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**Of Possible Interest to eGY Participants:
Call for Proposals in Need of Massive Parallel Computing Capacity**

IBM is seeking proposals for projects in need of massive parallel computing capacity using the World Community Grid (<http://www.worldcommunitygrid.org/>). Information about the requirements, etc. is on the web site.

Received from parsonsm@nsidc.org

**World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS),
Tunis, November 2005**

The WSIS meeting in Tunis will bring together high level governmental representatives from around the world. Several presentations and sessions that feature eGY topics and or participants will be made at conferences and symposia organized in parallel with the formal WSIS meeting. These include:

Paul Berkman, Chair of the eGY working group on Data Integration and Knowledge Discovery will present a paper entitled “Integrating Digital Information into Knowledge for the ‘Information Commons’.”

Eliot Christian, USGS, will be making presentations on GEOSS (Global Earth Observation System of Systems) and on Public Warning using the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP). Both GEOSS and CAP will be featured in one of the WSIS Exhibits.

Bob Chen of CIESIN at Columbia University, Alexei Gvishiani of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Liu Chuang of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and others will participate in several sessions organized by CODATA in a pre-WSIS workshop and at a parallel event during WSIS.

Received from Bill.Peterson@lasp.colorado.edu

Establishment of the Japanese eGY Committee

Prof. T. Iyemori of Kyoto University has become the first chair of the Japanese eGY Committee. The committee’s first item of business will be to convene a session focusing on eGY at the AOGS Meeting to be held in Singapore in July, 2006.

Received from Bill.Peterson@lasp.colorado.edu

Other I*Y Activities

www.igy50.net is a web page set up by an informal network of social scientists and historians interested in the International Polar Years, including the International Geophysical Year. There is not yet much on the page, but they do run an e-mail discussion list.

Received from ralph@bairdpetro.com

Australian Academy of Science, Frederick and Elizabeth White Conference

“Mastering the Data Explosion in the Earth and Environmental Sciences”

Australian Academy of Science, Canberra Australia, 19-21 April 2006

This cross-disciplinary conference will focus on the data explosion under way in Earth and Environmental Sciences. The focus will be on communication between experts in data inversion methods, computational simulation, statistical inference, visualization and data mining, with geoscientists who need to make reliable, quantitative inferences from their data.

For further details and to register an expression of interest see <http://rses.anu.edu.au/cadi/Whiteconference>.

Registration deadline 1st December 2005.

Received from charles.barton@anu.edu.au

Recent Successes and Challenges with an Open Data Policy in the Commercial Arena

Two recent news items regarding Google highlight the opportunities and challenges in open access to data.

An article: "A Journey to a Thousand Maps Begins With an Open Code", By DAMON DARLIN Published in the October 20, 2005 issue of the New York Times, shows how an army of programmers, most of them doing it just for fun, has grabbed the software code that generates the distinctive Google maps with their drop-shadowed virtual pushpins, and combined it with other data like the locations of potholes, taco trucks and U.F.O. sightings, and even the sites of murders and muggings. The article notes that Google reserves the right to sell and place ads on these "Google Map Mash Ups" sites. However, Google allows mash-up creators to share in the revenue.

To read the full article, click [here](#).

Received from Bill.Peterson@lasp.colorado.edu and charles.barton@anu.edu.au

NSF Calls for Input to its Cyberinfrastructure Vision Document

The NSF Cyberinfrastructure Council is seeking input to the Draft version 4.0 of "NSF's Cyberinfrastructure Vision for 21st Century Discovery" (see <http://www.nsf.gov/od/oci/CI-v40.pdf>). NSF's vision is that it will play a leadership role in the development and support of a comprehensive cyberinfrastructure essential to 21st Century advances in science and engineering research and in education. Now is your chance to influence the policy and strategy that will be used.

Received from parsonsm@nsidc.org

Publishers Sue Google over Plans to Digitize Books

Google Print Library Violates Publishers' and Authors' Rights

WASHINGTON D.C., October 19, 2005

The Association of American Publishers (AAP) today announced the filing of a lawsuit against Google over its plans to digitally copy and distribute copyrighted works without permission of the copyright owners. The lawsuit was filed only after lengthy discussions broke down between AAP and Google's top management regarding the copyright infringement implications of the Google Print Library Project.

The suit, which seeks a declaration by the court that Google commits infringement when it scans entire books covered by copyright and a court order preventing it from doing so without permission of the copyright owner, was filed on behalf of five major publisher members of AAP: The McGraw-Hill Companies, Pearson Education, Penguin Group (USA), Simon & Schuster and John Wiley & Sons.

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To read the full article, click [here](#).

A related story was published in InformationWeek on Oct. 3, 2005:

Yahoo, Others Launch Virtual-Library Alternative To Google Project

The Open Content Alliance differs from Google Print in that only works in the public domain, or those contributed by copyright holders, would be stored.

To read the full article, click [here](#).

Received from Bill.Peterson@lasp.colorado.edu, charles.barton@anu.edu.au and echristi@usgs.gov

Plan for a GEOSS Interoperability Forum

eGY is seeking to set up a partnership between the GEO Secretariat (Geneva), IEOS (the US contribution to GEOSS), and WGISS (CEOS's WG on Information Systems and Services) to run a forum on interoperability for key groups responsible for Earth observation and data systems that will contribute to GEOSS. If you are interested, contact Charles.Barton@anu.edu.au.

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