



Newsletter of the Natural Resources Information Council

volume 4 number 2

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this newsletter is available on the WWW with active links at <http://www.usu.edu/~cnr/quirney/quirney.htm>

BECOME A MEMBER OF NRIC; RENEW MEMBERSHIP

Remember that membership renewals are due in January of each year. Membership is \$10.00 per year and it entitles you to receive a copy of the newsletter and a \$10 reduction of registration to the Annual Conference. Send your \$10 check made payable to NRIC:

Barbara J. Voeltz
NRIC Treasurer
4435 Y Street
Lincoln, NE 68503

AGENDA WITH SELECTED ABSTRACTS FROM THE SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING, NRIC

August 10 - 13, 1997

Cascade Locks, Oregon

Sunday, August 10, 1997

Welcome to Oregon - Robin Bown, U.S.F.W.S.

The Point Reyes Bird Observatory Library - Gareth Penn, NMFS

Wildlife databases on NISC

Karen Flemming
NISC

Wildlife Review was a bibliographic index produced by the National Biological Service (NBS). In 1995 National Information Services Corporation (NISC), of Baltimore, Maryland, assumed production of the database. Prior to privatization NBS indexers received, through exchange and gift agreements, more than 800 serials, approximately 150 symposium proceedings, and 50 books each year. By July 1997 (after privatization), approximately 1200 agreements had been re-established. More than 50 symposia proceedings are received each year, but still missing are most lower priority items such as books, theses, and dissertations. During the first year with NISC, coverage included a great deal of marginal literature (more newsletter and popular articles), primarily because this literature was easiest to acquire under gift agreements. However, the content of *Wildlife Review* has now stabilized and its focus is once again on core and non-core scientific journals, gray literature, and government publications with its coverage of essential wildlife articles on communities, populations, or individual wild vertebrate species. NISC's *Wildlife Review* is now available only in electronic formats, either on CD-ROM and online. As a result of the loss of the print version, the customer base has changed significantly; now serving mainly libraries, and those from fewer than 10 countries instead

of the 64 countries when the print version was exchanged by the NBS. Brief summaries of each citation are now provided and it is expected that a glossary will be added before the end of 1997.

Ecology and ecosystem management: core journals and indexes

Stephanie Haas
Marston Science Library
University of Florida

This preliminary study explored the difference between discipline-focused abstracting services such as Ecology Abstracts and Ecological Abstracts and comprehensive life science databases such as Biological Abstracts. It surveyed the indexing of 71 "core" ecology journals in Ecology Abstracts, Ecological Abstracts, Biological Abstracts, and Wildlife/Fisheries Review. A search on "ecosystem management" revealed the unique contributions discipline-focused services can bring to the research process. The complete results of this study are being submitted for publication.

Nineteenth century explorations of the American West

Carla G. Heister
S.J. and Jessie E. Quinney Natural Resources Research Library
College of Natural Resources
Utah State University

The great American exploration of the nineteenth century in what is now the American West began with the Lewis and Clark Expedition and culminated with the "four great surveys" that merged to form the U.S. Geological Survey. Most of the journals and reports were not available to the public until late in the 19th and early in the 20th century. Historians and biographers have taken advantage of these resources. But there is also a wealth of baseline biological information that can be found in the records of these many explorations yet it is sitting forgotten by scientists in archives and libraries. Researchers should be looking to it for early species information, climate reports, and water and geological studies.

Monday, August 11, 1997

ACI Conference in Toledo, Ohio

Paul Wilson
Fish and Wildlife Reference Service

The Association of Conservation Information held its annual meeting in Toledo, Ohio on July 25-29, 1997. The main theme was "Recruitment in Hunting, Fishing, and Non-consumptive Wildlife Recreation" and the conference featured a presentation by Shane Mahoney, Director of Wildlife Research for Newfoundland and Labrador Natural Resources. Shane's presentation, "The Role of Hunters in Conservation of Wildlife", is available on the website of Wildlife Forever (www.wildlife-forever.org/symposium/mahoney.html). Technical sessions included separate panels on each of the three outdoor recreation categories and preliminary data from the 1996 "National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation" was distributed. The Survey will be available from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in November. The Conference was preceded by a full day of training with Hans Bleiker of the Institute for Participatory Management and Planning. The last day of the Conference was a half-day of technical sessions covering topics such as "Touch-screen Technology", "Ecotourism", and "Dealing with Animal Rights Activists."

