

ANNUAL **REPORT** 2024-2025



Dear GeoScienceWorld Community,

Building on a strong foundation of trusted partnerships, robust publishing infrastructure, and a reputation for delivering high-quality, peer-reviewed research, GeoScienceWorld enters its third decade with renewed purpose and energy. Guided by strong leadership and principled governance, we have consistently delivered innovative, collaborative solutions while maintaining the solid financial footing that enables us to weather challenges and invest in our future. Our founding mission remains vital: to strengthen independent society publishers, expand access to high-quality research, and continue to invest in an infrastructure that supports researchers and scientific discovery.

We are pleased to share our achievements in the 2024-2025 Annual Report. Highlights include:

- ♦ **\$69 million in royalties** returned since our founding, supporting society partners' publishing, research, and educational programs.
- ♦ **Expanded partnerships and services**, remaining true to our mission while addressing the evolving needs of our society partners.
 - ♦ Launched Publishing Services, onboarding our first society partner
 - ♦ Expanded renewal services to strengthen society programs
 - ♦ Appointed a Director of Publishing and Publishing Services to lead growth and support partners
- ♦ **Enhanced our platform** to improve:
 - ♦ OpenGeoSci map-based search tool
 - ♦ Discoverability
 - ♦ Accessibility
 - ♦ User experience
- ♦ **Introduced an AI-powered research assistant**, advancing research discovery through agentic artificial intelligence.
- ♦ **Improved staff satisfaction** scores across all areas, reflecting a strong organizational culture.

We are at a pivotal moment for scholarly publishing and for the global geoscience community, and recognize that our success is inextricably linked to the health and sustainability of the broader geoscience research enterprise. We approach these challenges with an agile mindset and clear strategic vision. Our response includes developing new services that provide enhanced value to institutional partners, leveraging emerging technologies to improve efficiency and discovery, and fostering the future of our field through initiatives like our Graduate Studies Award program.

The challenges ahead are real, but so is our commitment to meeting them with innovation, collaboration, and unwavering dedication to the geoscience community we are privileged to serve.

With gratitude for your partnership and support,

Phoebe McMellon
Chief Executive Officer
GeoScienceWorld

Colin P. North
GSW Board Chair
Senior Lecturer in Geology
University of Aberdeen

WHAT WE STAND FOR

VISION

To be the essential resource for and partner to the earth and planetary science community, advancing knowledge, discovery, and insights for all.

MISSION

As a unique nonprofit collaborative, our mission is to aggregate and disseminate information to advance earth science and to strengthen the sustainability of our society partners.



We are driven by our commitment to our customers.

We deliver exceptional products, services and experiences by focusing on our core values.

INNOVATE

We innovate with an agile mindset, turning ideas into action.

LISTEN

We listen with an open mind so new ideas can come forward and flourish.

COLLABORATE

We collaborate with integrity, leading by example to build trusted partnerships.

RESPOND

We respond with curiosity, purpose, and transparency in dialog with our community.

