

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

Catherine Patey
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 Mineral Assessment Report Library files 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 Center, which manages GEOSCAN, implemented a new software system, called MINISIS, to input and retrieve the bibliographic data more effectively. 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. In cooperation with the National GEOSCAN Center, these old documents are being corrected.

All new documents are input directly onto the new system and are immediately retrievable online. 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.

All of the 92,600 GEOSCAN records from across Canada, including those concerning this province, are available through online computer searches at the Geological Survey of Canada Library in Ottawa and, in St. John's, 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.

As well, GEOSCAN Newfoundland and Labrador indexes current to February 1982, the date of the last update on the old system, are available from the Publications and Information Section. A computer printout sorted by N.T.S. area is also available for the newer documents.

We welcome suggestions for improvements and appreciate being notified of any errors or discrepancies that you may discover in the earlier indexes. This will aid us in making detailed modifications of the documents.

For further information on GEOSCAN, please contact Catherine Patey (709) 576-3159.