Fish and Wildlife Reference Service update

Geoffrey Yeadon
Fish and Wildlife Reference Service

The Fish and Wildlife Reference Service (FWRS), having been in existence since 1965, has had the primary goal of accumulating, indexing, storing, and making available reports/publications developed by State Fish and Wildlife agencies generated under U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Federal Aid Programs. In 1997, the FWRS acquired a new computer system which included audio/video capabilities, and Internet/E-mail access. Personal Librarian, the DOS-based text retrieval software used to manage FWRS

records databases, was replaced with Inmagic DB/TextWorks, and all FWRS databases were converted to this application. DB/TextWorks provides greater control of database records input/editing, and the design/generation of citation reports. With DB/TextWorks, FWRS also has the capability of supplying copies of database(s) with a copy of DB/SearchWork (a run-time, search-only version of DB/TextWorks). It was noted that the FWRS Bibliographic Database on the Internet, has not been updated since 1996. The FWRS is coordinating efforts with the Information Resources Management Branch, USFWS to accomplish this task, and to provide a more efficient searching tool for on-line users. The FWRS continues to provide in-house literature searches, and document delivery.

ISI: Personal Alert - Jackie Boss, Colorado DWR

Biological Resource Division libraries: integrating biology and geology - Joyce Mann, USGS BRD, Leetown Science Center

Who needs the U.S. Government Printing Office?: a federal depository update

Steve Weiss
Merrill Library
Utah State University

Cost effective, convenient, and relevant full-text U.S. Federal government information is now available, largely for free, to the consumer of Web TV at home. More than ever before, federally-funded research is being indexed and provided full-text on the Internet by all U.S. Federal government agencies. The Government Information Locator Service (GILS) is evolving as the central point for users to access online U.S. Federal government information, while the National Archives & Records Administration (NARA) is creating policies and establishing partnerships for the archiving of this information. Both the Government Printing Office and the U.S. Federal Depository library community are evolving as partners in the GILS project and the archiving of online government information.

What's happening in state and provincial libraries: panel presentation - Jackie Boss, Colorado; Diane Mitchell, Washington; Barbara Voeltz, Nebraska; Alison Welch, Northwest Territories; Pat Yeudall, Canadian Wildlife Service, Saskatchewan

StreamNet library: an update

Gretta Siegel
StreamNet

StreamNet is a cooperative project between state, federal, regional, and tribal entities which has the mission of providing regionally consistent data regarding anadromous fish and their habitat in the Pacific Northwest. Within the last two years, funding was secured to develop a library facility to support this mission and to serve as a regional clearinghouse for gray literature pertaining to the project focus. In the past year, we have (1) remodeled a 2,500 square foot space to accommodate the collection, provide study space, office space, a reference desk, and public access equipment; (2) investigated, purchased, and installed library management software (DB/TextWorks), mapped fields to be able to import OCLC derived data, and cataloged over 4,000 items; (3) created a presence for the library on the WWW via the StreamNet website; and (4) worked to formalize relationships with regional agencies and stakeholders. The library is housed at the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission offices in Portland, Oregon.

Video - The Salmon Story

Tour of Bonneville Dam

Tuesday, August 12, 1997

Business Meeting

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES INFORMATION COUNCIL, TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 1997 CASCADE LOCKS, OREGON

Meeting called to order at 8:34 a.m. PDT by Paul Wilson

Attendees: Paul Wilson, Geoffrey Yeadon, Hiromi Matsushita; Jackie Boss, Lalee Kerr, Diane Mitchell, Barbara J. Voeltz, Carla G. Heister, Alison Welch, Gretta Siegel, Steve Weiss, Inez Hopkins, Jan Heckman, Stephanie Haas, Gareth Penn, Carol Green, Richard E. Voeltz, Louise Richards, Pat Yeudall, Anne Hedrich

Agenda presented:

1. Treasurer's Report
2. State Indexing Project
3. Next Year's Meeting
4. Pat Yeudall
5. Nominations/Volunteers
6. New Business

Richard Voeltz moved that the agenda be approved; Jackie Boss seconded; motion passed by unanimous voice vote

1. Treasurer's Report - Barbara Voeltz

The balance on hand 7/15/97 of \$1428.92 does not reflect income or expenditures from the Cascade Locks Conference.

