

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 GEOSCAN database and related indexes are used daily by industry, the general public and by callers to the Section, to identify documents on the geoscience of this province and the rest of Canada.

The Department of Mines and Energy, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, is one of fourteen 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 1982, mainly mineral-assessment file records have been added to the database. According to the results of a survey, in February, 1991, of the database and our collection of geoscientific documents on this province (e.g., Geofiles), 90 percent of the assessment files are in the database. In fact, over 80 percent of the documents in the Geofiles are referenced in GEOSCAN. This summer, basic bibliographic records for the remaining university theses in the Geofiles were entered, so that now all the theses i.e., all 349 in the Geofiles, are represented.

As of November, 1991, there were 127,500 records in GEOSCAN, including 11,000 referring to this province. The 126,500 non-confidential records are available through on-line computer searches at the Geological Survey of Canada Library in Ottawa, at the Publications and Information Section of the Geological Survey Branch in St. John's and at the 12 other indexing agencies across Canada. The number of locally requested searches has increased each year with over 80 completed so far this year. In order to improve in-house access to the information, a user-friendly subset of GEOSCAN for the province was introduced and is available for searching by staff and visitors at the Publications and Information Section of the Geological Survey Branch.

Information on documents referring to the geoscience of this province are also available from various printed GEOSCAN Newfoundland and Labrador indexes:

1. NTS (National Topographic System), Keyword, and Author (both corporate and personal) indexes to documents (including those authored by the Geological Survey of Canada) referring to this province with records in the database up to February 1982.
2. Computer printout sorted by NTS, with references to mineral-assessment file records entered into the database during the period 1982-1984.
3. NTS Index (with cross-reference lists) to mineral-assessment file records received by the Publications and Information Section during the periods:
 - April 1985 to June 1988 (272 records)
 - July 1988 to June 1989 (Open File Nfld/1927) (628 records)
 - July 1989 to June 1990 (Open File Nfld/2068) (292 records)

A similar NTS index to mineral-assessment files, received during the period July 1990 to June 1991, will be available by the end of the year. As well as these larger printed indexes, smaller custom indexes, e.g., 'Peat in Newfoundland' are available for sale. Other computer printout indexes, e.g., 'Author Index to Published Documents', are available for in-house use.

Besides indexing and keying new records and modifying existing records, improved keying and editing procedures are being developed with WordPerfect 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, which were designed to make indexing consistent, are also useful for in-house inquiries.

Suggestions for improvements are welcome and notification of any errors or discrepancies in the earlier indexes would be appreciated. For further information on GEOSCAN, please contact Catherine Patey (709) 729-6441.