

**NATIONAL GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL  
DATA PRESERVATION PROGRAM  
Fiscal Year 2009**

**FINAL TECHNICAL REPORT**

**From Acquisition to Access: Inventorying WGNHS Research Collections  
and Creating Metadata for the National Digital Catalog**

**Program Announcement No. 09HQPA0009**

**Project Period: July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2010**

**SEPTEMBER 17, 2010**

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## **From Acquisition to Access: Inventorying WGNHS Research Collections And Creating Metadata for the National Digital Catalog**

### **Introduction**

The Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey (WGNHS, the Survey) received a grant for FY 2009 from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) National Geological and Geophysical Data Preservation Program (NGGDPP, the Program). A Revised Work Plan and Budget for FY 2009 was submitted on June 1, 2009 for the twelve-month period beginning July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

The Revised Work Plan and Budget for FY 2009 identified the following tasks:

- (1) Review, revise, and add information to the Online Collections Inventory related to WGNHS research collections;
- (2) Create and upload National Digital Catalog (NDC) – compliant metadata for the following physical data collections: water-well cuttings, rock hand samples, and samples from sediment cores;
- (3) Attend and participate in the National Data Preservation Techniques Workshop in July 2009; and
- (4) Submit the Final Technical Report for the FY 2009 NGGDPP grant to Wisconsin by the end of September 2010.

### **Accomplishments**

1. We revised information in the Online Collections Inventory for five physical data collections: rock core (P516); hand samples (P517); rock cuttings (P522), thin sections (P1590), and sediment core (P1591).
2. We prepared and uploaded NDC-compliant metadata for three collections: rock hand-samples, rock cuttings, and samples collected from sediment cores.
3. Two members of our GIS staff, who are involved with other staff in data preservation activities at the Survey, attended and participated in the July 2009 National Data Preservation Techniques Workshop in Bloomington, Indiana.
4. We convened an external advisory panel to provide their expertise and experience for ongoing and future WGNHS data preservation activities. We have begun and will continue to benefit from their assistance and advice regarding the continuing development of external grant support, the identification of additional possible collaborations and external partnerships, and their perspective on the annual allocation of internal funding for these activities.
5. This document constitutes the Final Technical Report for the State of Wisconsin NGGDPP FY 2009 Award No. 09HQPA0009.

## Assessment of FY 2009 Accomplishments Relative to Work Plan

1. The use of the Online Collections Inventory is simple and provides a useful means of updating descriptions of data collections resulting from ongoing work on the collections. Information related to Wisconsin data collections was reviewed and revised, as necessary, in September 2010 following completion of FY 2009 work tasks.

2a. Hand sample: P517

We reviewed rock hand-sample holdings in the Mt.Horeb Research Collections and Education Center focusing on those materials specifically associated with WGNHS research and personnel. Previous size estimates for this collection, ranging up to 51,000 items, were determined during QA/QC review to have been inclusive of both physical and paper-only records or items and also included physical materials of a USGS-related set of samples that will require separate assessment in the future. The smaller total is a specific count of actual physical specimens directly related to Survey research and for which valid locations exist. NDC-compliant metadata for these 4,562 records were uploaded September 15, 2010.

2b. Rock Cuttings: P522

The inventory of our cuttings samples was reviewed for completeness. Of the approximately 11,400 sets of cuttings in our collection, approximately 740 were missing data required for compliant metadata, such as valid geographic coordinates. Researching and entering these incomplete or compromised data items, but will be included in future data maintenance activities. NDC-compliant metadata were generated for the set of 10,462 records of cuttings samples and the metadata were uploaded September 15, 2010.

2c. Sediment core: P1591

This collection of sediment samples was recently transferred in the winter of 2009-2010 from the former Sediment Lab at UW-Madison Department of Geoscience to WGNHS and is currently maintained at our Mt.Horeb Research Collections and Education Center. An earlier estimate of the size of the collection indicated there were as many as 14,900 separate records; however, the new inventory demonstrated that the number of physical samples was approximately 5,800 records. Of these, approximately 540 have incomplete data. NDC-compliant metadata were generated for 5,259 records of sediment samples and the metadata were uploaded September 15, 2010.

3. The experience of the two staff members attending the Data Preservation Techniques Workshop was shared verbally with other Survey staff engaged in data preservation activities. We hope that future workshops can be organized and supported under the Program, as the exchange of experiences and ideas is valuable to participating organizations and individuals.

4. The WGNHS Geologic Mapping Advisory Committee was surveyed by the WGNHS to determine their level of interest in serving on a data subcommittee. An external advisory panel comprised mostly of WGMAC members, with one addition, was convened on October 25, 2010, and they provided input on how the advisory panel would function to assist the Survey with prioritizing proposed data preservation tasks. Members attending this first meeting included Marie Dvorzak (C.K. Leith Geology Library), Eric Fowle (East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission), John Gartner (Prime Meridian Resources Corp), Joanne Kluessendorf

(Weis Earth Science Museum), Michael Lemcke (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources), William Mode (University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh), and Caryl Terrell (Public Member).

The first meeting featured a demonstration for the new advisory committee of the WGNHS Data Catalog. The meeting featured a discussion of availability of the data catalog information for the public, possible modifications of specific entry items and formats, possible uses of the WGNHS Data Catalog to guide data preservation priority setting, and related topics.

Annual face-to-face (or more frequent) meetings of the group are anticipated and will be supplemented by online or email exchanges to support ongoing discussion of topics of mutual interest. A special FTP site has been established to permit document exchanges among the committee and Survey staff engaged in data preservation activities.