



INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CORRELATION PROGRAM

Circular 80-6
IGCP-163-IGBA
20 November 1980

A Possible Interim Service for Some Contributors

Contributors who have filled out coding forms have worked hard for, as yet, no tangible reward. Considerable time will pass before the IGBA base will be large enough to be of general use to you or to the professional public. And even then, some complex and still rather unclear arrangements for housing and managing it will have to be made before anything approximating routine service becomes available.

In the meantime, perhaps something can be done for those of you who have chosen your own rock-type or area assignments, or who are particularly interested in some of the data sets you have submitted as part of the systematic literature scan. It is a simple matter to build a translator that generates, from any IGBA card image file, a new card image file that satisfies input requirements of version NTRM of my own information system, RKNFSYS. Such a translator is now available here.

If you would be interested in obtaining, for the data you have submitted, any of the reductions available under version NTRM, I would be happy to get them for you. Services available under NTRM are described in the User's Manual; if you don't already have a copy, write in for one. For any of the data sets submitted to date, charges incurred in generating NTRM output from IGBA input would be so nominal as not to be worth billing for. As many of you know, NTRM doesn't store or process information about trace elements, petrographic descriptors, age, or mineral assemblage. But if 'essential oxides' and linear combinations formed from them are your dish of tea, I think you'll find the program repertoire of NTRM quite good.

To avoid any misunderstanding, please be assured that the data you submit will not be incorporated in the base of NTRM. I have neither time nor plans to update that base just now, and no plans at all for a systematic expansion of it. When you are done with the NTRM-like base constructed from the data you submitted, it will be destroyed. If you decide you want it again, it is easily regenerated.

Felix Chayés, Chairman
IGBA-163-IGCP