VALUES

BY THE NUMBERS

\$9.5M
revenue

97%
renewal rate

\$69M+
in royalties since
inception

\$2.53
cost per use

900
institutional
customers

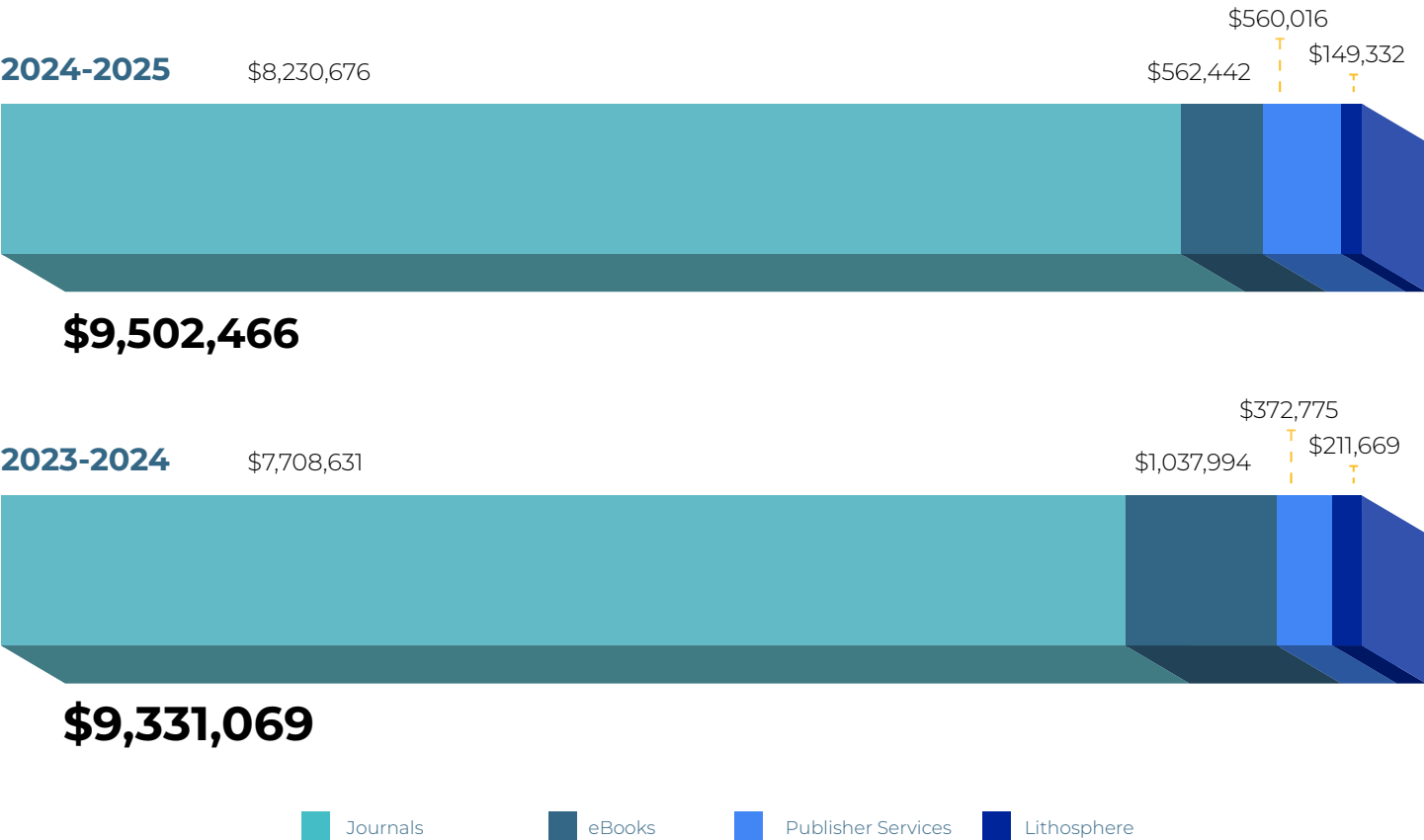
10.5M
pageviews



FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

GeoScienceWorld continues to deliver strong financial results, returning a significant share of income to our content partners. This commitment helps safeguard the viability and independence of society publishing programs while enabling us to explore and implement new economic, technological, and strategic opportunities through collaboration. Since our founding, GSW has returned more than \$69 million in royalties from journals and eBooks to societies in support of their publishing, research, and educational programs.

REVENUE



\$9.5M

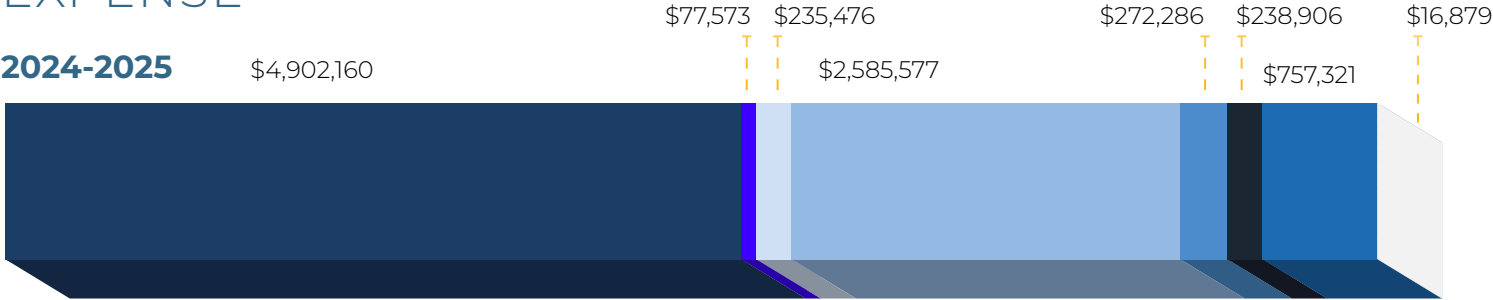
Total Revenue
(excluding operating reserves and unrealized investment gains or losses), lower than budget by \$525K and **higher than prior year by 2%.**

