

DOCUMENTS AND DATABASES AT THE GEOSCIENCE PUBLICATIONS AND INFORMATION SECTION, GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, NEWFOUNDLAND

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COLLECTIONS

There are two geoscience document collections at the Geoscience Publications and Information Section:

- The Geofiles are a collection of documents pertaining to the geoscience of Newfoundland and Labrador and the immediate offshore region and include over 11 000 mineral-assessment reports, published reports and maps, open-file reports and maps, university theses, unpublished reports and maps including speeches and sketch maps.
- The Technical Library is a collection of documents referring to areas other than this province and includes bound publications and maps by the Geological Survey of Canada and by other provincial, federal and international surveys, and current and back issues for journals and technical books.

DATABASES

The documents in the Geofiles and Technical Library collections are described in several databases:

- The former GEOSCAN-NFLD database contains records (or descriptions) for about 90 percent of the documents in the Geofiles collection.
- The GEOLIB database contains short bibliographic records for about 45 percent of the documents in the Technical Library collection, as well as short records for the latest documents added to the Geofiles collection.

Two other databases maintained at the Geoscience Publications and Information Section are:

- The DRILL database contains short records for drillholes from non-confidential Geofiles.
- The MINLAND database contains short records for Mineral Lands property.

For more details on all four databases refer to Patey and Gillespie (1995). Reprints of this article and a free pamphlet describing the databases are available at the offices of the Geoscience Publications and Information Section in St. John's.

STATUS

In March, 1996, due to the elimination of the microfiche clerk position, the clerk working with the databases and the library was assigned the additional duties of the microfiche clerk. Later, in April, due to federal government restructuring, the GEOSCAN database ceased to exist and each province, territory and the GSC must now support their own database for geoscience documents. Also in April, the budget for the purchase of new books and journals for the technical library was reduced by 50 percent.

Early this year (1996), the software supporting the GEOLIB database developed problems and no new records can be added. However, the purchase of new software and hardware to support the databases is anticipated before the end of the fiscal year, meanwhile, both collections of documents grow continuously (Patey and Gillespie, 1995).

Identifying documents in the Geofiles for which there are good-quality microfiche so that the paper document could be stored offsite is continuing. This is being done to create space for the anticipated influx of assessment reports on Voisey's Bay and other exploration areas. In June, 1996, the collections were packed for the move to the new office which took place in August. All of the geofiles and half of the documents in the technical library are in place on the first floor; the remainder of the technical library documents were shelved on the fourth floor with the Energy Branch and Mines Branch collections.

In July, a summer student began a project to take data describing the media, the on- and offsite locations of all parts of originals and copies of the documents in the Geofile collection. The various data was in a single database, a large Wordperfect file, and several different binders and tables. With the help of other staff, much of the information was

digitized into four mini-databases (over 33 000 records), which will be combined into one comprehensive database after the new software is acquired.

ACCESS

A demonstration of the former GEOSCAN-NFLD, GEOLIB, DRILL and MINLAND databases is available upon request. To search either database, a client could call or visit the Geoscience Publications and Information Section. A search will be performed for the client or during an in-house visit the client may do the searching. This fall, three of the databases were installed on the UNIX system so that staff can access the databases from their PCs.

Various indexes for some of the documents in the Geofiles have been produced from the former GEOSCAN database and are still available for sale. Various new products were created by other projects in the Survey in 1996 using records from the former GEOSCAN-NFLD and the DRILL databases. These include "The Digital Geoscience Atlas of the Buchans-Robert's Arm Belt" Open File NFLD/2611 Version 1.0 on CD-ROM and the "Publications and Open Files List".

Contacts

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REFERENCE

Patey, C. and Gillespie, J.

1995: Geofile and technical library collections and databases at the Geological Survey, Newfoundland. *In* Current Research. Newfoundland Department of Natural Resources, Geological Survey, Report 95-1, pages 327-331.