

# Geologic Field Trip Guidebooks; A Project to Identify Indexing Gaps

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Geologic field trip guidebooks are very important, yet grey literature.

Often, only limited numbers of guidebooks are produced, and they can be difficult to identify and purchase.

Indexing of the various guidebook series is woefully incomplete, and the gaps continue to increase.

A six-month sabbatical project was conducted to determine mutual and unique gaps in three major indexes used to identify and locate geologic field trip guidebooks.



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Eleventh International Conference on Grey Literature, Washington, DC

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The three indexes are: GeoRef, OCLC WorldCat, and the Guidebook Database.

The free, searchable Guidebooks Database (GBDB) is cooperatively maintained by American Geological Institute and the Geoscience Information Society (GSIS). It consists of the titles in the 6<sup>th</sup> print edition of Union List of Geologic Field Trip Guidebooks of North America (1996, GSIS & AGI), and subsequent updates.

<<http://www.agiweb.org/georef/onlinedb/gnaintro.html>>

Information from this project will be used to reduce indexing gaps.

This report focuses on guidebook series produced by societies and associations for North American field trips.

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## Method

- Used AGI Guidebooks Database list (**1067** Series; There are currently over 10,700 individual trips in the GBDB).
- Sorted list into groups, for the purpose of this report.
- Decided to concentrate on associations and organizations (632).
- Determined that WorldCat was the best resource for determining if a series is still active (1998 to present) .
- There are **199** that can be considered “active” (including 12 not in the GBDB), of the **632** Associations/Societies series (605 plus 27 not in the GBDB); 13 were not used for this study due to problems with the series; 81 remain to be finished, and therefore are not included in this report.
- Therefore, 105 guidebook series were used for this report** (12 not in the GBDB).

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## Method Continued

Created a spread sheet for each series.

Filled in each spread sheet with data from the Guidebooks Database (student workers did most of this).

Entered a blank year, if there was nothing in the Guidebook Database for that year.

# Example of Series Spread Sheet

## GSIS Guidebook Committee Guidebook Adoption Worksheet

Send completed worksheets to Lura Joseph (luraj@uiuc.edu), who will record completion of your work and forward the worksheets to Sharon at AGI.

**Sponsor (Your name and e-mail address):**

**Series Title: Kentucky Society of Professional Geologists**

**Does this series appear to be ceased? (Yes/No/?):**

**Date Completed & Sent:**

**Notes about series: Title changed from Geological Society of Kentucky in 1997**

**<http://www.kspg.org/pages/fieldtrips.html>**

INDIVIDUAL TITLE	Year/ Volume, Number	IN GGNA DDAT A- BASE? (Y/N)	IN WAI T- ING LIST ? (Y/N)	IN GEO- REF? (Y/N)	BEST SOURCE (for borrowing to index) & NOTES
Economic geology of the inner Blue Grass region/ Stephen F Greb; Garland R Dever; Warren H Anderson, geologist.	1997	N	N	N	WC: <a href="#">UNIV OF KENTUCKY LIBR</a> Geology of the Bluegrass Region (Guidebook and roadlog for field trip No. 1 held in conjunction with the 26th Annual Meeting of the Eastern Section of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists and the 1997 Field Conference of the KSPG, Sept. 27), by S.F. Greb, G.R. Dever. [not currently available]
Geology of the Pound Gap roadcut, Letcher County, Kentucky : 1998 annual field conference of the Kentucky Society of Professional Geologists, September 25th and 26th / Donald R Chesnut	1998 (publ. 2000)	N	N	Y	Geology of the Pound Gap Roadcut, Letcher County, Kentucky. 1998 Annual Field Conference of the KSPG, Sept. 25-26. [\$20, KGS]
Sequence, cycle and event stratigraphy of Upper Ordovician and Silurian strata of the	1999	Y	NA	Y	Event and cyclic stratigraphy of Mid-Paleozoic Strata of the

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## Method Continued

Consulted other resources to fill in gaps, including:

- Society lists in guidebooks
- Web pages of societies
- Newsletters
- People

In the future, depending on the type of series, we will search publication pages of agencies, bulletins, journals, etc.

Compiled summary statistics for each spread sheet/series.

# Example of Summary Results

- # Total range of years through 2008
- # Known Trips (some, more than one per year)
- # Unknown years (potentially missing guidebooks and trips)

## Of the Known Trips:

- # Guidebooks in the GBDB
- # Guidebooks in GeoRef
- # Guidebook in both GBDB and GeoRef
- # Guidebooks in neither

Other: [e.g. Many titles are missing from WorldCat; for those listed, many are in very few libraries, and some are only in one library worldwide.]

Search problems

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## Results

Total Range of Years through 2008: Gives an idea of the ongoing history of a particular association and its field trip activity.

