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President's Column

By Linda Zellmer

Summer is the time of year when many of us work on a variety of projects, including research. I recently finished working on the annual update of the Geology section of *Resources for College Libraries*, with co-editor Andrea Twiss-Brooks, and am working on several other research projects. One of the projects might provide fodder for a talk at the GSIS technical session at the Geological Society of America meeting this fall. If you are doing research and have an idea for a presentation, be sure to submit your abstract. The deadline for submissions is August 6, 2013.

I want to offer my sincere thanks to Linda Musser, who attended the American Geological Institute Member Society Council Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA, held in conjunction with the American Association of Petroleum Geologists meeting. The primary discussion topic at the meeting was Open Access, because of President Obama's Executive Memorandum titled "Increasing Access to the Results of Federally Funded Scientific Research"

(<http://tinyurl.com/openaccessmemo>), which mandates that all federal agencies with research

and development funding of \$100 million or more make the research results freely available within 1 year of publication. It also requires researchers to account for and manage digital data resulting from federally funded scientific research. Her report is included in this issue.

I know that many of us appreciated Shaun Hardy's excellent summary of his research on "Open Access Publishing Options for Geoscientists" in the December, 2012 issue of the *GSIS Newsletter*. Many of us are helping our users deal with issues related to open access, and this type of summary is useful. I have had several professors ask me for help finding a journal for articles that they were writing. All of these issues are part of the changing world of librarianship. If you have not seen it, *Nature* recently published a special supplement on the *Future of Publishing* (<http://www.nature.com/news/specials/scipublishing/index.html>). It contains a number of articles on issues related to Open Access.

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President's Column, cont.

Perhaps we will find an opportunity to continue this discussion at the GISIS meeting in Denver this October. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Finally, if you have not had an opportunity to see it, I suggest that you attend a showing of the

movie *Switch*, which is about energy alternatives and efficiency. Better yet, host a viewing of the movie in your library. It is available for free from the Switch Energy Project web site (<http://www.switchenergyproject.com/>)

Vice President's Column

By Amanda Bielskas

Happy Summer! I hope everyone is enjoying the lull after the rush of the semester is over, although for the past couple of years the summer "lull" has been less "lull" and more "busy!" I'm finding that there is nearly as much to do (or catch up on) in the summer months as there is during the rest of the year. I have plans for a nice summer vacation and I hope everyone gets to enjoy some fun this summer as well.

Conference planning for the 2013 GISIS meeting has been in full swing these last couple of months. I am happy to report that a lot of progress has been made. Space requests have been placed for our regular events such as the luncheon, business meeting, and the professional issues forum. Planning is also underway for a joint GISIS/Geoinformatics reception this year. I have been in touch with Kerstin Lehnert who is organizing the Geoinformatics activities, and plans are once again in the works for setting up what will surely be another successful joint event.

As my free time has been focused on planning my summer vacation of late, it has led me to think about the GISIS field trip. I'd like to hear your opinions on where you would like to go. I am planning to survey GISIS members on their preferences for activities such as possible field trip sites as well as interests in topics for the Professional Issues forum. Keep an eye out on the listserv for an informal survey shortly. In the meantime if you have any thoughts or suggestions for conference activities or events please contact me!

Other conference planning news includes securing several sponsors for the conference. Thus far we have commitments from the following sponsors: Elsevier, The Geological Society of London, and GeoScienceWorld. I would like to thank the sponsors that have already committed funds, and will continue to work with other vendors to ensure good conference support.

Call for Nominations: GISIS Best Paper Award

The Geoscience Information Society's Best Paper Award Committee is getting started. We welcome nominations from the GISIS membership for the Society's annual award for the best paper in geoscience information.

Papers published during 2012 (or with a 2012 imprint date) will be considered. Submissions will

be evaluated using criteria including: significance, originality, professional competence, scholarship, and effectiveness of communication.

Committee members will begin evaluation of papers soon. Please submit nominations to Carol J. La Russa, cjarussa@ucdavis.edu.

Member News

Mary Schlembach

Beginning June 3, 2013 Mary Schlembach will serve as the Chemical and Physical Sciences Librarian at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Mary's new position will include responsibilities for the Chemistry Library and all aspects of the Geology and Physics virtual libraries.



