

GEOSCAN - THE NATIONAL DATABASE FOR GEOLOGICAL INFORMATION:

'THE NEWFOUNDLAND CONTRIBUTION'

by

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GEOSCAN is a computerized bibliographic database of Canadian-produced and/or Canada-related geoscience documents. It is updated several times a year at the computer facilities of the Federal Department of Energy, Mines & Resources, Ottawa, with input from several contributing agencies.

The Newfoundland Department of Mines & Energy is one of the ten presently participating agencies who produce indexed documents. The 'geofiles' and the mineral inventory cards at the Publications and Information Section are the source of our indexed documents. As of July, 1981, there were 6,173 documents in GEOSCAN from this agency and 6,680 documents in total that concerned Newfoundland. This discrepancy exists because other agencies, e.g. the Geological Survey of Canada, produce and index documents that concern this province. In the three updates for 1981, 277 new documents were added. These represent mainly assessment files and serial literature, with some government reports and maps, theses and consultant reports.

The Canada Centre for Geoscience Data (C.C.G.D.), who manage GEOSCAN, are presently implementing a new software system called MINISIS. It has not yet been determined what new services MINISIS will provide. Since the February, 1981 update, the emphasis has

been on examining and correcting existing documents so that they will transfer easily to the new system. This combined with a review of many geofiles has resulted in numerous changes. These include:

- (a) Addition of more NTS grid locations,
- (b) release of confidential documents (300 newly opened geofiles!),
- (c) some geofile number changes,
- (d) some map file number changes, and
- (e) deletion of 138 geofiles because of duplications, nongeoscience material, grossly incomplete material, etc.

Usually, once a year, we arrange with C.C.G.D. to produce some custom indexes from GEOSCAN. The most popular have been the NEWFOUNDLAND/LABRADOR - NTS INDEX and the NEWFOUNDLAND/LABRADOR - KEYWORD INDEX. This year, in order to increase the availability of these products, we arranged to get the original microfiche for both of these indexes and to produce duplicate microfiche copies at the Newfoundland Department of Public Works. The indexes were ordered after the February update. The original microfiche (NTS and KEYWORD INDEXES) arrived on May 15th, and the 19 paper copies (NTS only) arrived on May 19th.

INDEXES, FEB., 1981	SIZE	COST	UNITS SOLD UP TO OCTOBER 6TH, 1981
NTS PAPER	1,062 PAGES	\$30.00	11
NTS MICROFICHE	16 MICROFICHE	8.00	17
KEYWORD MICROFICHE	90 MICROFICHE	45.00	15

For the NTS (paper) Index, there is a sample copy in a new 'reduced format'. It is less bulky, with smaller print and one-half the number of pages as the usual index. If there is enough interest in this new format, more can be ordered.

These indexes are for the benefit of you, the user. We welcome suggestions for improvement and appreciate being notified of any errors or discrepancies you discover.

As well as these products, GEOSCAN is available in the form of online computer searches through the Library of the Geological Survey of Canada as well as the Newfoundland Department of Mines and Energy. Searches are performed on a

cost recovery basis with a minimal charge of \$10 per search topic. A moderate size search (100-200 titles) would cost between \$15-\$45. However, because of plans to switch to MINISIS, the online system has not been updated since February, 1979; therefore, all GEOSCAN articles since that date would not be included in such a search.

The new system, MINISIS, should solve this as well as other problems, and make GEOSCAN a very reliable tool in our search for new mineral resources.

For further information on GEOSCAN, please contact Catherine Patey (709)737-3159. We look forward to your comments and suggestions.