

DOCUMENTS AND DATABASES AT THE PUBLICATIONS AND INFORMATION SECTION

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INTRODUCTION

There are two main geoscience document collections at the Publications and Information Section of the Geological Survey – the *Geofiles* and the *Technical Library*. Also, there is a small collection of *Images* (e.g., slides, photographs) and a new collection of ‘donated’ mineral-exploration company documents called *Ex* (see Activities for 2003 below). These collections are accessible/searchable through various in-house or online databases. For a detailed description of the databases, the reader is referred to Patey and Saunders (2003).

- The *Geofiles* are a collection of documents pertaining to the geoscience of Newfoundland and Labrador and the immediate offshore region. It includes over 14 100 mineral-assessment reports, published reports and maps, open-file reports and maps, university theses, and unpublished reports and maps. About 90 percent of the documents in the *Geofiles* collections are described in, and searchable through, several in-house databases, including *Geofiles*, *Geofiles2*, *Recent*, *MinLand* and *Drill*. Records for documents in the *Geofiles* are also searchable online on the Geological Survey website, and as part of the online Geoscience Resources Atlas at <http://gis.geosurv.gov.nl.ca/>.
- The *Technical Library* is a collection of over 11 200 documents referring to areas other than this province and includes publications and maps published by the Geological Survey of Canada and by other provincial, federal and international surveys; technical books, and current and back issues of geoscience journals are also included in the library. Short bibliographic records for about 65 percent of the documents in the *Technical Library* collection are available through the in-house *GSLib* database.
- *Image* is a small collection of about 4200 slides, photos, negatives and videos pertaining to geology, mining and quarrying in the province. This collection represents only a small fraction of the slides and photos held by the Survey.

ACTIVITIES FOR 2003

Exploration Company Files (Ex): A collection of over 2400 files of assorted mineral exploration documents and a related database were created when the Survey contracted an initial review of materials recently donated mainly by Noranda, Chevron and Royal Oak Mines. The documents describe exploration activity carried out by Asarco, Baie Verte Mines, BP-Selco, Brinex, Cominco, DOSCO, First Maritime Mining, Hudson’s Bay Oil and Gas, Nalco, Price and others. Some, or parts, of these documents may already be in our *Geofiles* collection; others include field notes, drafts or reports and maps and are not in any pre-existing collection.

To facilitate information dissemination and mineral exploration, these files are being made available for public viewing before our detailed examination of them is completed. The files and an in-house database (*Ex*) describing them are being made available as several timed-releases with about 500 files in each release. The first release on June 19th was for reports and papers dated in the 1980s and 1990s. The second release on November 12th was for reports and papers either dated pre-1980s or undated.

After each timed-release, the records for the group of files are added to the *Ex* database for in-house searching by clients and staff. The draft reports, maps, field notes, etc. in the *Ex* collection have short records, which were created from the initial cursory examination of the items in the collection and entered into the *Ex* database. These records can be searched using words in the title, company, date(s), authors, and location (but not necessarily NTS values) information fields.

From further detailed examination thus far, all, or parts of, more than fifty *Ex* files have been compiled into new documents in the *Geofiles* collection.

Publications Catalogue: To improve client access to Geological Survey publications and open-files, a new online searchable Publications Catalogue was created and placed on the Geological Survey website. This new catalogue

replaces the online but not searchable “Publications Catalogue” (dated 1997), the Publication Supplement (dated 1998) and the List of Recent Publications. The catalogue contains over 4000 documents and is searchable by document type (e.g., map, report, open file), NTS area, author, title, subject and year. The catalogue is updated as new publications are released.

Documents can be ordered online by logging in; however, e-commerce is not yet available. Prepayment is required, therefore clients, as in the past, have to provide payment or credit card information in advance. The existing methods of ordering (e.g., mail, telephone, fax, online PDF) are still available.

Notification Procedures: The notification procedure for the release of new Geological Survey publications and open files was changed in September. Notification of new publications and open files will be posted to the website and e-mailed to clients as they become available. Those clients without an e-mail address will be sent a bi-annual list of new releases. However, notification of new documents that are to be released at a specified time, will continue to be mailed to all clients as well as being posted to the web and e-mailed.

Mineral Exploration Assessment Reports Online: The *Geofiles* collection contains over 7300 mineral-exploration assessment reports. Metadata on these reports are available via the internet and a subset of this metadata is available in a GIS environment through the Survey’s Geoscience Resources Atlas. The Survey contracted a study regarding scanning mineral assessment reports in our *Geofiles* collection with the aim of providing them to our clients in a digital format, e.g., on the internet. The study looked at the method and technology for the digitization of the mineral-exploration assessment reports, the document-management system and web-delivery options. The conclusions and recommendations of the study have been formulated into a proposal to the Department.

Databases: The documents in the *Geofiles* collection are described in several databases including: *Geofiles*, *Recent*, *MinLand*, *Drill* and *Geofiles2* and the reader is referred to Patey and Saunders (2003) for a detailed description of these databases. An update is provided here.

There were about 300 records for new documents added to the *Geofiles* database this year. Different subsets of the database are periodically downloaded for MODS references and for the Geoscience Resources Atlas and Canadian Geoscience Knowledge Network (CGKN).

The *Recent* database contains 596 records on newly received mineral-assessment reports that are not yet represented in the *Geofiles* database because either the indexing process has not been completed or the reports have not been received from the Mineral Rights Section. In the past, the *Recent* database contained records for all reports received since 1996 (over 2800). In order to prevent duplication and overlap for client searches, the *Recent* database now only contains records for which there are no fully indexed records in the *Geofiles* database.

The *MinLand* database contains short records for properties held under the Mineral Lands regulations and includes a list of mineral-assessment reports related to each property. The Geological Survey ‘geofile’ number for any new mineral-assessment report that pertains to licence property is now being added to the Mineral Rights database. Information regarding other property types that are not currently included in the Mineral Rights database (e.g., fee simple grants, Reid lots, mining leases, Quarry MEL) is being added to the *Recent* and *Geofiles* databases. Hence, the maintenance of the *MinLand* database has been discontinued.

The *Drill* database contains summary records for 24700 drillholes from non-confidential documents in the *Geofiles* collection. Due to prioritization of limited human resources, no new records have been added to this database since 2002, although there have been over 360 new mineral-assessment reports that pertain to drilling added to the *Geofiles* collection.

REFERENCE

Patey, C. and Saunders, C.
2003: Documents and databases of the Geological Survey of Newfoundland and Labrador. In Current Research. Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Mines and Energy, Geological Survey, Report 03-1, pages 311-312.