological diversity, while attending the meeting.



AESE's meetings generally consist of 2 days of technical sessions and a 1-day field trip. Please join us for a fun-filled and educational experience this September. Meeting headquarters will be the Explorer Hotel.

The meeting is open to anyone interested in earth science editing, publishing and outreach. The program is still in the planning stage. Watch for meeting updates on AESE's web page [www.aese.org](http://www.aese.org). For more information, please contact Host Chair, Erin Palmer [erin\\_palmer@gov.nt.ca](mailto:erin_palmer@gov.nt.ca).



## Earth Science Information Partners – A Possible Collaborator for GSIS?

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By Sophie Hou

In recent years, the fields devoted to data management services have experienced rapid growth. The growth has been propelled by digital data proliferation, which is propagated by invention and improvement of digital technologies. Equally important, the need to manage data has been driven by the promotion of the "openness" concept within the federal government and other research institutions. In response to the push for facilitating better sharing of research results and associated data, many funding agencies, and research institutions and organizations, such as National Science

Foundation (NSF), Department of Energy (DOE), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) have developed data management requirements and guidelines.

In order to assist researchers in managing their research data and meeting requirements, many librarians and information professionals have taken up the responsibilities of providing data management services and support. These responsibilities include not only creating and providing data management training, but also collaborating with other experts, such as

information technologists and publishers, to provide a holistic data management service and support environment. However, while librarians and information professionals are making major efforts, managing data proliferation and meeting data management requirements remain two very challenging issues. Data proliferation manifests itself not only in the numbers of data sources and the speed that the data is being generated, but also in the diversity of data types and formats. Likewise, data management requirements vary among funders or even from program to program under the same sponsor. Additionally, researchers have different data management knowledge levels, and different research disciplines do not necessarily share the same attitude or approach to data management. Furthermore, the research setting, such as a university versus a national lab, could affect how the data management services and support should be designed and implemented. Given the complexity of data management issues and collaborative nature of data management activities, it is crucial that librarians and information professionals help communicate their data management knowledge and issues to communities beyond their own.

For the Geo/Earth sciences and since its inception in 1998, the [Earth Science Information Partners](#) (ESIP) has been building upon the concept of open networked community and facilitating collaborations among organizations and individuals with broad knowledge base, skill sets, and experience levels. [ESIP's mission](#) is to “support the networking and data dissemination needs of our members and the global Earth science data community by linking the functional sectors of observation, research, application, education and use of Earth science,” and its vision is to “be a leader in promoting the collection, stewardship and use of Earth science data, information and knowledge that is responsive to societal needs.” To this end, ESIP's [collaborative areas](#) are organized and championed by ESIP's volunteering members. Currently, ESIP has two working groups, 18

clusters, and five committees, each focusing on specific topics/interest areas.

While there are many librarians and information professionals who are participating in ESIP, including its Data Stewardship Committee and Data Management Training Working Group, there currently is not a working group, cluster or committee that has librarianship or informatics as its core topic/interest area. Many ESIP members have noted this absence and had discussed how a collaboration area that is librarianship and informatics-centric could add to as well as leverage the flexibility and diversity of the ESIP infrastructure and community. For example, an ESIP librarianship/informatics cluster would have the option to choose to use ESIP's services, such as wiki, listserv, and GoToMeeting (for monthly meetings, webinars, etc). Equally important, the ESIP community would be a resource to promote the expertise of the librarians and information professionals and for additional collaboration opportunities to be explored. For instance, ESIP Data Management Training Working Group's exploration and definition of data skills that are needed by researchers and librarians/data professions, ESIP Information Quality Cluster's examination of how to establish and assess data quality, and ESIP Documentation Cluster's improvement of the understanding, uses, and integration of metadata standards/schemas are all examples of ESIP activities that could benefit from GSIS' participation and contribution.

Given that the GSIS members are already working together on and creating solutions for the geosciences, a partnership with ESIP could potentially be a productive way to help both organizations in sharing and exchanging lessons learned and ultimately, help the advance of data management practices as a collaborating community. If any GSIS members are interested in getting involved with ESIP's collaboration areas, the collaboration areas and their contact information could be found under ESIP's [collaboration page](#). Additionally, if any GSIS



members are interested in forming an ESIP librarianship/informatics cluster, please contact ESIP at [staff@esipfed.org](mailto:staff@esipfed.org).

Sophie Hou  
National Center for Atmospheric Research  
University Corporation for Atmospheric Research

## **Review: Protected Areas Database of the United States (PAD-US)**

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By Linda Zellmer

Several years ago, I worked with a class in our Recreation, Parks and Tourism Administration department. The students in the class were getting their first exposure to GIS, and used it to analyze the populations served by a park to develop a plan for managing and expanding its services. At the time, students had to obtain geospatial data on park locations and boundaries from local or state government agencies or download Federal lands data from the National Atlas of the United States. Then they combined the park boundary data with data from the Census Bureau to learn about the population characteristics of the people in the area. Finally, they visited the park of interest to get information on park usage and amenities. A new data set, the Protected Areas Database of the United States (PAD-US)

(<https://gapanalysis.usgs.gov/padus/>) will make the class much easier, because it provides data on all types of protected areas for either the entire United States, a U.S. Region, by landscape region or by State or Territory.