The budget report was approved by unanimous voice vote

2. State Indexing Project - Lalee Kerr

Lalee Kerr reviewed the input form she has developed using Microsoft Access. Discussion on where to have the database, who to input data, standard format, and depth of coverage was held.

Gretta Siegel moved that the committee discuss and decide on the scope of indexing; Barbara Voeltz seconded; motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

3. Next Year's Meeting - Gretta Siegel

In the absence of any representation from Alaska, Gretta Siegel presented Juneau, Alaska as the proposed site for the 1998 NRIC Annual Conference. Two possible dates were submitted, one in July and one in August. Richard Voeltz moved that we accept the August dates; Lalee Kerr seconded; Discussion: do people really have a preference? The vote was called with 9 pro, 4 opposed, and 7 abstentions. The motion passed. A plurality favor August.

4. Pat Yeudall

Pat Yeudall proposed that the 1999 NRIC Annual Conference be held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Richard Voeltz moved we accept Pat's proposal; Barbara Voeltz seconded; the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

5. Nominations/Volunteers

Gretta Siegel reviewed the NRIC guidelines to see what we need to do. Those in present positions need to be reaffirmed. Gareth Penn moved and Stephanie Haas seconded that Barbara Voeltz be reaffirmed as Treasurer and Carla Heister be reaffirmed as Newsletter Editor; the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

The position of Membership Coordinator was discussed. Anne Hedrich volunteered to be in that position. Barbara Voeltz moved and Gretta Siegel seconded that Anne Hedrich be NRIC's Membership Coordinator; the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

The position of Assistant Newsletter Editor was discussed. Jan Heckman volunteered to be in that position. Stephanie moved and Gareth Penn seconded that Jan Heckman be the Assistant Newsletter Editor; the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

6. New Business

- a. Formalized structure
- b. Newsletter on website
- c. NRIC website

b. Discussion of the purpose of members' \$10 fee was held. Anne Hedrich moved that the \$10 membership fee be for communication to members including mailing and electronic dissemination of the newsletter; Richard Voeltz seconded. The motion failed.

Gretta Siegel moved that the membership endorse the current activity of making the newsletter available on the World Wide Web; Barbara Voeltz seconded. The motion passed.

- c. Richard Voeltz moved to have the NRIC website committee submit a full report on its findings to the

membership, with recommendations, to be discussed at the Eighth Annual Meeting in Juneau, Alaska. Stephanie seconded. The following friendly amendment was added : and get a basic website up with a link to the NRIC Newsletter. The motion passed.

a. Discussion of structure - this business was tabled because we ran out of time for the meeting. Pat Yeudall moved that the meeting be adjourned. Richard Voeltz seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carla G. Heister
Recorder for the meeting

Advantages, promises, and problems of electronic journals

Jan E. Heckman
S.J. and Jessie E. Quinney Natural Resources Research Library
College of Natural Resources
Utah State University

The emergence of electronic journals has presented libraries with a new information management problem which many libraries will have to face in the near future. The presentation outlines the advantages (video, voice, 3D rotating graphics, dynamic processes) and disadvantages of electronic journals. Also addressed are the numerous variables involved in implementing electronic journal access. The presentation was designed to be a initial checklist for decision making before instituting electronic journal subscriptions.

Survival tips for an environmental library consultant

Inez Hopkins
BioAnalysts, Inc.
Boise, ID

Brief survival guidelines to help not only the Environmental Library consultant but also any library consultant. A brief overview of services provided, advertising methods, advantages/disadvantages to client and the librarian, and methods of billing.

GIS use in libraries

Anne Hedrich and Kevin Brewer
Science and Technology Library
Utah State University

This presentation explores how libraries are involved with geographic information systems (GIS). Increasingly, geographic information is becoming available in digital rather than paper format. GIS is the tool needed to access and use that information. The electronic format coupled with the advent of cheaper software and more powerful PCs have made GIS a practical library application. Geographic information systems are now a growing and important part of library services. Libraries provide these services in combinations of the following five areas: 1) they collect GIS materials and spatial information, including datasets 2) they provide access to hardware, software, and data 3) they provide training in using geographic information systems, 4) they create GIS products, from interactive atlases to the answers to questions at the reference desk and 5) they facilitate GIS service provision by bringing various organizations together. Issues to be considered in determining whether a library should become involved in GIS include user needs, potential cooperators, funding, training, service and collections policies, and data storage. Libraries are natural places for GIS because they have experience in managing information, are often central to an institution, and are neutral, trusted places. As geographic information systems become more visible in people's lives, people will expect and need GIS-related services. Libraries are preparing to meet this need.