Mary brings years of experience in science and engineering librarianship to the Chemistry and Physical Sciences libraries. In addition to a MLS, she has CAS (Certificate of Advanced Studies) in Library Automation from the University of Pittsburgh. She has served as the engineering librarian here at Illinois for 19 years and in 2006 became the subject specialist for physics and astronomy. Mary is a tenured associate professor in the Library. She is an expert on e-journal and e-book access technologies, data management activities, web site and access tools design, and reference services and has published and presented widely in science librarianship. She looks

forward to working with other earth science librarians.

Richard Huffine

Richard Huffine resigned as Library Director of the U.S. Geological Survey Libraries Program in April 2013 to accept a new position as the Senior Director for the U.S. Federal Government Market at Proquest, LLC. Richard was Library Director at the USGS for 2 years and served as their National Library Coordinator for 5 years prior to becoming Director. Richard plans to remain active in the Geoscience Information Society and will continue to serve as the Publications Manager for GSIS. Richard can be reached at richardhuffine@yahoo.com

Member Publication

Delserone, Leslie M., Adonna Fleming. "Reviews of Science for Science Librarians: Drought in the Agriculture and Geosciences Literature." *Science and Technology Libraries*, 32:1 (2013): 30-44
A full text copy may be viewed at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/librarianscience/296/>

Call for Papers: 2013 GSIS/GSA Annual Meeting

It's time to start considering ideas or projects to present at this year's GSA/GSIS Annual Meeting, which will be held October 27 - 30, 2013 in Denver, Colorado. This year we are planning to have an oral technical session and a poster session for GSIS. This year's session titles are:

- GSIS Poster Session, T144. Global Vision: Geoscience Information for the Future.
- GSIS Oral Technical Session, T140. Confronting Complexity: Rethinking the Future of Geoscience Information.

Abstracts are due August 6, so start thinking about participating now! Information on the technical sessions and submitting abstracts can be found at: <http://community.geosociety.org/2013AnnualMeeting/Sessions>

For more information in the GSA Annual Meeting,

visit the meeting website at:

<http://community.geosociety.org/2013AnnualMeeting/Home>



Exterior view of the Denver Convention Center.
CC-BY-NC-ND Image courtesy of Flickr user [Lilliana Maya](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Hannah Winkler at hannah.winkler@stanford.edu or Linda Zellmer, LR-Zellmer@wiu.edu

American Geological Institute Member Society Council Meeting

Report from the May 20, 2013 meeting in Pittsburgh, PA

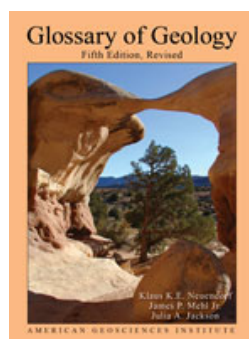
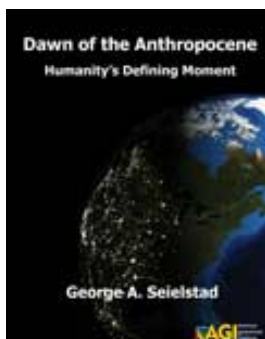
By Linda Musser

➡ The meeting included a call for nominations of AGI Officers and Awards: positions include President Elect, Secretary, and Member at Large; awards include the Marcus Milling Legendary Geoscientist Medal, the Medal in Memory of Ian Campbell for Superlative Service to the Geosciences and the Outstanding Contribution to the Public Understanding of the Geosciences award. Nominations are accepted via the AGI website: <http://www.agiweb.org/members/nominations.html>

➡ AGI currently has over 25,000 members. It is their 65th anniversary this year. It is also the Geological Society of America's 125th anniversary. AGI sent a targeted email to students who took the SAT test and indicated relevant career interests. Ann Benbow, Center for Geoscience Education & Public Understanding, reported that the National Science Standards were just revised (in April) and their report on these will appear in June.

➡ Member society benefits include, annually, a free ad in *Earth* magazine, free information in *GeoSpectrum*, and 50 copies of the Earth Science Week packet. The theme of Earth Science Week this year is *Mapping Our World*. The packet will include copies of the DVD *Switch*.

➡ New AGI publications include the latest Directory of Geoscience Departments including over 700 departments. Member societies can get a 'pull' from the Directory once each year. Other publications include the ebook *Dawn of the Anthropocene* (available on Amazon.com) and the *Glossary of Geology*, available in hardcopy, as an online searchable database, as a Kindle or Nook



ebook or as an iPad/iPhone app.

➡ AGI now offers mediated searches of GeoRef upon request (fee-based).



