

GEOSCAN - THE NATIONAL DATABASE FOR GEOLOGICAL INFORMATION:  
THE NEWFOUNDLAND CONTRIBUTION

by

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Publications and Information Section

GEOSCAN is a computerized bibliographic database of Canadian-produced and/or Canada-related geoscience documents.

The Newfoundland Department of Mines and Energy is one of the ten agencies which index documents for input into this database. Our 'geofiles' and mineral inventory cards are the sources of our indexed documents. Other agencies, e.g. the Geological Survey of Canada and the Earth Physics Branch of the Canada Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, also produce and index documents that concern this province.

In 1982, the National GEOSCAN Centre, which manages GEOSCAN, implemented a new software system, called MINISIS, to input and retrieve the bibliographic data more effectively. Since then, the old and the new systems have been operating concurrently.

The old documents are available in the GEOSCAN Newfoundland and Labrador indexes, current to February 1982, the date of the last update on the old system. These indexes are available from the Publications and Information Section. (See page 27 of the Publications List.)

As well as these products, all of the 67,000 GEOSCAN records from across Canada including those concerning this province are available through on-line computer searches at the Geological Survey of Canada Library in Ottawa and, locally, at our Publications and Information Section. Searches are performed on a cost-recovery basis with a minimal charge of \$10.00 per search topic. A moderate size search (100-200 titles) costs between \$15 and \$45.

In the implementation of the new system, all the old documents were converted to a new format. For example, different types of keywords were moved into different fields - map types, illustrations, geological terms. Although most of the records did convert, they did not convert cleanly and completely. For example, reports may be

missing a title or authors and terms may have been assigned to the wrong fields. Until the National GEOSCAN Centre has completed its modifications of these converted documents, individual agencies cannot do the more detailed modifications such as changing confidential status. In the meantime, we welcome suggestions for improvements and appreciate being notified of any errors or discrepancies that you may discover in the earlier indexes. This would aid us in making detailed modifications of the documents.

All new documents are input directly on to the new system and are immediately retrievable on-line. To date, only indexed documents from assessment files have been keyed into the system, although other types of documents, in particular government publications, have been coded.

Besides indexing and keying new documents, new coding sheets are being produced, the authority files or thesauri used in coding are being enlarged, and the terms used are being more clearly defined.

When the new system is fully in place, GEOSCAN should be a much more valuable tool in our search for new mineral resources.

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



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