



INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CORRELATION PROGRAM

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IGCP-163-IGBA
Circular 80-7

Rock Analyses in Secondary Sources from Minor Primary References

The following note is submitted for discussion by H. O. A. Meyer, who has completed work on one segment of the American Journal of Science for the systematic (major) literature scan being conducted by the US group. The problem has been raised orally and in correspondence by others. Can we reach some consensus about how to handle it? Who will open up the discussion?

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In my literature scan of the Am. J. Sci. I came across a paper by V. Marmo on some Precambrian granites of West Africa (Marmo, A.J.S., 253, 391-417, (1955). This paper includes 60 analyses of granitic rocks mostly from several post-1941 sources, the majority being little quoted French or British colonial survey publications.

Under the present rules I cannot include any of these analyses in the data bank as they are all secondary references. Unless someone scans these difficult to obtain primary sources the data will be lost to us. This I believe is a pity, especially if some user were particularly interested in Precambrian granites.

Whereas I agree in principle about omitting secondary references I would argue that here is an instance where we should ameliorate our rigid stance. Two suggestions are obvious; either one could set up a specific file to handle such secondary references or one could enter them in the main library and have a suitable flag to indicate they are secondary source data. There are probably other ways to handle this type of data and possibly other contributors have some ideas.

I wish to emphasize that I am only concerned with large bodies of secondary data, essentially compilations similar to that of Marmo. I believe the rule should still remain regarding secondary sources when an author includes other workers' data for comparative purposes.

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Your comments regarding this matter are invited. For some earlier notes on it, see Circular 80-3.

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