Journal Revenue \$8.2M (including GeoRef), lower than budget by \$53K and **higher than prior year by 6.8%.**

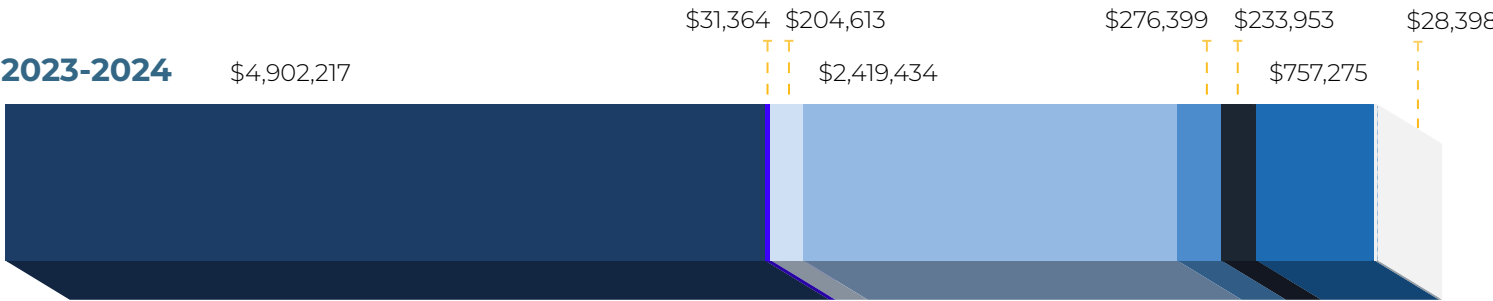
eBook Revenue \$562K versus budget of \$885K. Program revenue since inception (excluding publisher chargebacks) exceeds \$9.5M.

Publisher Services
Total annual revenue is **\$560K**, slightly lower than budget (\$580K) and **higher than prior year by \$187K**, a 50% increase.

EXPENSE



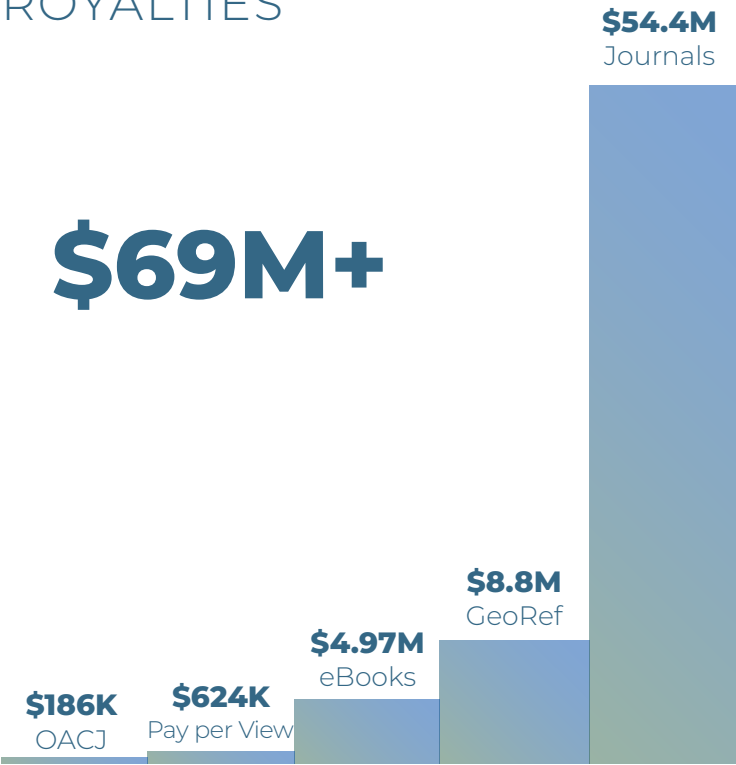
\$9,086,177 Less than budget by 3.6% and higher than prior year by \$232K



