

GeoRef is the American Geological Institute's geoscience database containing over 2.3 million records of North America since 1785 and other areas of the world since 1933. It indexes articles and documents from over 3,500 journals and serials in more than 40 languages, as well as maps, theses and dissertations, conference papers, government publications, books and book chapters, and reports. Major areas of coverage include geology, geochemistry, geochronology, geophysics, hydrogeology and hydrology, marine geology and oceanography, mineralogy and crystallography, paleontology, and seismology.

Selected Indexes

<i>Field name</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Example</i>
Author (AU=)	Enter last name followed by initials or first name. *For best results, use the Browse Author index, described below.	page b m page ben*
Keyword (KW=)	Words from title, abstract, or subject keywords. Words separated by spaces, are <u>searched as a phrase</u> , and must come from (or be found in) the same field.	impact crater*
Source (SO=)	Journals, conference proceedings, books, etc. where an article or paper was published. <u>Searched as a phrase</u> .	mathematical geology
Title (TI=)	Title of the <i>article</i> , any words. Words separated by spaces are <u>searched as a phrase</u> .	chemical weathering
Corporate Author (CA=)	Searched as a phrase.	Stanford Geothermal
Conference (CF=)	Search by words in a conference name. The year or place a conference was held can also be searched.	Baton Rouge and 1999
Author affiliation (AF=)	Institutional affiliation of author(s).	dartmouth usgs
Descriptor (DE=)	Subjects assigned to articles.	channel* scabland*
Classification (CL=)	Subject categories. Enter as word(s) or numeric codes. See list under "limits" at bottom of Advanced Search page.	Seismology or 19
Publication year(s) (PY=)	Select beginning and ending publication dates to search from the pull-down menus. The default is earliest – present.	1774 to Present
Language (LA=)	Language of the article. Select a language from pull-down list.	French
Publication Type (PT=)	To eliminate abstracts, type in "not pt= abstract".	Abstract

Additional searchable field names are as follows:

AB=Abstract	ED=Editor	LL=Latitude and Longitude	PD=Publication Date	UD=Update
AN=Accession Number	FE=Features	MP=Map	RL=Resource Location	
AV=Availability	HL=Holding Library	NT=Notes	RP=Report Number	
CD=Coden	IB=ISBN	ON=Organization	SL=Summary Language	
CP=Country of Publication	IS=ISSN	PB=Publisher	SP=Sponsor	

Phrase searching

Phrase searching is the default when more than one word is entered in a search box. Use * to truncate.

Examples:

volcanic eruptions retrieves those words together, in that order

volcan* erupt* retrieves phrase volcan(-ic,-o,-oes) erupt(-s,-ed,-ing,-ion,-ions), from within the same field.

To retrieve “eruptions of volcanoes,” or other items containing these terms, search volcan* AND erupt*.

Browsing for Author searching

- Click on the “Search Tools” tab, and then the “Indexes” tab.
- From the “Select an index” menu, choose “Author Index.”
- Enter author’s last name, and first initial if surname is very common.
- From the browse list, check all possible forms for the author you are seeking.
- Click on the search button.

Examples:

page retrieves all authors with the last name Page

page b retrieves all authors with the last name Page and with the single or first initial B

page b or page bm or page ben or page ben m or page benjamin m or page ben markham or page benjamin markham retrieves all variations of this author.

Serials Source Lists

A list of serials indexed in GeoRef can be found at: <http://www.agiweb.org/georef/about/serials.html>

Thesaurus Search / Subject searching

For most accurate and thorough results, use the Thesaurus search option, located under the “Search Tools” tab. Such a search displays all terms that have relationships with the found item (eg, broader and narrower terms) plus any explanatory notes. Enter a word or phrase in the search box. The items retrieved can be selected *en masse* or in part to use in your search.

Example: **natural remanent magnetization**: use for **NRM**, Broad term: **remanent magnetization**
Related term: **paleomagnetism**

Truncation

- The **asterisk (*)** is the truncation symbol and multi-character wildcard; **question mark (?)** is the single-character wildcard.

Examples:

pal*ontology retrieves paleontology or palaeontology

volcan* erupt* retrieves phrase volcan(-ic,-o,-oes) erupt(-s,-ed,-ing,-tion, -ions)

analys?s retrieves analysis or analyses

carbon fib?? retrieves carbon fiber or carbon fibre

Operators (Boolean, adjacency/proximity, order)

Terms entered in different search fields are combined with **AND**, **OR**, or **NOT**. Boolean operators can be used within a search field. Operators are searched in the order they are entered (left to right) unless parentheses are used.

AND	requires that both terms be present:	Precambrian and granite*
OR	finds records containing either term:	jokulhlaups or ice dam*
NOT	excludes records containing a term:	granite not Precambrian
Parentheses	ensure that operations are performed in the correct order:	toxic* and (chromium or lead)

Marking, printing, and downloading results

Marking citations: Mark desired items using the check boxes.

Printing citations: Click on the “Save/Print/Email Records” box, click “Print”, and use your browser’s print feature.

Mailing citations: Fill in your e-mail address, and click on the “Email” box.

Downloading citations: To download marked citations, click on the “Save” box. Use the “Save as...” function of your browser to save records as displayed.