➡ Sharon Tahirkheli (AGI) and Edmund Nickless (Geological Society of London) gave an excellent introduction to the issues related to Open Access in the US and Europe and then moderated a discussion by the audience. There were many concerns raised from the floor and the librarian in the audience (me) was called upon to answer many questions. Many of these smaller society publishers just don't understand the issues well enough yet and go immediately to the worst case scenario.



I strongly encouraged the representatives from the member societies to consult with their local librarian in planning a strategy to meeting the coming requirements for open access mandated by the U.S. government. I hope I succeeded in getting the message across, along with the two presenters, that these groups need to start planning now for how to handle OA and that librarians can help them in the process.

➡ I was able to raise the issue of open access to book reviews and calls for papers; there wasn't really a good time to discuss cooperative research & development.

Best Guidebook Award Call for Nominations

By Erin Palmer, Chair, Guidebook Committee

The Geoscience Information Society (GSIS) Guidebook Committee is now accepting nominations for the annual Best Guidebook Award. This year we are considering nominations for geology field trip guidebooks produced in 2011 or 2012.

The titles nominated should meet the “Guidelines for Authors” established by GSIS: <http://www.geoinfo.org/GuidebookGuidelines.pdf>. A list of previous winners can be found online at http://www.geoinfo.org/best_guidebook.html

Nominations must include the full citation along with information on how to acquire copies of the nominated work.

Send your nominations to erin_palmer@gov.nt.ca no later than Friday, July 12, 2013.

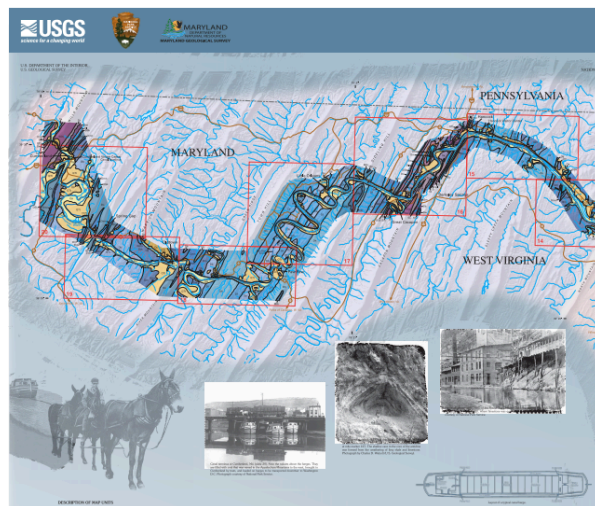


Plate 1 from the 2010 Best Guidebook winner: Southworth, Scott; Brezinski, D. K.; Orndorff, R.C.; Repetski, J.E.; and Denenny, D.M. *Geology of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park and Potomac River corridor, District of Columbia, Maryland, West Virginia, and Virginia*. [U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 1691](#), 2008.

Reviews: The Continental Drift Controversy

Reviewed by Jim Ridenour

Frankel, H. (2012). *The Continental Drift Controversy*. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press.



When I was an undergraduate, the textbook for my Historical Geology course covered Alfred

Wegener, continental drift, polar wandering curves, seafloor spreading, magnetic reversals

and plate tectonics all in the space of about 14 pages of text. A section on the import of paleomagnetism consisted of a single paragraph. This is not meant as an indictment of that text's author, or of those who selected that text for the course. Rather, it is meant as a springboard for describing the content of the present work. Whereas my undergraduate text "touched all the bases", this four-volume series constitutes a thorough account of the nature of the technical work, along with the personal and professional perspectives of those performing it, that undergirded those 14 pages. It is a detailed study of the genesis, early development, maturation and eventual acceptance of the lines of evidence that would eventually coalesce into the elements of plate tectonic theory.

While reading these volumes, it quickly became apparent why The Geological Society of London awarded Henry Frankel the 2013 Sue Tyler Friedman Medal, which is given to recognize distinguished contributions to the recording of the history of geology.

Throughout each, Frankel makes extensive use of excerpts from the principals' works, as would be expected; what is unexpected (and what makes this work so unique) is the even greater volume of material that reflects Frankel's personal discussions with them, the content of letters and emails he exchanged with them, and his analysis of their significance.

Using these materials, Frankel leads the reader on a historical journey through the activities of the very individuals who were responsible for the ultimate development of the central concepts of modern geology. He achieves this using a foil of three "research strategies" used by those he reports on (a unifying theme throughout the four volumes): "to expand the problem-solving effectiveness of solutions and theories;" "to diminish the effectiveness of competing solutions and theories;" and "to compare the effectiveness of competing solutions and

theories, and to emphasize those aspects of a solution or theory which gave it a decided advantage over its competitors." While these might at first appear to be nothing more than the scientific method at work, the accounts are littered with examples that remind us that even at its best, science is a human activity, and that scientists are by no means immune to the errors in perception and judgment and other foibles that affect humans more generally.

