

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

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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 sixteen agencies that index documents for input into this database. The departmental files, including geoscientific mineral inventory cards, assessment reports, published reports and maps, are the sources of the indexed records. Other agencies, e.g., the Geological Survey of Canada, also produce and index documents that concern this province.

In 1982, the National GEOSCAN Centre, which manages GEOSCAN, installed 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 records 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, records may be missing a title, or authors and terms may have been assigned to the wrong fields. In cooperation with the National GEOSCAN Centre, these older records are being corrected.

All new records are input onto the new system via batch entry and are immediately retrievable, online. To date, only indexed records for assessment files are being keyed into the system, although other types of records, in particular, those for government publications, have been coded.

Besides indexing and keying new records, new coding sheets are being produced; the authority files and thesauri used in coding are being enlarged, and the terms used are being more clearly defined to maintain consistent use of terms. Various card files, e.g., mineral lands information card file,

were begun. The information on these card files is being transferred to several mini databases for easy access and reference.

The non-confidential records in the 107,068 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 the Publications and Information Section of the Geological Survey Branch. Searches are done on a cost-recovery basis with a minimum charge of \$10.00 per search topic. A moderate-size search (100 to 200 titles) costs between \$15 and \$45.

As well, GEOSCAN Newfoundland and Labrador indices, (NTS, keywords, authors, both corporate and personal), current to February 1982, the date of the last update on the old system, are available from the Publications and Information Section. Also available, is a computer printout index sorted by NTS values to assessment files entered into GEOSCAN from 1982 to 1984, and a NTS index to assessment files received in the Publications and Information geofiles from April 1985 to June 1988.

A similar NTS index to assessment files, received from July 1988 to June 1989, will be available in March 1990. Within the next year a NTS index for these assessment files received during the period 1980-1989, should be completed.

We welcome suggestions for improvements and appreciate being notified of any errors or discrepancies in the earlier indices. This will aid us in making detailed modifications of the records.

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