The PAD-US data was developed as part of the Gap Analysis Program of the U.S. Geological Survey. The Gap program collects data on land cover, species distribution and stewardship to determine whether a given species' habitat is protected, so that plans for further protection (if needed) can be developed. According to the PAD-US Standards and Methods Manual for Data Stewards ([https://gapanalysis.usgs.gov/wp-](https://gapanalysis.usgs.gov/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/PADUS_Standards_Oct2013_USGSreview.pdf)

[content/uploads/2013/10/PADUS\\_Standards\\_Oct2013\\_USGSreview.pdf](https://gapanalysis.usgs.gov/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/PADUS_Standards_Oct2013_USGSreview.pdf)) the data set contains geospatial data on “marine and terrestrial protected areas” that are “dedicated to the preservation of biological diversity and to other natural, recreation and cultural uses.” The data set contains geospatial data showing the extent and location of Federal, State, Local and private lands set aside for recreation and conservation. It also provides information on the owner name and type, whether the site is publicly accessible, and information on whether the site is being managed for conservation.

PAD-US data is available for downloading, viewing and as a web map service from the PAD-US website (<https://gapanalysis.usgs.gov/padus/>).

U.S. Geological Survey Gap Analysis Program, 2013. Protected Areas Database of the United States - PAD-US Standards and Methods Manual for Data Stewards. Boise, ID: U.S. Geological Survey Gap Analysis Program and Boise State University.  
[https://gapanalysis.usgs.gov/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/PADUS\\_Standards\\_Oct2013\\_USGSreview.pdf](https://gapanalysis.usgs.gov/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/PADUS_Standards_Oct2013_USGSreview.pdf)

This review was originally made available on the Spatial Reserves Blog at:

<https://spatialreserves.wordpress.com/>

# New Geoscience Open Access Publications and OA News

By Shaun Hardy

## New Geoscience Open Access Publications

### GeoHealth



[http://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/hub/journal/10.1002/\(ISSN\)2471-1403/](http://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/hub/journal/10.1002/(ISSN)2471-1403/)

The American Geophysical Union's new open access journal *GeoHealth* published its first articles in March. Like AGU's other journals *GeoHealth* is published in the Wiley Online Library. It has instituted an article processing charge of \$1,800.

### The Depositional Record



[http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/\(ISSN\)2055-4877](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/(ISSN)2055-4877)

*The Depositional Record* is the journal of the International Association of Sedimentologists and is part of the Wiley Open Access program. It publishes research in all areas of sedimentology, emphasizing "the application of sedimentary processes to the study of paleoclimate, changes in the chemical environment, ocean acidification, extra-terrestrial sedimentology, and the application of genetic methods to understanding sedimentological processes." Its nominal article processing charge is \$2,000, but a statement on

the journal's website indicates that APCs are currently being covered by the Association, presumably in an effort to boost contributions. Four issues have been published from June 2015 to date, containing 17 papers. Content is published under Creative Commons Attribution licensing.

### Cogent Geoscience



<https://www.cogentoa.com/journal/geoscience>

*Cogent Geoscience* is one of fifteen titles offered by Cogent OA – a scholarly open access publisher established in 2013 with backing from Taylor & Francis. It is a broad-spectrum journal, with sections devoted to solid earth sciences, atmospheric sciences, space & planetary sciences, hydrosphere, and geoinformatics. Cogent has incorporated some innovative publishing features including video and graphical abstracts, author bios, and "public interest statements" that summarize key points and any societal significance in non-technical language. Articles are published in PDF only – there are no HTML versions – but turnaround is rapid. Accepted manuscripts are assigned DOIs and posted within three days. The publisher states that its 2016 rejection rate was 61%. Waivers are offered under their "pay what you can" pricing program for author unable to pay the "recommended" APC of \$1,350. While their website promises "indexing in key databases," *Cogent Geoscience* is not currently covered by GeoRef, Web of Science, or Scopus.

## mSphere



<http://msphere.asm.org/>

*mSphere*, the American Society for Microbiology's second "pan-microbial" OA research journal (following *mBio*), is entering its second year of publication. Its scope spans the microbial sciences and includes tracks in environmental sciences and ecology. *mSphere* offers rigorous peer review and a streamlined workflow that facilitates rapid communication. Prospective authors send manuscripts to two reviewers of their own choosing, revise their work in response to those reviews, and then submit the final version to the journal. Editorial decisions are made within 5 days (manuscripts are either accepted or rejected "as is") and papers are published within one month. There is a sliding scale of APCs ranging from \$1,125 to \$3,000 depending on contribution length and membership status. Supplemental materials incur an additional publication fee of \$200-\$300.

