

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Encoding Textbook for a Global Database

SEDDBA (SEDimentary Data BAse) is a system for storing, retrieving and utilizing petrological data pertaining to sedimentary rocks. SEDDBA was developed as a project of the International Geological Correlation Program (IGCP), and designated as IGCP Project 269: A GLOBAL DATABASE FOR SEDIMENTARY PETROLOGY. The project is headed by Prof. Niichi Nishiwaki-Nakajima from Nara University. SEDDBA's objective is to provide global access to sedimentary petrological data, including both published and unpublished data, provided that they are referred to a publication or open report or map. SEDDBA is funded by UNESCO and IUGS. Anyone may submit data to SEDDBA, anyone may utilize data contained in SEDDBA.

SEDDBA is intending for broad geological use. In addition to sedimentologists, prospective users include geophysicists concerned with physical properties of sedimentary rocks, geochemists, hydrogeologists, engineering geologists, petroleum engineers and geologists, exploration agencies, etc. Prospective users in other disciplines include architects and civil engineers concerned with sedimentary rocks used as building and decorative stone, and chemists, ceramicists and metallurgists concerned with use of sedimentary rocks as materials in chemical and industrial manufacturing processes. Exploration agencies would find a starting point for interesting rocks base in SEDDBA.

This manual concerns the content of the SEDDBA prototype and how to provide information to SEDDBA.

SEDDBA is a state-of-the-art database and is designed for use with a variety of (relational) database management systems (DBMS). On PC-level computers it must be used MS(PC)DOS-related systems, such as DBASE IV, FOXBASE, INFORMIX, INGRES, PARADOX, SYBASE, etc. Some restricted versions could work with DBASE III+, etc. Transfer may be done by means of delimited ASCII files, so it should also be to use Macintosh computers. Please note that MS-DOS and other tradenames are the properties of the companies that have developed them. Use of a DBMS does not mean endorsement by SEDDBA or UNESCO. SEDDBA may also be used with larger computers and mainframes.

SEDDBA has been designed so that all or part of the data base can be transported from one computer system to another. For example, segments of SEDDBA files resident on a mainframe system can be transported to a PC-level computer. Transportability of SEDDBA is feasible because SEDDBA has been designed to be independent of specific DBMS.

SEDDBA utilizes standard limited ASCII characters which include the Roman alphabet (upper and lower case Roman letters), and Arabic digits, but accents, "umlaut" and diacritical marks, Greek letters, etc. are not allowed. Certain regional requirements are taken in account, such as the Chinese Group who has made provision for use of Chinese characters; an automatic lexicon is being developed.