\$8,853,653



ROYALTIES



\$69M+

Journals Royalty (CY 2024)

\$4.1M

with GSW retainer, an increase of **6.09%** over 2023

eBook Royalty (FY 2024-2025)

\$579K

\$4.97M royalties paid to date since program launch in 2014

PLATFORM IMPROVEMENTS AND TECHNOLOGY

Enhancing user experience and content accessibility remains central to maximizing the value researchers derive from our platform. We are committed to removing barriers to discovery and engagement, ensuring that critical geoscience research reaches its intended audience efficiently and effectively. Recent improvements include:

- ◇ Developed an AI-powered research assistant using an agentic RAG (Retrieval-Augmented Generation) model for beta testing, enabling efficient retrieval and engagement with GSW content, complete with full citations and direct source links.
- ◇ Increased awareness and traffic to OpenGeoSci by redesigning the content page toolbar to include a link to the OpenGeoSci map.
- ◇ Implemented strategy and roadmap to improve accessibility in preparation for the European Accessibility Act, keeping in step with industry requirements around indexing and search.
- ◇ Improved customer satisfaction metric (CSAT score) to 81, above industry standard.
- ◇ Reduced GSW technology costs and improved backend operational efficiency by suggesting several platform-wide enhancements for Silverchair, GSW's platform provider.



PLATFORM CONTENT

GSW's platform is an essential resource of highly respected, trusted global geoscience research on one platform. Our integrated platform of journals, eBooks, GeoRef and OpenGeoSci, provides a comprehensive research experience to over 250,000 researchers in academic, industry, and governmental institutions in 44 countries around the globe.

JOURNAL PORTFOLIO

55
journals

38
publishers

228K+
articles

10,000+
articles added

OpenGeoSci

GSW's popular map-based search tool, OpenGeoSci, allows users to click directly on the map to browse, search the database and view results geographically, or limit searches to specific map boundaries. Results now link directly to the full article or book chapter, creating a faster and more seamless research experience. OpenGeoSci and all article abstracts are free and open to explore.