In one sense, Frankel takes us full circle through these works. Wegener's notions about moving continents (volume 1) were not well received, at least in part due to the absence of a compelling explanatory mechanism. This had implications for how subsequent ideas accumulating from various subdisciplines were evaluated (volumes 2 and 3), leading to failed efforts to accommodate features like mid-ocean ridges in models of mantle processes. In the end, those who took a more descriptive, "kinematic", approach to describe their observations were ultimately successful (volume 4), as a result of decoupling their proposals from the theoretical bogeymen that had plagued earlier work.

These titles commend themselves to be read not just by those whose interests turn to the history of geology. The liberally outlined table of contents provides a facility for readers to identify specific well-constrained technical discussions, making this work a useful research tool as well. While not exactly suited to leisure reading, even garden variety geologists such as myself will find the "inside story" of The Continental Drift Controversy to be a fascinating tale, well-told.

Editor's note: An additional review of this four volume set is available in Preview, the magazine of the Australian Society of Exploration Geophysicists:
<http://www.publish.csiro.au/paper/PVv2013n164p34.htm>

GeoScienceWorld Announces New Ebook Initiative

By Bonnie J. M. Swoger

Many libraries use GeoScienceWorld to access geoscience journals from a variety of publishers. Now, GeoScienceWorld will become a primary destination for geoscience ebooks as well. GeoScienceWorld recently announced a new initiative to expand their use of the HighWire Press publishing platform from Stanford University to include ebooks, creating the first ebook platform focused on the geosciences.

The folks at GeoScienceWorld have been working hard over the past year, releasing a mobile-accessible site (see the review in the September 2012 GSIS Newsletter) and announcing a new map-based discovery tool, OpenGeoSci (see the December 2012 GSIS Newsletter).



Few details are yet available about how the new ebook options will work. The GeoScienceWorld press release indicated that the new platform would be available for library trials in January 2014, and a public release will be in May 2014. Initially consisting of around 1,000 geoscience titles, GeoScienceWorld eBooks Collections

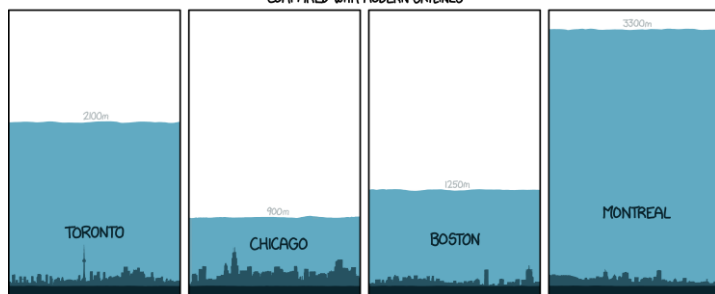
will include “library-preferred purchasing and access models.” While GeoScienceWorld did not provide additional details, we can hope that HighWire and GeoScienceWorld will listen to the results of HighWire’s 2009 survey of librarians about ebooks. In this survey, librarians indicated a strong preference for perpetual access purchase models and DRM-free content.



In the information for publishers on their website, HighWire promotes a variety of ways to view content. The advertise that they “understand that not all ebooks are alike. We work with publishers to consider the content, and tailor the reading experience to fit the book.” Examples given on the HighWire website include both HTML and PDF options.

Look for a review of the GeoScienceWorld ebook platform in the March 2014 issue of the GSIS Newsletter as we explore the content and usability of the new platform.

THICKNESS OF THE ICE SHEETS
AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS
21,000 YEARS AGO
COMPARED WITH MODERN SKYLINES



The web comic XKCD recently illustrated ice sheet thickness vs. modern skylines to help us all get a sense of perspective.

CC-BY-NC image courtesy of XKCD.

More comics available online at <http://xkcd.com>

Cross Cultural Differences in Science Libraries

By Maxine Schmidt

The Science and Engineering Library (SEL) of the University of Massachusetts Amherst serves many international students from East Asia, who have particular expectations of the Library. They clearly value the Library—they generally are among the first to arrive at opening, and the last to leave at closing. The experiences of international students in their home countries, though, may not prepare them well—or at all—to effectively use the resources offered by the host institutions' libraries. We have noticed some problems students from East Asia face when they visit SEL. They are surprised (and dismayed), for example, to find that we do not buy all the required textbooks. Most noticeably, they may ask us about accessing specific items, but rarely ask us research questions.

