

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

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GEOSCAN is a database describing geoscience documents that relate to the Canadian landmass and/or offshore regions and/or that are Canadian-produced. Descriptions of documents, i.e., records, may be searched by bibliographic, geographic and geological terms. The database is maintained by the National GEOSCAN Centre at the Geological Survey of Canada in Ottawa.

Representatives of the mineral exploration industry and the general public visit and/or call the Publications and Information Section daily, requesting searches and using indexes produced from the GEOSCAN database, to identify documents on the geoscience of this province and the rest of Canada.

The Newfoundland Department of Mines and Energy is one of fifteen 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 by related agencies, e.g., the Geological Survey of Canada, are the source of other indexed records referring to this province.

Between 1982 and 1990, mainly mineral-assessment reports were indexed into the database. Over 90 percent of the mineral-assessment reports in our collection of geoscientific documents referring to this province, i.e., Geofiles, are now represented in GEOSCAN.

Since 1991, efforts have been made to index bibliographic and geographic information for non-assessment report documents and to modify earlier records for such document types up to a minimum standard. All of the 352 university theses, 140 books and excerpts from books, and 1295 periodical articles in the Geofiles, are now represented in GEOSCAN. Most of the Geological Survey Branch's Current Research articles, and all of the reports, including Memoirs and Bulletins, and printed maps, totalling 949 records, are now represented in GEOSCAN. In fact, over 80 percent of the documents in the Geofiles are represented in GEOSCAN.

The present goal is to keep the bibliographic and geographic indexing of new university theses, books, periodicals and Geological Survey Branch publications added to the Geofiles collection as up-to-date as the full indexing of new assessment files. At the same time, we will be

indexing new documents and modifying the earlier records for another document type, i.e., Geological Survey Branch Open Files.

As of December, 1992, there were 148,500 records in GEOSCAN, including 12,200 referring specifically to this province. The 130,800 non-confidential records in GEOSCAN 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 other indexing agencies across Canada. The number of requested searches has steadily increased each year.

In order to improve in-house access to those records referring to this province, the user-friendly subset of GEOSCAN for the province was updated in June 1992 with over 4000 additional references, including those for documents on the offshore areas as well as the land portions of Newfoundland and Labrador. This update included records referring to this province, which have been indexed into GEOSCAN by any agency, including records for Geological Survey of Canada publications.

This subset of the GEOSCAN database now has over 14,000 records and is available for searching by staff and visitors at the Publications and Information Section of the Geological Survey Branch. The many fast-access information fields and user-friendly software make searching easier for the novice. A demonstration of the subset was available at our Open House display and is available upon request at the Publications and Information Section.

Information on documents referring to the geoscience of this province are also available from various printed Newfoundland and Labrador GEOSCAN 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 report records entered into the database during the period 1982-1984.

3. NTS Index (with cross-reference lists) to mineral-assessment report 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)
- July 1990 to June 1991 (Open File Nfld/2193) (254 records)

A similar NTS index to mineral-assessment reports, received during the period July 1991 to June 1992 will be available by the end of the year. As well as these larger printed indexes, smaller custom indexes, e.g., 'Base-Metal Mineralization in Labrador', 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. 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 binders. The information on these card files and binders is being transferred to several mini databases for easier access and reference. These files and mini databases help to make indexing consistent and are also useful for in-house inquiries. These databases are on the same computer software, i.e., CDS/ISIS, as the in-house subset of the GEOSCAN database for the province.

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.