

GEOSCIENCEWORLD: AN AMAZING ONLINE RESEARCH TOOL

GeoScienceWorld (<http://www.geoscience-world.org>) launched its new portal on February 25, 2005. The initial GeoScience World (GSW) collection incorporated 30 journals from 22 society and non-profit publishers in six countries, as well as GeoRef. Of the societies involved in *Elements*, the Clay Minerals Society, the Mineralogical Society of America, and the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland participate in GSW. All but ten of the journals provide full texts back through 2000; these comprise the GSW Millennium Collection. Two of the journals started after 2000, and eight others will be adding content back to 2000 over the next couple of years. Many of the journals are online for the first time. AGI's GeoRef, the premier bibliographic database for the geosciences, is fully integrated and is updated weekly. GSW is hosted by Stanford University's electronic journal service, HighWire Press, which currently hosts nearly 800 journals in the sciences, medicine, social sciences, and humanities (<http://highwire.stanford.edu>).

Full access to content was freely available to anyone visiting the site until April 13. Full access is now available through paid subscriptions only, although free institutional trials for 30 days (renewable for 30 more) are available. Now that access control has been instituted, anyone going to GSW is still able to browse a journal's table of contents, view abstracts, and conduct non-GeoRef searches. Paid subscribers also have access to the full-text articles, in both HTML and PDF formats, and the ability to search and link using GeoRef. In addition, subscribers have access to older issues of some journals, the GSW Literature Archives, some going back as far as 1931. At this point, ten journals have posted some or all of their legacy data, and three more (*Geology*, *GSA Bulletin*, *Palaios*) will have back issues posted by the end of May, 2006. Abstracts for all back issues are available for most journals.

In addition to offering journals and GeoRef in a single place, GSW has a number of other features:

- References are hyperlinked among the GSW journals and other HighWire Press journals (such as *Science* and *Journal of Petrology*), GeoRef, ISI's Web of Science, CrossRef, and Medline.
- Access is provided to the world's most current edition of GeoRef, with updates scheduled weekly.
- Searches may be performed simultaneously among all GSW journals and all of GeoRef.
- Map coordinates may be used for geography-based searching in GeoRef.
- Maps and images may be looked up on the Alexandria Digital Library.



- Users may download bibliographic references to various citation managers, including file formats for EndNote, Reference Manager, ProCite, BibTex, and Medlars.
- Individuals who complete a free registration form on the site may sign up for a variety of email alerts—notification of publication of a new issue, copies of tables of contents, notification of new content available as specified by author and/or keyword, reporting of corrections to previously published papers, and notice that a paper has been cited by another author. All alerts except those using GeoRef are available to the general public.
- The literature may be graphically browsed using the "TopicMap" data-visualization tool.

GSW represents a major collaboration by geoscience societies. It is the result of a monumental effort by all of them and by HighWire Press to get their journal content ready. To GSW's knowledge, this is the first time so many journals have been added to the HighWire system all at once, which caused its own problems. Reference linking could not start until the site was live, and with so many new journals by so many different publishers being put online at once, what normally would have taken days to propagate through the system took about a month. For most GSW publishers this was their first real foray into electronic publishing. Each had different and multiple technical issues that needed resolving, many of which were not observable until the journals were loaded or reference linking was attempted. A complicating factor for both searching and linking was that because many of the journals were not already online, many of the terms and journal names (and multiple abbreviations) were not part of the HighWire or other electronic databases. Integrating GeoRef into the GSW system and enhancing the inherent capabilities that are underutilized when GeoRef is a stand-alone product was a major technical achievement and required much fine tuning after launch. The GSW site is the first to use HighWire's new, more powerful, FAST search engine, which required some modifications and adaptations once launched. Although loading of current issues was held up for over a month as GSW worked towards getting the aggregation working at an optimum level, all current content is now posted.

The response of the community to GSW has been positive. By the end of August 2005 there were just over 70 paid subscribers.

Because of the timing of launch, many libraries had already used their 2005 calendar year budget by the time

access required paid subscription. Thus GSW anticipates increased sales for 2006 and beyond. The 2006 prices for GSW will be the same as the 2005 launch prices. Because of the demand for multi-site licenses, GSW developed a reasonable pricing scheme that recognizes the realities of the electronic workplace and accommodates individual academic institutions, government agencies and corporations with multiple, geographically separate sites. Sales are global to academic, government, and corporate institutions, although most sales are to academic libraries. Some subscriber contracts extend beyond the end of 2005. GSW is represented by five marketing firms: CSA (worldwide), Amigos Library Services (USA and Canada), i-Group (Asia), Kinokuniya Co. Ltd. (Japan), and Ovid Technologies, Inc. (outside USA and Canada). Institutions may also subscribe directly through GSW.

GSW has been supported by ~\$68,000 in contributions since February and has received pledges for an additional ~\$56,000. Additional fundraising is ongoing to cover costs of further technology development to provide many features requested by authors, users and publishers that would enhance the usefulness of GSW. GSW gratefully acknowledges contributions during this past fiscal year from major and continuing sponsors—American Geological Institute, Exxon-Mobil Exploration, and the Jackson School for Geosciences at the University of Texas at Austin—and from new contributors, the Geological Society of America, GSA Foundation, AAPG Foundation, SEPM Foundation, and Stanford University Libraries. The fiscal year for GSW ended June 30, 2005; despite having no subscription revenue until after launch, GSW closed its first fiscal year in the black with a modest long-term debt to AGI.

GSW is planning for the future. Both a Library Advisory Committee and a Strategic Advisory Committee were appointed to evaluate GSW and make recommendations on where GSW should be in three years and five years. The Advisory Council comprising GSW participating publishers will help prioritize the various technology features that have been requested.

GSW's Board of Directors has carefully considered the composition of GSW and the rate of growth. As a new enterprise GSW needs to start slowly, first building a subscriber base, and then expanding the content. It is critical

(cont'd on p. 314)