Unknown Years Total: **1616**

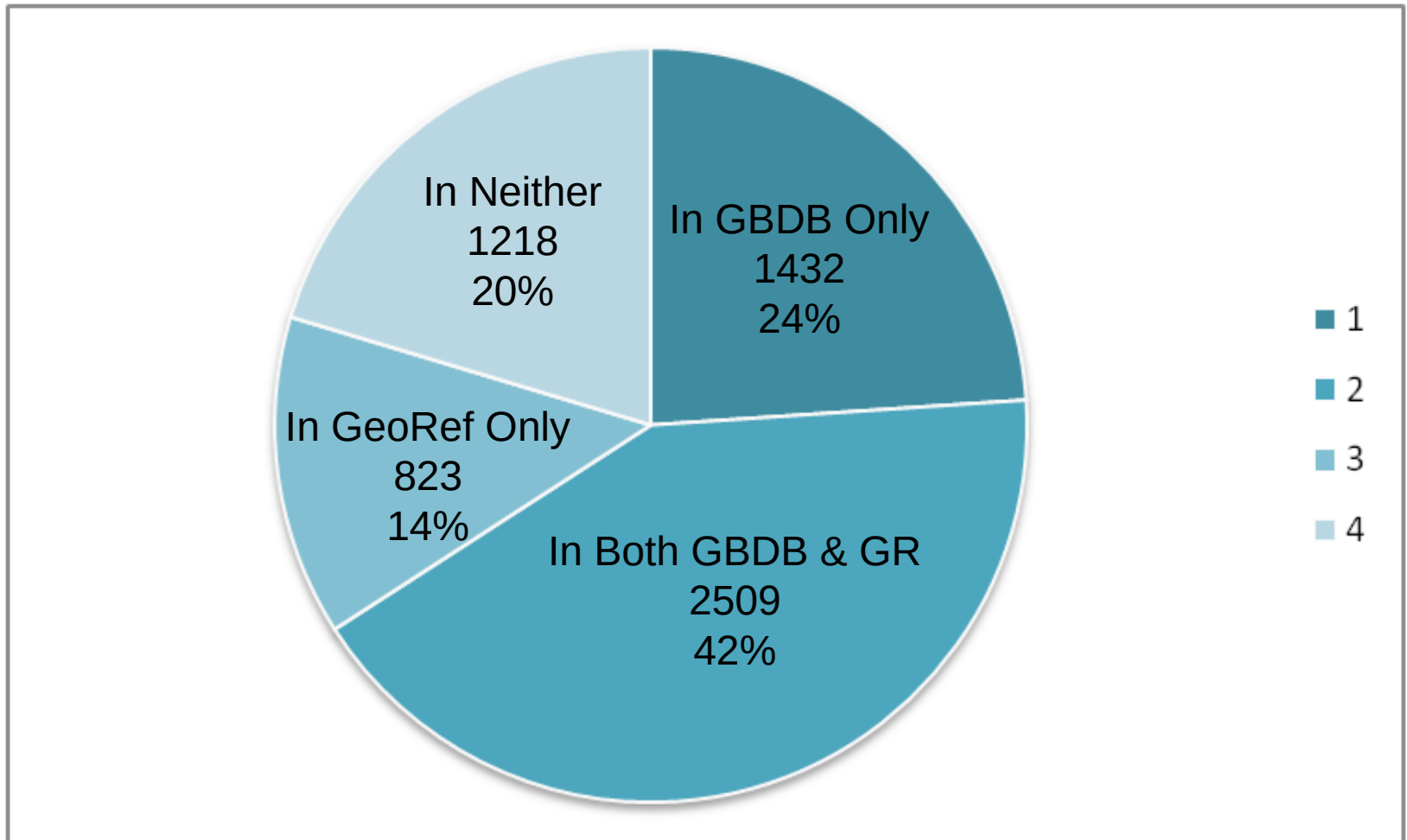
Gives an indication of the number of potential guidebooks missing for the 105 series in this report.

Even though a year may be filled in, there may still be missing guidebooks for that year, and there could be multiple trips in a guidebook, therefore the 1616 number is conservative.



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**Results: 5982 Total Known Trips/Guidebooks in the 105 Series**



## Conclusions

Even though these 105 series are only a small percentage of the total 1067 series, work on other groups indicates similar indexing gaps. Clearly, there is much work still to be done, both to catch up, and to remain caught up.

Societies and field trip leaders need to take responsibility for making sure that guidebooks get into library collections, and therefore will be indexed in GeoRef, WorldCat, & the Guidebook Database.

Librarians should consider analytic cataloging of guidebook series. This would help when identifying guidebooks, both when using a local online catalog, and when using WorldCat.

Librarians can help by reporting new field trip guidebooks as they are added, by volunteering to “adopt” a guidebook series and attempt to fill in more blanks, and by educating other librarians regarding the importance of this grey literature.

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## Conclusions Continued

This project focused on guidebook series produced by societies and associations for North American field trips. There are 81 series in this group that remain to be finished, and therefore are not included in this report.

After finishing the societies and associations series, there are plans to extend this project, first to include guidebook series produced by other groups such as government agencies, academic institutions, etc., and then to add guidebook series for trips in locations world-wide.

# Geologic Field Trip Guidebooks

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## Acknowledgements

Student Workers at the University of Illinois Geology Library input the information from the GBDB into the spreadsheets.

A number of members of the Geoscience Information Society helped search and fill in data for some of the series.

American Geological Institute (AGI) helps maintain the Guidebook Database, and indexes guidebooks for GeoRef.

University of Illinois made the sabbatical possible.

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