

Statement of Interest

**SECTION 1. PROJECT ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

- CDI Science Support Category to which the proposal is responding:
  - CDI SSF Category 3: Data and Information Assets (SSF3)
- Project title: Retired Geologists' Records Archive
- Lead USGS Cost Center: Central Energy Resources Science Center
- USGS Principal Investigator: Laura R.H. Biewick

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- Additional principal investigators or collaborators:
- Short description: A serious USGS issue is that of archival of a career's-worth of information. Retiring geologists have collected field records throughout their careers. These retiring geologists also have computer hard drives filled with PowerPoint presentations, spreadsheets, graphics, GIS data, that are of great value and need to be archived for future reference. What policies are in place for preserving a career's-worth of work? What time is allotted geologists to appropriately document their records?

## SECTION 2. PROJECT SUMMARY

To preserve a career's-worth of scientists' field records, we should publish a Google-type map or Google Earth (i.e., Google Earth Science) where you can find geologic information, along with hotels and restaurants. On road trips, I want to open a map app that gives me geologic information. I want to see photographs that my fellow geologists have taken and documented, and I want to read their field notes and measured sections. Work could be undertaken on such a project to rescue geologist's records. We could start by scanning field photographs along with geologic notes describing the formations and features. All of this geologic information could be linked to locations on a map.

The scanning work could be done inexpensively by high school or beginning college students. Many young students are looking for a part-time job where they can earn their own cash for gas, clothes, movies, college, etc. High school/beginning college students are perfect candidates for such scanning jobs. Such work can be tedious, but there is a wealth of knowledge to be gained while scanning and documenting these records. And, it gives these students exposure to science and math, as well as valuable experience to start their resumes.

The map sales group in bldg. 810 has program developers who could work on such an app. This type of data rescue would cut down on the space needed for records preservation which is presently done by a contract employee, Clay Martin, Library Special Collections, Field Records.

Field Records were neglected during the 1990's to 2008, before Clay was hired. Presently, the materials get put on a shelf and added to a special records card catalog. The information is stored by scientist's name/project. There are 1300 scientists represented. 25 to 30 percent of the collection is organized with online descriptive inventories. The website created by the Rolla, MO computer unit (Glen Cook), allows users to search by keywords, i.e., geologic processes, geographic areas, scientist's name. "The USGS Library Field Records Collection is an archive of unpublished field notes, maps, correspondence, manuscripts, analysis reports, and other data created or collected by USGS Geology Discipline scientists during field studies and other project work. Located in the Central Region Library in Denver, Colorado, the collection is available for **on-premises examination during normal library hours**. See the [Denver Library home page](#) for schedules and location information" ([Denver Library, 2009](#)). The materials are not scanned, although some borrowers have scanned materials, in which case they share those scans with the USGS. Given information on the geologist's name and project, Clay can get the materials ready within a day or so.

Only USGS scientists can take materials from the library, and the USGS Denver Library Field Records is potentially a temporary holding. The Denver Library is in the process of moving and consolidating space. Because of large space reductions, the library will be forced to consolidate collections and may be forced to rent space from National Archives, whom they resist due to access problems. Much of the USGS paleontology collections rescued by Kevin McKinney, are going to the Smithsonian.

Federal records belong to the USGS, and we are required to preserve them. Presently, collections of these records are not enforced. Employees soon-to-retire, are given a library clearance that includes a notice requesting field records. We can do better. This valuable geologic information can be made more readily available to the public.

### References Cited

U.S. Geological Survey Denver Library, 2009, U.S. Geological Survey Field Records Collection. Accessed on August 19, 2013.

<b>SECTION 3. ESTIMATED BUDGET (1/2 page) Budget</b> Category	Federal Funding "Requested"	Matching Funds "Proposed"
<b>1. SALARIES (including Benefits):</b>		
Personnel Total:	\$ 20,000	\$
Student Personnel Total:	\$ 10,000	\$
<b>Total Salaries:</b>	<b>\$ 30,000</b>	\$0
<b>2. TRAVEL EXPENSES:</b>		
Travel Total (Per Diem, Airfare, Mileage/Shuttle) x # of Trips:	\$	\$
Other travel expense (Registration fees):	\$	\$
<b>Total Travel Expenses:</b>	\$	\$0
<b>3. OTHER DIRECT COSTS: (itemize)</b>		
Equipment (inc. software, hardware):	\$	\$
Publication Costs:	\$	\$
Office supplies, Training, Other expenses:	\$	\$
<b>Total Other Direct Costs:</b>	<b>\$0</b>	\$0
<b>Total Direct Costs:</b>	\$0	\$0
<b>Indirect Costs (%):</b>	\$0	\$0
<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ 30,000</b>	