

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 Department of Mines and Energy, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, is one of sixteen agencies that index documents into this national database. The departmental files, including mineral assessment reports, mineral inventory cards, published reports and maps, university theses, etc., are the sources of the indexed records. Additional documents, produced and edited by related agencies, e.g., the Geological Survey of Canada, are the source of other indexed records referring to this province.

Since the conversion of the database to the MINISIS software system in 1982, about 1200 records of mineral assessment files have been added to the database, although other types of documents, in particular, those for government publications, have also been indexed. From May 1990, all additional records are batched into GEOSCAN via Datapac.

Besides indexing and keying new records, improved keying and editing procedures are being developed with WordPerfect 5.0 macros, and new coding sheets are being produced. The authority files and thesauri used in coding are being enlarged, and all the terms used are being more clearly defined. These terms are maintained on various card files and binders, e.g., company name card file, mineral lands information card file, drillhole information binder, etc. The information on these card files and binders is being transferred to several mini databases on CDS/ISIS and Reflex II software for easier access and reference. These files and mini databases help to make indexing consistent and are also useful for in-house inquiries.

As of November 1990, there were 140,400 records in the database, including 9600 referring to this province. The non-confidential records are available through on-line computer searches at the Geological Survey of Canada Library in Ottawa, and at the Publications and Information Section of the Geological Survey Branch in St. John's. The number of requested searches has more than doubled in the past year.

References to documents referring to the geoscience of this province are also available from various printed GEOSCAN Newfoundland and Labrador indices:

1. Indices to documents (including those authored by the Geological Survey of Canada) referring to this province with records in the database up to February 1982 are:
 - sorted by NTS—National Topographic System
 - sorted by Keywords
 - sorted by Author (both corporate and personal)
2. Computer printout to mineral-assessment-file records entered into the database during the period 1982-1984 are:
 - sorted by NTS
3. Index to mineral-assessment-file records received by the Publications and Information Section during the period April 1985 to June 1988 (272 records) are:
 - sorted by NTS
 - sorted with cross-reference lists by company name, release date, geographic area, local Geofile number.
4. Index to mineral-assessment-file records received by the Publications and Information Section during the period July 1988 to June 1989 (Open File Nfld/1927) (628 records) are:
 - sorted by NTS
 - sorted with cross-reference lists as above.

A similar NTS index to mineral assessment files, received during the period July 1989 to June 1990 (Open File Nfld/2068) (292 records) is also available.

We welcome suggestions for improvements and appreciate being notified of any errors or discrepancies in the earlier indices. For further information on GEOSCAN, please contact Catherine Patey (709) 576-6441.