In order to understand their library experiences, I spent part of my sabbatical visiting academic libraries in China, Japan and South Korea in October and November of 2012. I took advantage of connections I have made through the East Asian Languages Librarian at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and other colleagues I have met through my activities in ACRL and IFLA. I chose five universities—Tongji University and Beijing Institute of Technology in China, Keio University and Hokkaido University in Japan, and Yonsei University in South Korea. In order to provide a context for my questions, I prepared a presentation describing the UMass Libraries, and how I saw international students using them.



Maxine Schmidt (second from left) with librarians from Tongji University in China. Image courtesy of Maxine Schmidt.



Maxine Schmidt (center front) and library staff from Hokkaido University in Japan. Image courtesy of Maxine Schmidt.

I found important differences from U.S. libraries. Some can be assigned to dissimilar academic cultures, but some originate from the different training of librarians in East Asia and the U.S. I also became aware that librarians in the U.S. and Asia share many values and have similar aspirations for their libraries. Here, briefly, are some of the differences:

- In general, Asian academic libraries provide the funds to purchase books, but it is the faculty who choose which books to buy.
- Students expect that their library will have all the resources their professors assign them to use.
- The libraries buy all required textbooks and lend them to students, who are not required to buy the books themselves. Consequently, students buy only a few books throughout their entire undergraduate career.

The most striking difference I saw, however, is the training and status of librarians in East Asian academic libraries. In East Asia, librarians obtain an undergraduate degree in library studies without a subject background, while in the U.S., librarians typically receive graduate degrees in library and information science after obtaining an undergraduate degree with a subject major. In addition, every two or three years Asian librarians move within the library organization, sometimes leaving the library environment altogether for positions in the university administration. Librarians, therefore, work with academic departments without related subject expertise, and often are given different

responsibilities before they can acquire any knowledge or build relationships with the faculty and students in a particular department. It's no surprise, then, that Asian students don't ask librarians questions in aid of their research—they don't expect them to understand the nature of the question. It also explains why faculty choose the books for the libraries, and why it is rare to find established relationships between librarians and academic departments.

These notions are beginning to change, as East Asian colleges and universities see the advantages of librarians with subject knowledge, and the importance of strong library-department relationships. At Yonsei University, all newly hired librarians in the sciences have subject degrees as well as library degrees. At Tongji University, many librarians have undergraduate or graduate degrees in an academic discipline, but they often work in administrative positions within the library. They do, however, offer expertise when it's needed. The librarians themselves, who are anxious to provide the best services possible to their users, are driving much of this change.

Given these differences, I plan to experiment in several ways to reach East Asian international students at UMass Amherst. Some ideas so far:

- Mount posters or signage in the Science and Engineering Library with each librarian's photo, educational background and departmental liaison responsibilities.

- Meet with the members of the Chinese Scholars and Students Association here on campus to discuss ways we might be more helpful to them. (I have not discovered similar organizations for Korean or Japanese students on our campus.)
- Find ways to help the library staff become more aware of cultural differences and language barriers, particularly around library jargon.
- Host cultural events or exhibits in the Libraries that would attract international students, such as small holiday celebrations or observances of national anniversaries, particularly as they related to the sciences and technologies.
- Assemble links to online newspapers and magazines from students' home countries to which the Libraries provide access, and make them available through our International Student Library Guide.

Most importantly, I will remind my colleagues throughout the Libraries to examine their procedures and signage with international students in mind. I will also encourage them to apply for Internationalization Grants, as I did, through the UMass Amherst International Programs Office. It is essential that the Libraries develop a global perspective, certainly for the good of international students who come to our campus, but also for our own students who also live in a global society.

Call for Nominations: Mary B. Ansari Best Reference Work Award

The GSIS Best Reference Work Committee requests nominations for the Mary B. Ansari Best Reference Work Award. The award recognizes geoscience reference works or works focused on information aspects of the geosciences.

Submissions will be evaluated using the following criteria -

- The work must have been published within 3 years preceding the GSIS 2013 annual meeting.
- The title does not have to strictly be "geoscience" but it should have significant value to the geoscience information community.

- Local or specialized works can be considered if they are particularly high in quality and could serve as a model for other works.
- Formats other than monograph may be considered, for example maps, databases, etc.
- Any works nominated should be in a generally useable format (DVD, online, etc.), be generally available for purchase by libraries, and, theoretically, have a stable future.
- Although no work is specifically excluded from consideration, textbooks or monographs in geoscience or library/information science would not normally be considered.