eBOOK PROGRAM

2,475+
titles

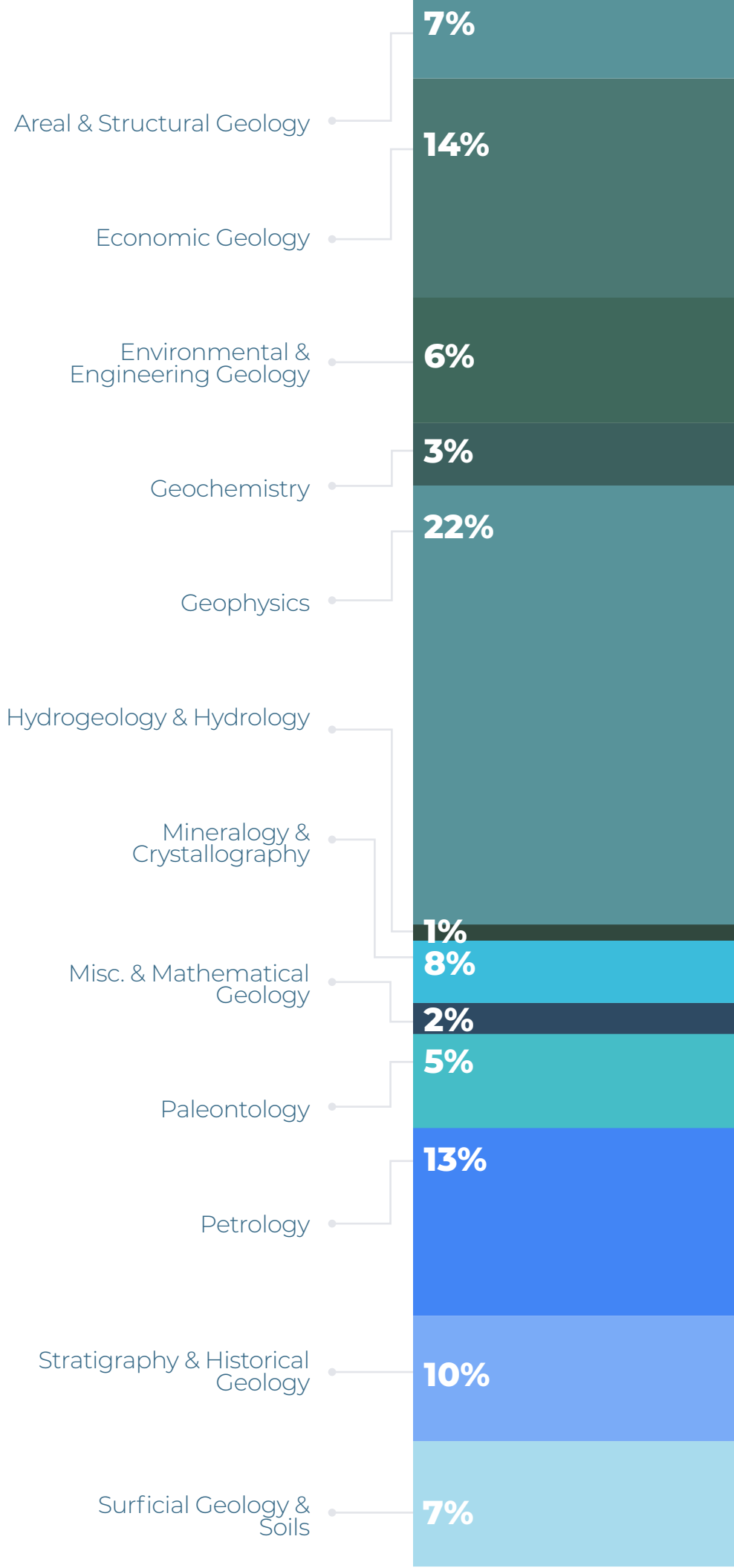
41,900+
book chapters

17
publishers

51
new titles added



BREADTH OF CONTENT



PUBLISHER SERVICES

Through a cooperative and inclusive model, GSW provides geoscience societies of all sizes with the opportunities and expertise they need to thrive while staying focused on their scientific missions. Our infrastructure and operational strength enable partners to access advanced technology and services at lower cost and with greater efficiency. By hosting and disseminating content on the GSW platform, we help drive global visibility, usage, and discovery across the research community. In the latest example of what we can accomplish through collaboration, this year GSW partnered with the Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG) to provide high-quality publishing services.

“This partnership allows us to combine our strengths with GSW’s specialized expertise, ensuring the continued excellence and accessibility of our publications. We are confident that this collaboration will not only enhance our operational efficiency but also open new opportunities for innovation and growth in the years to come.”

John Eastwood, SEG President

Institutions served
2.5K+

Serving 30K individual society members via Society Access provided by GSW

100%
retention
rate

1.3K+
eBooks supported via
Society access sites

8
Society access
sites managed and
supported

14
Journals supported via
Society access sites

SERVICES

- ◇ Collaborative platform development
- ◇ Content hosting
- ◇ Customer service
- ◇ Editorial and production services
- ◇ Fulfillment
- ◇ Project management
- ◇ Renewals
- ◇ Sales and marketing



Lithosphere

Published by the community, for the community, *Lithosphere* offers researchers a trusted venue to share scientifically rigorous results in an environment that fosters collaboration and accelerates discovery. As a premier peer-reviewed journal, *Lithosphere* publishes basic, applied, and cross-disciplinary research on the processes that shape the crust, upper mantle, landscapes, and sedimentary systems across all spatial and temporal scales.

