

A Library Report

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In recent newsletters I have mentioned that publishers of journals in the earth sciences had lagged behind other sciences in providing electronic access.

During the last year this has changed dramatically. Now most of the leading geology publishers are offering electronic access to their major journals through the internet. Generally electronic access begins with issues published in the 1990's or later. Pricing varies enormously. Many publishers include electronic access with print subscriptions. Others add a surcharge which can be as little as 5% of the print price or more than double the original price.

The Geology Library now has electronic access to over 90 journals. For current information, see the UW-Madison's Electronic Journals List at:

<http://www.library.wisc.edu/journals>

Unfortunately several concerns related to electronic access have not been resolved. Copyright and intellectual property rights continue to be contentious issues. Recent court decisions, congressional actions and state laws have usually favored producers and distributors of information at the expense of the public's right to easy and/or free access.

The lack of a demonstrated long term storage option for electronic information is still worrisome. Although some of the proposed solutions for long term storage are promising, none is proven.

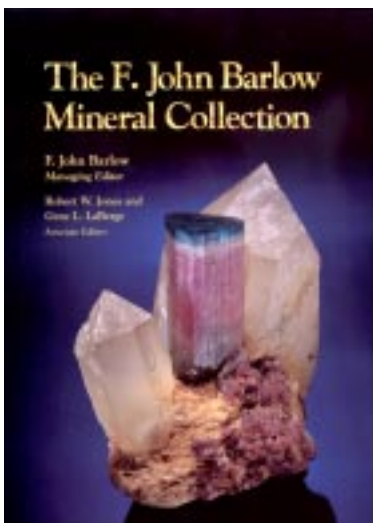
Finally, it has been a very busy year working on the design of the new Weeks West Wing addition.



The Geology Library. (photo by Wolfgang Hoffmann)

Present building plans include a new library addition of about 1500 square feet. This will house the collections of United States Geological Survey volumes, publications from the U.S. state geological surveys and foreign geological survey titles in new library compact shelving. The compact shelving provides an efficient and space-saving way to house these collections. The new addition will provide much needed extra shelving for print collections that are growing and allow existing collections to remain onsite and readily accessible.

The space that these collections now occupy will be remodeled and used for additional patron study space, new group study offices and some library services. I am especially excited about the increased space for patrons particularly the new group study rooms. As part of the remodeling, badly needed new carpeting will be installed for the entire library. The present orange carpeting was originally installed when Weeks Hall and the first addition were built; so it is between 23 and 30 years old. The library is also scheduled to get a new ceiling and improved lighting. At the finish, library patrons will have a more attractive and comfortable place to use the collections, study and work together on projects.



The F. John Barlow Gift

Earlier this year, John Barlow, UW alumnus, recipient of an honorary doctorate from the UW-Madison College of Engineering, and Honorary Life Member of the Friends of the Geology Museum, most generously donated to us 900 copies of his book *The F. John Barlow Mineral Collection*. This 408-page-book documents one of the finest private mineral collections ever assembled. It is lavishly illustrated with 570 spectacular color photographs, and was co-edited with Gene LaBerge, an alumnus of our department (BS '58, MS '59, PhD '63). We are pleased to be able to reward graduating students and other deserving individuals with this outstanding book.