Please forward nominations to Diane Taylor-Harding (dtaylor@mun.ca) before Friday, 10 July 2013.

New Geoscience Open Access Publications

By Bonnie J. M. Swoger

In the December 2013 GSIS Newsletter, Shaun Hardy provided us with extensive information about the availability of open access publishing options for Geoscientists. Recent weeks have seen announcements concerning two new fully open access publications serving the geosciences community.



Earth's Future comes from a partnership between the American Geophysical Union and John Wiley and Sons. The journal will be completely open access, with author processing charges of \$1800 per article, significantly less than the \$2,500-\$3,500 author processing charges for the AGU's "Author Choice" open access program. Authors will retain copyright, and articles will be published under one of several creative commons licenses (based on author preferences). From the press release:

Earth's Future will emphasize the Earth as an interactive, evolving system under the influence of the human enterprise and will reflect the risks and opportunities associated with environmental changes and challenges. It will feature primary research across disciplines and connect it to policy through the inclusion of editorials, essays, reviews, and other commentary pieces. Contributors will tackle solutions to such grand challenges as population increase, industrial and agricultural development, urbanization, climate change, energy, food and water resource sustainability and security.

Earth's Future will publish a number of traditional paper types, including research articles, review articles, commentaries and comments.

Elementa: Science of the Anthropocene is a new open access publication funded the non-profit collaborative organization BioOne (www.bioone.org). It is a partnership between

several academic institutions including Dartmouth, the Georgia Institute of Technology, the University of Colorado Boulder, the University of Michigan and The University of Washington.



ELEMENTA
Science of the Anthropocene

The journal is completely open access, and article processing charges range from \$650 (for pieces in the Comment and Reply section) to \$1,450 for full-length articles. Like most fully open access publications, authors will retain copyright and articles will be published under a Creative Commons Attribution license (CC-BY). From the press release:

Elementa will publish original research reporting on new knowledge of the Earth's physical, chemical, and biological systems; interactions between human and natural systems; and steps that can be taken to mitigate and adapt to global change. Embracing the concept that basic knowledge can foster sustainable solutions for society, *Elementa* is organized initially into six knowledge domains, each led by a prominent Editor-in-Chief.

Elementa will make articles available in traditional formats such as HTML and PDF, but also as XML, JSON and EPUB downloads. In addition to research, review and commentary paper types, *Elementa* is also encouraging "Policy Bridge" articles that seek to bridge the gap between scientific knowledge and public policy.

As government departments seek to implement the open access directives from the White House memo, I anticipate we will see a greater number of open access publications and an expansion of open access options in traditional publications.

GSIS Publications List

Proceedings of the Annual GSIS Meetings (ISSN 0072-1409)
\$45.00 each; standing orders are \$45.00/year.

Contents of *GSIS Proceedings* are indexed in *GeoRef*, the comprehensive geosciences online database.

Volume	Year	Title
v.42	2011	Printed Past, Digital Future: We Hold the Key
v.41	2010	"Peak" Performances
v.40	2009	Navigating the Geoscience Information Landscape: Pathways to Success
v.39	2008	Libraries in Transformation: Exploring Topics of Changing Practices and New Technologies
v.38	2007	Geoscience Information: Making the Earth Sciences Accessible for Everyone.
v.37	2006	Geoscience Information: Keys to Discovery
v.36	2005	Collaboration for the Dissemination of Geologic Information among Colleagues
v.35	2004	Geoinformatics
v.34	2003	Geoscience Information Horizons: Challenges, Choices, and Decisions
v.33	2002	New Heights in Geoscience Information: Access and Technology
v.32	2001	Geoscience Information: a Dynamic Odyssey
v.31	2000	Electronic Information Summit: New Developments and Their Impacts
v.30	1999	Communication Divides: Perspectives on Supporting Information Bridges in the Geosciences
v.29	1998	Accreting the Continent's Collections
v.28	1997	The Costs and Values of Geoscience Information
v.27	1996	Expanding Boundaries: Geoscience Information for Earth System Science
v.26	1995	Crossing the Bridge to the Future: Managing Geoscience Information for the Next Decade

Proceedings volumes 1 through 25 are out of print and available from:
Out-of-print Books on Demand,
University Microfilms, Inc.,
300 North Zeeb Road,
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Proceedings of the International Geoscience Information Conferences

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