In CY2024, a focus on editorial, production, and marketing optimization, led by GSW's new Director of Publishing and Publishing Services, resulted in significant progress:

- ♦ Stronger editorial engagement through monthly meetings and targeted email campaigns featuring editor bios and interviews
- ♦ 75% increase in the number of articles published (CY2024 vs. CY2023)
- ♦ 285% increase in the geographic diversity of authors (CY2024 vs. CY2023)
- ♦ 48% total acceptance rate, reflecting rigorous peer review and high standards
- ♦ Diversified marketing campaigns with subject-specific features and new formats, emphasizing quality content over volume

PUBLISHED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THESE GLOBAL SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES:

- ♦ American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG)
- ♦ The Geological Society of America (GSA)
- ♦ Mineralogical Society of America (MSA)
- ♦ SEPM Society for Sedimentary Geology
- ♦ Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG)

Impact Factor

1.7

SCOPUS Score

4.3

Journal Citation Indicator

1,964



INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF GEOSCIENCE

The GeoScienceWorld Graduate Studies Award was established to support graduate students whose deep engagement in the geosciences highlights new ideas, fresh thinking, and diverse viewpoints. The award aims to foster an inclusive and dynamic geoscience community and reduce financial barriers that can limit participation in academic and professional opportunities.

A panel of three outside judges, each from a different field of earth science, thoroughly evaluated 45 highly qualified applications to select the winner, Daniel Owodunni, a PhD candidate in geology at Louisiana State University (LSU). He received \$5,000 and had his **winning essay** published in GSW's Open Access journal, *Lithosphere*.

"Science doesn't require a perfect start; it begins with curiosity, the courage to keep asking questions, and the consistency to keep learning."

Daniel Owodunni
Graduate Studies
Awardee



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

"There is real value in maintaining a sustained commitment to advancing geoscience information resources and services. Equally important is the librarian's perspective I bring to the publishing industry, which has allowed me to better understand its challenges and opportunities from a new vantage point. I chose to join the GSW Board to give back to the profession and, in a small way, help shape its future."

Amanda Bielskas

GSW Board Member

Director of Science, Engineering & Social Science Libraries at Columbia University



Colin P. North – Chair

Senior Lecturer in Geology,
University of Aberdeen



Nathan Suurmeyer - Vice Chair

Head of Innovation,
ThinkOnward



Bridgette Moore - Secretary

Chief Operating Officer,
Geological Society of America



Anna Salt Troise – Treasurer

Chief Education Strategist,
American Academy of
Orthopaedic Surgeons



Ann Benbow

Executive Director,
Mineralogical Society of America



Amanda Bielskas

Director Science, Engineering &
Social Science Libraries,
Columbia University



Howard Harper

Executive Director,
SEPM Society for Sedimentary
Geology



Ashley Manning-Berg

Assistant Professor of Geology
and Oceanography,
San Diego Mesa College



Sharon Tahirkeli

Emeritus Director,
Scholarly Information,
American Geosciences Institute



Zhiming Yang

Research Professor and Chief Geologist,
Chinese Academy of Geological
Sciences

THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY



AASP - The
Palynological Society



Geological Association
of Canada (GAC)



Novosibirsk State
University



American Association
of Petroleum Geologists
(AAPG)



Geological Society
of America



Paleontological Society



Association of Environmental &
Engineering Geologists



The Geological Society
of London



Pacific Section
AAPG



Cambridge University
Press



Geological Society of
South Africa



Seismological
Society of America



Canadian Energy Geoscience
Association



German Mineralogical
Society



SEPM Society for Sedimentary
Geology



Canadian Institute of
Mining, Metallurgy &
Petroleum



Geological Society of India



Società Italiana di
Mineralogia e Petrologia



Canadian Science
Publishing



Gulf Petrolink



Société Géologique
de France



Clay Minerals
Society



History of the Earth
Sciences Society



Society of Economic
Geologists



Cushman Foundation for
Foraminiferal Research



Italian Geological
Society



Society of Exploration
Geophysicists



Earthquake Engineering
Research Institute



Micropaleontology
Project



Soil Science Society of
America



Environmental & Engineering
Geophysical Society



Mineralogical Association
of Canada



Spanish Mineralogical
Society



European Association for
Geochemistry



Mineralogical
Society of America



University of Chicago Press



French Mineralogical
Society



Mineralogical Society of Great
Britain and Ireland



University of Wyoming