## RSC Advances



<http://pubs.rsc.org/en/journals/journalissues/ra>

Published by the Royal Society of Chemistry as a subscription journal since 2011, *RSC Advances* converted to open access in January of this year. According to a publisher's

statement it is currently the largest chemistry journal in the world and published more than 12,000 articles in 2015. Its impact factor (2015) is 3.289. Coverage relevant to the geoscience includes atmospheric chemistry, soils/sediments, ecology, and crystallography. *RSC Advances* has an article processing charge of £750, discounted to £500 for 2017 and 2018. Additional discounts are offered to authors in developing countries. Authors retain copyright but are required to grant the journal an exclusive "license to publish" their work.

## Solid Earth Sciences



[www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/2451912X](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/2451912X)

*Solid Earth Sciences* is published by Elsevier on behalf of the Guangzhou Institute of Geochemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences. Its scope includes geochemistry, petrology, tectonics, geodynamics, and experimental studies of Earth materials at high pressures. Contributions include research papers, reviews, current trends, letters, and "hypotheses." Publication costs are covered entirely by the Institute. Since its launch in June 2016 the journal has published fifteen papers, largely (but not exclusively) by Chinese authors.

## Open Access News

**Regional geology journals:** Several journals focusing on regional geology – some formerly published as subscription titles – were recently added to the Directory of Open Access journals:

**Andean Geology** (Servicio Nacional de Geología y Minería, Chile) – <http://www.andeangeology.cl/index.php/revista1>

**Boletín de la Sociedad Geológica Mexicana** – <http://boletinsgm.igeolcu.unam.mx/bsgm/>

**Brazilian Journal of Geology**, formerly *Revista Brasileira de Geociências* – [http://www.scielo.br/scielo.php?script=sci\\_serial&pid=2317-4889&lng=en&nrm=iso](http://www.scielo.br/scielo.php?script=sci_serial&pid=2317-4889&lng=en&nrm=iso)

**Geologica Acta**, formerly *Acta Geologica Hispanica* (Universitat de Barcelona, Spain) – <http://revistes.ub.edu/index.php/GEOACTA/index>

**Petrology = Pitruluzhī** (University of Isfahan, Iran) – <http://uijs.ui.ac.ir/ijp>

**Acta Geophysica:** Effective January 1, 2017 *Acta Geophysica* ceased to be an open access journal and is now being published as subscription journal by Springer on behalf of the Institute of Geophysics, Polish Academy of

Sciences. Authors will have the option of making individual articles openly accessible by paying a fee under Springer’s Open Choice program. All articles published in the journal from 2006 through 2016 will continue to be accessible free of charge on the DeGruyter Open platform (<https://www.degruyter.com/view/j/acgeo>).

**Megajournal news:** On April 6 *Scholarly Kitchen* (<https://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org>) reported that in the first quarter of 2017 *Scientific Reports* had overtaken *PLOS ONE* as the world’s largest scientific journal. As possible reasons author Phil Davis suggested “*Scientific Reports* has a much higher Impact Factor (5.228 vs. 3.057), shorter publication delay, and more lenient data availability policies.”

How much geoscience content do these megajournals actually publish? To find out I ran a quick search in *InCites* using data from *Essential Science Indicators*. Out of 24,991 papers published in *Scientific Reports* in 2016 and 2017, only 631 papers (2.5%) were in the “Geosciences” category. For *PLOS ONE*, the ratio was even lower – 277 out of 27,744 papers, or 1.0%.

Shaun Hardy  
Carnegie Institution for Science  
[shardy@carnegiescience.edu](mailto:shardy@carnegiescience.edu)

## GSISGuidebooks Committee Mid-Year Report

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By Linda Musser

Amanda and Cheri worked with Courtney to get all the awards information on a single page ([http://www.geoinfo.org/best\\_guidebook.html](http://www.geoinfo.org/best_guidebook.html)) with information on past awards and how to submit a nomination. The new award for popular guidebooks was approved. We will now have a Best Guidebook Award (professional category) and Best Guidebook Award (popular category), in addition to the Best Guidebook Series Award.

The committee has a list of geoscience organizations, generated by Lura, that we will use as the basis for future mass email dissemination about the awards. Each member was assigned a group of organizations to examine and update the contact information. By June 1, we will send an email to these organizations asking for nominations and referring to the standards. We have already received one nomination. Our focus is on relatively new titles that would qualify for the

award (2015-2017 imprints). Each member of the committee was asked to try to identify at least one title for consideration for the awards, and we will review any highly deserving guidebook that was considered last year and is still eligible. Rather than try to maintain a regular column of new titles, we will plan to have a single list to be published in the spring newsletter each year.

The committee discussed the guidebooks database and developed a list of questions for AGI regarding the types of guidebooks covered by GeoRef. For example, are earth caching guidebooks in GeoRef, and have they considered downloading to their server the free digital only FTGs? Amanda checked on the Internet Archive (WayBack Machine) and found that they could grab a page on demand but that it is only that page. We may need to explore this issue (preservation of digital FTGs) further.



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