

**GeoScienceWorld:
GSA's Perspective**

Jack Hess
Executive Director
Geological Society of America

What is GSW?

- A comprehensive Internet resource for research and communications in the geosciences, built on a core database aggregation of peer-reviewed journals indexed, linked, and inter-operable with GeoRef.
- GeoScienceWorld (GSW) is a nonprofit corporation formed by a group of leading geoscientific organizations for the purpose of making geoscience research and related information easily and economically available via the Internet. GSW is an unprecedented collaboration of six leading earth science societies and one institute.

Founding Organizations

- American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG),
- American Geological Institute (AGI),
- Geological Society of America (GSA),
- The Geological Society of London (GSL),
- Mineralogical Society of America (MSA),
- Society for Sedimentary Geology (SEPM), and
- Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG)

GSA Journals

- *Geology*
- *Geosphere*
- *GSA Bulletin*

Why We Did It

Geoscience societies working together to:

- **advance and promote the geosciences**
- **benefit geoscientists and their societies worldwide**

Goals

- Better integration of geoscience research
- Increase in readership & circulation
- Greater accessibility to a wider audience (i.e. academia, industry, developing countries, etc.)
- Increased accessibility, use, and preservation of past literature
- Maximum publishing advantages for authors
- Enhanced and expedited literature searches

Strategic Drivers

- Defense against commercial publishers
- Urgent need to counteract the increasing erosion of print subscription revenues
- To help earth science societies (not yet publishing electronically) to do so with small risk and expense
- To provide a refuge for the longer term preservation of key journal content worldwide, all languages

Strategic Drivers

- meet the demands & expectations of users... particularly students...
- ...accustomed to the benefits of electronic media (rapid searching, linking, and easy access)

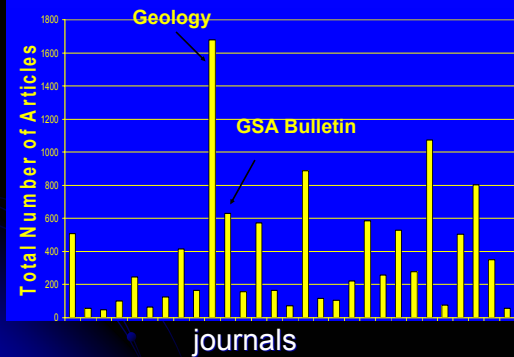
How Is GSW Doing?

- Launched end Feb. 2005; paid access mid April
- 30 journals; 22 publishers, 6 countries
- Geosphere added March 2006
- 3 additional journals by Jan. 2007
- Pay per view launched Fall 2006
- ~181 subscriptions as of Sept. 2006
- Ended first 2 fiscal years in black
- Distributed \$545K to publishers 1st year

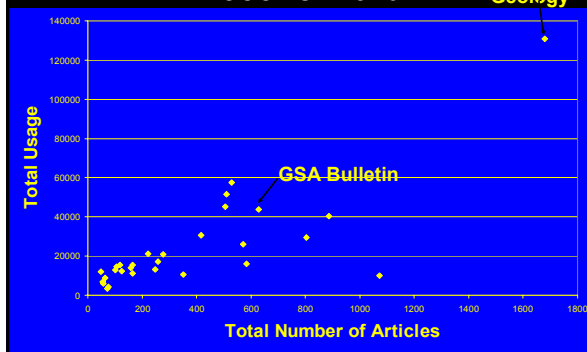
A positive move forward

"With the debut of GeoScienceWorld in early 2005, the earth science community finally has an extensive internet-based resource for research and communications in the geosciences." – Richard Stringer-Hye, Vanderbilt University, May, 2006, writing in *Charleston Advisor*, "a consumer report and review tool for Internet accessible electronic resources."

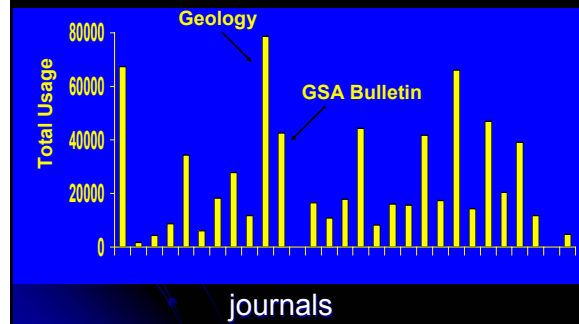
Millennium Collection: 2000 forward



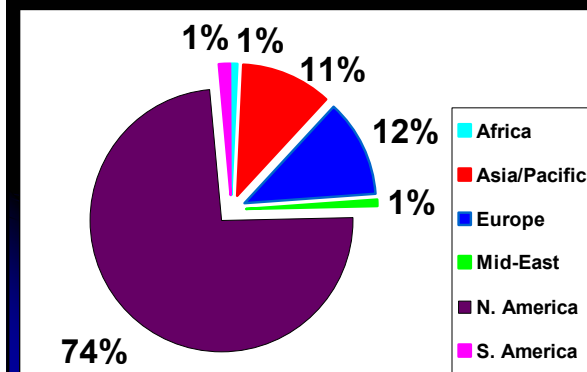
Millennium Collection 2000 forward



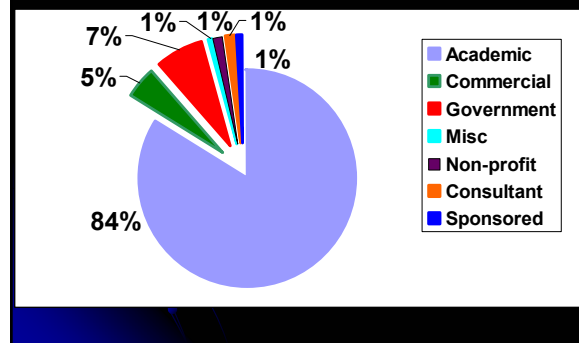
Literature Archive Usage pre-2000



GSW Subscribers by Location



Subscriber Organization Type



Review in Charleston Advisor

"a consumer report and review tool for Internet accessible electronic resources."

- "...the mission and goals of GeoScienceWorld are ambitious and commendable.
- The user interface is well-designed and the growing full-text collections are a huge leap forward in the dissemination and education of geoscientific research.
- The integration of the GeoRef database with the journal collections makes GSW an unusual resource when compared to information resources in other scientific disciplines.
- The inclusion of unique tools such as TopicMap is progressive.
- Couple the above attributes with its economical price and one finds it hard to find serious fault with GSW."

— Richard Stringer-Hye, Vanderbilt University, May, 2006

Future Goals

- Increased search functionality
- Google map interface
- Balanced coverage of geoscience disciplines
- Books
- Maps
- International and regional society journals

Major Challenges - GSA

- Potential loss of publisher/society identity
- Financial risks
- Print cancellations
- Maintaining dual sites
- How long to keep print

Major Challenges - GSW

- Growth of aggregation in economically viable manner
 - For libraries
 - For publishers
- Addition of non-journal material
 - keeping costs from being prohibitive
 - Integrating with journal material
- Cost effectiveness of silo site for non-GSW subscribers?

THANK YOU