

MINABS Online

The printed journal *Mineralogical Abstracts*, with its separate annual index, has been an essential research tool for the past 70 years containing informative abstracts covering mineralogy, petrology, geochemistry, crystallography, gemmology, meteoritics and allied subjects. The Abstracts were published quarterly in printed form in March, June, September and December, with a separate annual index issue published the following July. Since January 2004 this printed journal has been replaced with an electronic journal known as ***MINABS Online***.

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Searches can be carried out by words, titles or abstracts, year, abstract number, journal or combinations of these with categories and subcategories. Abstracts can be selected for downloading as editable text that is delivered by e-mail. Quick prints of individual abstracts can also be obtained by the print screen command (Ctrl P).

The database includes abstracts published in *Mineralogical Abstracts* from 1982 until 2005 inclusive and about 500 abstracts are currently being added every month from over 180 journals published in Austria, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, India, Japan, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the USA

(altogether in excess of 114,500 abstracts to date). The archive of data includes an even wider geographical coverage and includes abstracts from journals that have ceased publication or only occasionally publish papers within the target areas of **MINABS Online**. It is the intention of the editors to extend the coverage from Mineralogical Abstracts to pre-1982.

Many of the abstracts are from papers written in the language of the country of origin but with English translations of citations and abstracts.

Most of the abstracts, although usually based on author abstracts, are edited or rewritten to achieve conciseness and to reflect an accurate assessment of the content of papers with the target readership in mind. Where papers contain significant amounts of geochemical data this is pointed out

Abstracts are written by a wide range of professionals in the fields of study covered. Abstracts from journals that contain papers written in languages other than English are often written by abstractors in the countries of origin but are thoroughly checked by the editors before publication.

New abstracts are added to the database continuously. Depending on the rate at which data is acquired by the editors most abstracts are published within one week of receipt.

Links are provided with journals that have electronic editions through Crosslink.

The coverage of journals from sources in Asia, especially China and Japan, and Eastern Europe is a feature of **MINABS Online**. Recent titles added are from India (*Journal of Applied Geochemistry*, Indian Society of Applied Geochemists, Hyderabad) and the Ukraine, (*Mineralogical Journal*, Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, Kiev). The editors are seeking to expand the coverage of the literature outside Western Europe and North America.

The coverage of abstracts is aimed at a wide range of Earth Scientists in theoretical and applied fields, as well as undergraduate and postgraduate students. These include specialists in cosmology, physical geography, clay science, minerals resources, environmental studies, nuclear waste disposal and volcanology, as well as mineralogy, petrology and geochemistry.

Feedback from users indicates that they find **MINABS Online** easy to use and a worthy successor to *Mineralogical Abstracts*.

The software supporting **MINABS Online** is under constant review and there are long term plans to modify and further improve the service provided.

MINABS Online is published by the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain & Ireland, a registered charity in the United Kingdom. This abstracting service is approved by the International Mineralogical Association and is run on a non-profit-making basis to

provide support for research and scholarship. A small core of paid staff is supported by a large band of volunteer abstractors dedicated to the maintenance of the highest possible standards.

Why should you subscribe to *MINABS Online*? The answer is that when preparing our abstracts we consult the conclusions and body of the original paper and as a result often add details that were not included in the author abstracts. This is done with our target users in mind so it makes our product different from other abstracting journals, providing special value to researchers, especially those who do not have easy access to the original publication. Our coverage includes titles not covered by other abstracting services and it is editorial policy to expand coverage in Asia and other areas outside Western Europe and North America. We do not regard ourselves as being in competition with other abstracting services. We provide a service that complements and adds further quality to the other facilities available to Earth Science and related researchers and students throughout the world.

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