NOTES

Therefore the space alloted to Research Papers will be increased from 55% to 75%. Naturally this would result in reduction in the quota to other features like Discussion, Notes, Announcements etc.

The authors should also cooperate by reducing the length of their contribution. It would greatly help if the authors strictly conform to the guidelines published in the January and July issues of the journal. Editorial, henceforth, will not be a regular feature. However, any Fellow is welcome to communicate on any important topic, a short write-up, that would be of interest to the earth science community.

It could be seen that a majority of the papers dealt with hard rocks (mineralogy, geochemistry, petrology, stratigraphy, structure), Peninsular India having almost three-fourths of it covered by these rocks. In the past couple of decades research in other fields also is slowly gaining ground. Hence, it may be desirable to have more publications particularly in the fields of economic geology, sedimentation, Quaternary geology and geomorphology, which are likely to have relatively greater applications in the years to come.

It is always tempting for an active worker to question the findings of someone else's in the same field of specialisation, if it does not conform to his own earlier findings. There is nothing wrong with this and discussion has to be encouraged. But comments should be brief and to the point aimed at obtaining clarifications and correcting major errors only. The journal cannot be a forum for a slinging match between the author and his critic.

It is but natural that young workers would like to see their papers published as early as possible for a variety of reasons. This can be done provided important original findings of 2 to 3 pages are communicated, with a figure, if absolutely necessary, which can be published after due refereeing as a Research Note, within 6 months of the receipt of the note.

It is hoped that the authors and the referees will extend their full cooperation to serve the main objectives of the journal. Constructive suggestions are sought from the Fellows for improving the content and get up of the journal.

R.V.

## **GEOSCIENTIFIC MAP TO GEO-INFORMATION**

This compilation (Vol. 122, 1992, 492 p. of Geologisches Jahrbuch Reche A) essentially reflects the efforts of various working groups which contributed to the research project 'Digital Geoscietific Map Series', funded by DFG. It covers all possible aspects of converting the geosceintific maps in the digital form, creating databases and how effectively they can be utilised in different application purposes such as cartography, geology, natural resources, geomorphology, ecology and soil sciences. It also provides best insight for setting up a geoscientific information system from the geoscientific maps. The overall structure and design criteria are well defined in the introductory chapters and aids first level managers with necessary information required for setting up GIS in their respective fields.

Treatise given in the first chapter provides the reader with an insight of different aspects related to spatial data acquisition and representation. Intended readers of this compilation are recommended to acquire a prior knowledge about the fundamental concepts of GIS.

The database structure and management encompasses discussion on various data structure, their representation methods, extendibility and applications, highlighting the relative merits and limitations. The importance of user interfaces, which plays very vital role in making the usage of any information system (un) popular, is very well discussed, and this is aptly needed here because of the fact it has to be utilised by the geoscientific community whose familiarity with the computer hardware/software and the digital manipulation of maps may range from limited to nil.

The importance of 3D visualisation of the geoscientific data is needless to emphasize. Majority of the 3D visualisation methods associated with the GIS packages demand higher processing times and are also poorly supported in respect of query handling, and modelling for the necessary improvements required in the database for effective handling of 3D data and to improvise the modelling capabilities in this domain, various methods are suggested under the spatial mapping and modelling systems.

The advantages inherent in both vector and raster based representation is very well brought out in the 'map construction - handling raster based data'. The effectiveness of remote sensing data combined with the image processing capabilities is depicted with suitable examples in the other two sections which also demonstrate how the remote sensing data can be integrated with GIS to enhance the analytical capabilities.

Different chapters in map construction and applications in various fields, such as geology, natural resources, geomorphology, cartography, soil sciences and ecology discuss extensively on the utilisation of GIS techniques for different application purposes. Various case studies incorporated in each of these sections cover majority of the applications that are possible in that field of study. However, dearth of a summarisation section dealing with all possible applications and possible approaches for each of the fields, leaves a reader high and dry whose application area doesn't conform to any of the case studies detailed. A section on global scenario in this field might have made the compilation much more complete.

In essence this compilation provides the reader with an in-depth knowledge about all the aspects of utilising GIS concepts in geosciences field. Various views expressed and the case studies presented enhance the reader's perspective many fold. This definitely will be a priced possession for all the organisations working in the respective fields and also for the organisations which plan to adopt the GIS techniques in future.

Regional Remote Sensing Service Centre Bangalore-560 070 **G.BHANU MASTHAN** 

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Second South Asia Geological Congress, Colombo, Sri Lanka. Organised by the Ministry of Industries, Science and Technology, Government of the Democratic Socialistic Republic of Sri Lanka, covering SAARC countries and Turkey and Iran. February 20-25, 1995. For particulars write to:

Secretary General and Chairman, Organising Committee, NARA, Crow Island, Mattakuliya, Colombo - 15.

National Seminar on Acquisition and Appreciation of Modern Techniques in Earth Sciences Related Industries., Organised by Indian Geological Congress and Dept. of Industries and Earth Science, Tamil University, Thanjavur, during October 5-7, 1993. For further particulars write to :

The Secretary, Indian Geological Congress HQs, Department of Earth Sciences, University of Roorkee, Roorkee - 247 667 (U.P)