The Oregon biodiversity project - Sarah Vickerman, Defenders of Wildlife

Tour of Columbia Gorge Discovery Center

Wednesday, August 13, 1997

Post-conference whitewater raft trip on the White Salmon River

INTERNET VIRUSES & VIRUS HOAXES

Good Times, Penpal Greetings, Join the Crew, we've all received messages warning us of dire consequences if we download messages with these subject lines. How do we know if they are real or a hoax. Here are a few sites that keep track of virus and hoax information. BEFORE you send on a virus warning, check out these pages. You will prevent furthering unwarranted anxiety. If you don't find the virus listed as a hoax at these sites, then send on the message to every list you are on and everyone you know.

CIAC Internet Hoaxes Page

<http://ciac.llnl.gov/ciac/CIACHoaxes.html>

Computer Virus Myths Home Page

<http://www.kumite.com/myths/home.htm>

McAfee Virus Information Library: Ten Common Virus Myths

<http://www.mcafee.com/support/techdocs/vinfo/1102.asp>

NCSA Anti-Virus Information

<http://www.ncsa.com/virus/alerthoax.html>

Symantec Virus Hoaxes

<http://www.symantec.com/avcenter/hoax.html>

PLAYA LAKES AND THE OGALLALA AQUIFER: A BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATABASE AND FULLTEXT RESOURCE OF TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Bill Johnson¹ and Marina Oliver²

¹Science Librarian, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas 79409
(wtjohnson@ttu.edu)

²Acquisitions Dept. Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas 79409
(limgo@ttacs.ttu.edu)

Playas are a significant landform found in arid and semi arid climates. The term playa has been used for over 100 years to describe the shallow enclosed flat basin of a desert plain. These basins flood after storms to form playa lakes then they rapidly dry out due to evaporation and infiltration of the water into the surrounding soil and aquifer. It is this infiltration that has come to play a vital role in playa lake research.

The Playa Lakes Research Bibliography is a product of the Texas Tech University Library (<http://www.lib.ttu.edu/playa/playa.htm>). It is just over one year old and has already experienced substantial growth and development. It is our intention that it become the world's definitive bibliographic and full text resource on information related to the specific physiographic wetland feature known as playa lakes and the Ogallala Aquifer, the largest aquifer in the world.

The seed for developing this electronic resource was planted when we received an email message from a research group in the Midwest who had received funding from the EPA to do some work on playas. They expressed some frustration with tracking down relevant research findings and asked for help from the Texas Tech University Libraries, apparently because of our well-known collection of dissertations and theses on the topic.

The initial phase of this digital project has involved a collaborative approach to resource gathering. We have employed a diverse strategy of searching available bibliographic databases and current technologies to digitize relevant documents and images. The structure of this hypertext resource follows an intuitive menu whereby students, researchers, or managers may locate relevant articles or citations.

The international scope of research into playa lakes necessitates the review of a wide body of periodical literature. The following electronic bibliographic databases were searched via the TTU Library Information System:

- Agricola from 1970
- BasicBiosis from 1988
- Biological and Agricultural Index from 1983
- Dissertation Abstracts from 1861

Environmental Sciences and Pollution Management from 1992
Georef from 1785
Geobase from 1980
GPO - Government Printing Office from 1976
Medline from 1966 (WWW version)
PapersFirst from 1993

In addition, two international bibliographic utilities have also been searched: WorldCat and RILIN.

A variety of software and hardware tools have been employed to create the electronic text and images seen at our site. Individual images have been scanned from traditional prints using Adobe Photoshop and the same flatbed scanner used to capture some of the text, a Hewlett Packard Scanjet 4c.

Citations are divided into three main groups: Life Sciences (Biology), Physical Sciences, and Management. Abstracts are provided with some citations. In addition to citations and abstracts, the database includes three indexes: subject, personal names, and geographic. A small image gallery has been started and links to the full text articles of several symposia are provided. A Web directory to agencies involved in playa lake research is available, based on information in the author affiliation field of bibliographic entries. A Web page of Internet sites related to wetlands is also provided.

It is important that this resource keep pace with the latest technological innovations, to be available to the widest possible audience and to serve them with maximum efficiency. A number of future enhancements are envisioned in the technical functionality of this resource as well as in its basic content. Researchers and symposium sponsors will hopefully see the advantage of electronically publishing their work and place it in the playa bibliography as full text documents simultaneously or prior to publication in other formats.

IS ANYONE INTERESTED IN TRADING SERIALS LISTS?

I FINALLY have my serials list assembled. Is anyone interested in trading lists? Also is there anyone interested in going in on an Union List for the group? I am willing (actually an intern is) to assemble, compile and distribute via email. Let me know.

Inez Hopkins
BioAnalysts
3653 Rickenbacker
Boise, ID 83705
208-383-3401 X200
dcc@micron.net

SELECTED WEBSITES

Compiled by Carla G. Heister and Inez Hopkins

Here are some websites of interest in two subject areas, species information and water resources. Readers are encouraged to send websites that they have found interesting or useful to the editor and they will get added to the next list.

Species information:

<http://www.lib.washington.edu/SLA/>

This is the list maintained by Adam Schiff of the Natural History Caucus of the Special Libraries Association. You should really look at all the pages maintained within this site. There is a list of bibliographies that is worthwhile to bookmark as well.

<http://www.itis.usda.gov/>

This will give you several choices. PLANTS will get you to the National PLANTS Database. ITIS will get you to the Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS) which has the beginnings of a taxonomic list of the world's known species.

<http://www.herbaria.harvard.edu/Data/Gray/gray.html>

This is web access the the Gray's Herbarium card index, a wonderful source of plant information.

Water Resources information:

<http://www.library.ucsb.edu/istl/97-summer/internet1.html>

This is the address of the article by Robert J. Teeter, Santa Clara Valley Water District Library, on water resources on the web that is in the Summer 1997 issue of the electronic journal, *Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship*.

<http://www.ctic.purdue.edu/KYW/>

Know Your Watershed from Purdue University's Conservation Technology Information Center. It has extensive links to national and state watershed resources.

<http://www.epa.gov/surf/>

Surf Your Watershed is set up for general public use to find information on any local watershed.

<http://www.cyberlearn.com/online.htm>

Salmon Preservation--A Case Study in the Resolution of Environmental Conflict is a web site devoted to the ecology and the conflict over restoring salmon in the Pacific Northwest. The website has "feature articles, technical reports, opposing viewpoints and news updates. We also welcome your participation in our Town Hall forum where experts, advocates and students are debating the future of salmon and the economy of the West." The producers of the site have also produced *Task Force*, a new CD-ROM series. "This is an excellent case study for courses in environmental science and conservation biology, ecology, aquatic or marine biology and fisheries and a valuable reference for ecologists."(producers promotional quote) In this real-life case study, students develop their own management plan for restoring salmon populations. The CD-ROM series is available in Researcher and Educator editions.

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS

WHO: All natural resource librarians

WHAT: Eighth annual conference, Natural Resources Information Council (NRIC)

WHEN: July 26 -29, 1998

WHERE: University of Alaska-Southeast, Juneau, Alaska

ACCOMMODATIONS: A lodging and meal package will be available through University housing, this is a shared rooms/cafeteria setting (details will be made available with conference registration information).

For additional information about the Juneau area and University of Alaska Southeast visit Juneau's homepage at <http://www.juneau.com>. If you would prefer alternative accommodations check the Juneau Convention and Visitor's Bureau for information on other accommodations.

TRANSPORTATION: Access to Juneau: Right now Alaska Airlines is the only air carrier to Juneau. July is peak tourist season so book your flights early. The Alaska Marine Highways is an alternate but it takes 3 days to travel from Bellingham, Washington to Juneau. There is no road access to Juneau, closest road link is through Haines or Skagway, but you still have to take the ferry to Juneau or fly with one of the smaller local air carriers.

CALL FOR PAPERS: If you would like to present a paper or have a suggestion for a topic of a presentation please contact:

Paula Johnson
Auke Bay Lab. Library
11305 Glacier Highway
Juneau, AK 99801
(907)789-6010 voice

(907)789-9094 FAX
paula.johnson@noaa.gov

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: March 30, 1998

Go to [Newsletter/Conference Index](#)

Go to [NRIC](#) home