

Database of Geoscientific References Through 2007 for Afghanistan, Version 2

Open-File Report 2007–1297

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey



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Introduction

This report describes an accompanying database of geoscientific references for the country of Afghanistan. The reference compilation is part of a larger joint study of Afghanistan's energy, mineral, and water resources, and geologic hazards, currently underway by the U.S. Geological Survey, the British Geological Survey, and the Afghanistan Geological Survey.

The compilation of geoscientific references was initially planned to contain only mineral-resource-related references. However, the effort soon grew to encompass references related to water resources, energy resources, geologic hazards, and other geoscientific disciplines. Version 1 of the reference database (Eppinger and Sipeki, 2006) contained 1,157 published and 168 unpublished references, and was available online only. The superseding version 2 was compiled through September 2007, and the number of published references is more than doubled at over 2,400.

The electronic database is in Microsoft® Access 2003 format. An IBM PC-compatible computer is required as Microsoft® Access is presently available only for PCs. Version 2 of the reference database includes a user-friendly, keyword-searchable interface, and only minimum knowledge of the use of Microsoft® Access is required. The database was designed using a 1024 X 768 pixel display with the Microsoft® Windows XP theme. The database and document together are about 6 MB in size. To avoid error messages, the database file *AfghRefDatabase_V2.mdb* should be copied to and opened from the user's hard disk; attempting to run queries on Microsoft® Access database files stored on a CD-Rom generates errors, as Access needs space to write temporary scratch files.

This database includes both published ($n = 2,467$) and unpublished ($n = 174$) references, as two separate tables in the Access database. The published references table (*tblPublishedReferences*) includes a GeoRef accession number when available (American Geological Institute, 2006, accessed 8/28/2007), which can be used for linking the reference to the GeoRef database. Some 1,212 of the 2,467 published references have GeoRef accession numbers or record IDs from the GeoRef preview database (accessed 9/5/2007 at <http://www.agiweb.org/georef/onlinedb/preview.html>). The published references table also includes the U.S. Geological Survey library call number, if the library contains the holding. Rights to use the references in the GeoRef database were purchased from the American Geological Institute so they could be re-distributed here without copyright infringement. The unpublished references table (*tblUnPublishedReferences*) contains citations identified as unpublished, internal reports by various national geological survey organizations, or partial citations that were discovered during this

compilation. Many of the older published and unpublished references identified here are likely housed in the archive collection of the Afghanistan Geological Survey, which has been inventoried and catalogued in a combined effort by the Afghanistan and British Geological Surveys. For information on this cataloging effort, see the website <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/afghanminerals/reports.htm>.

The published and unpublished reference tables have keyword fields that allow for searching capability within the reference database. Keywords are separated into two broad categories: scientific and geographic/cultural. The complete lists of keywords are listed alphabetically in the database in two separate keyword tables, *tblKeywordsScientific* and *tblKeywordsGeographicCultural*. The keywords used here follow the spelling and plurality conventions recommended in the GeoRef thesaurus (Goodman, 2000). Keywords were gathered from reference titles, the overall subject matter, and, for those references listed in GeoRef, from the GeoRef keyword fields.

Original references for this database were in numerous diverse file formats and style formats, and came from various sources as indicated in the following paragraph. The references were systematically organized and the Microsoft® Access database was populated accordingly. However, a small percentage of the references were not fully decipherable (for example, a list of numbers that did not allow for confident identification of volume, issue, and page number). For these references, the sequence of numbers was left as-is in the original form.

Sources of information for this reference compilation include libraries and colleagues of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the British Geological Survey (BGS), the French Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières (BRGM), the Czech Geological Survey (CGS), the German Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR), the Federal Agency on Mineral Resources of the Russian Federation (VSEGEI), and the Centre for Russian and Central Asian Mineral Studies (CERCAMS). The American Geological Institute's GeoRef and GeoRef Preview databases, historical documents of the Afghanistan Department of Geological and Mineral Survey, and the Google™ search engine on the internet were also used. Acknowledgment is given to these various sources for the accumulated body of references within this database. Funding for the USGS was provided by USAID.

Keyword-Searchable Database

Upon opening the database file, *AfghanRefDatabase_V2.mdb*, the user first sees a splash screen that identifies project cooperators (Afghanistan Department of Geological Survey, USAID, and USGS) as indicated in figure 1. The splash screen displays momentarily and is followed by the main switchboard for the database (fig. 2). On the main switchboard, the user is presented with three options: "Search," "Database Information," and "Exit Application." The "Database Information" option provides disclaimer information (under "About" and "Tech Support"), the option of viewing the database tables themselves (under "Show Database Window"), and the option of returning to the main switchboard (fig. 3). Clicking on "Show Database Window" displays a warning screen because with the database window displayed, the user has the ability to modify data tables. For seasoned Microsoft® Access users, this might be the preferred way to search the data.

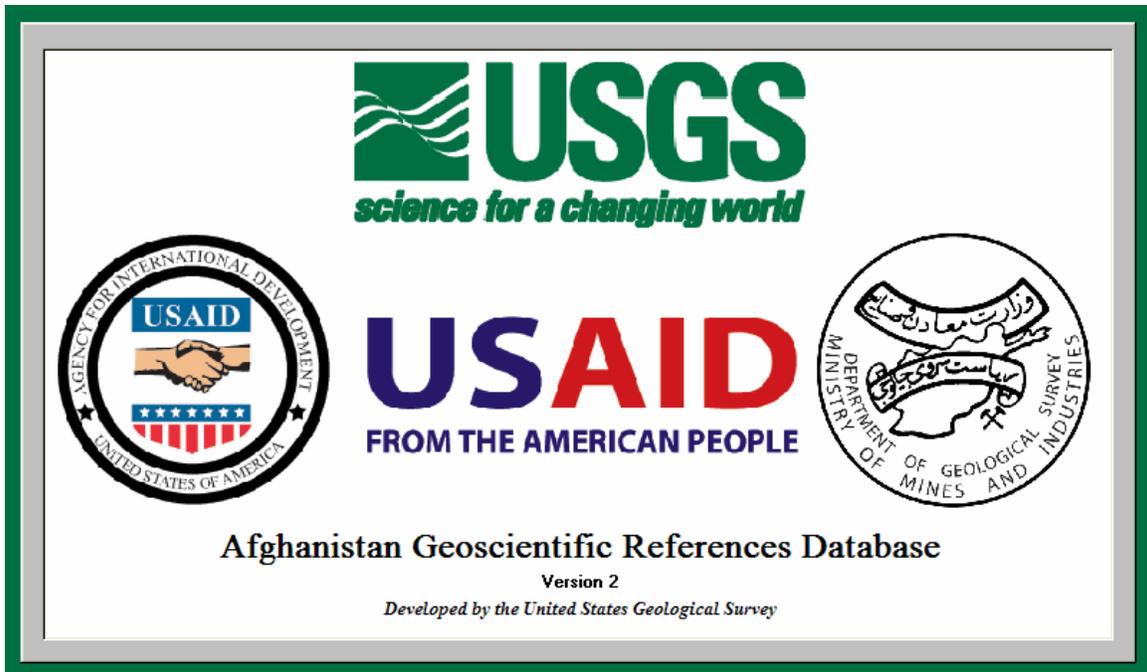


Figure 1. The reference database opening splash screen.

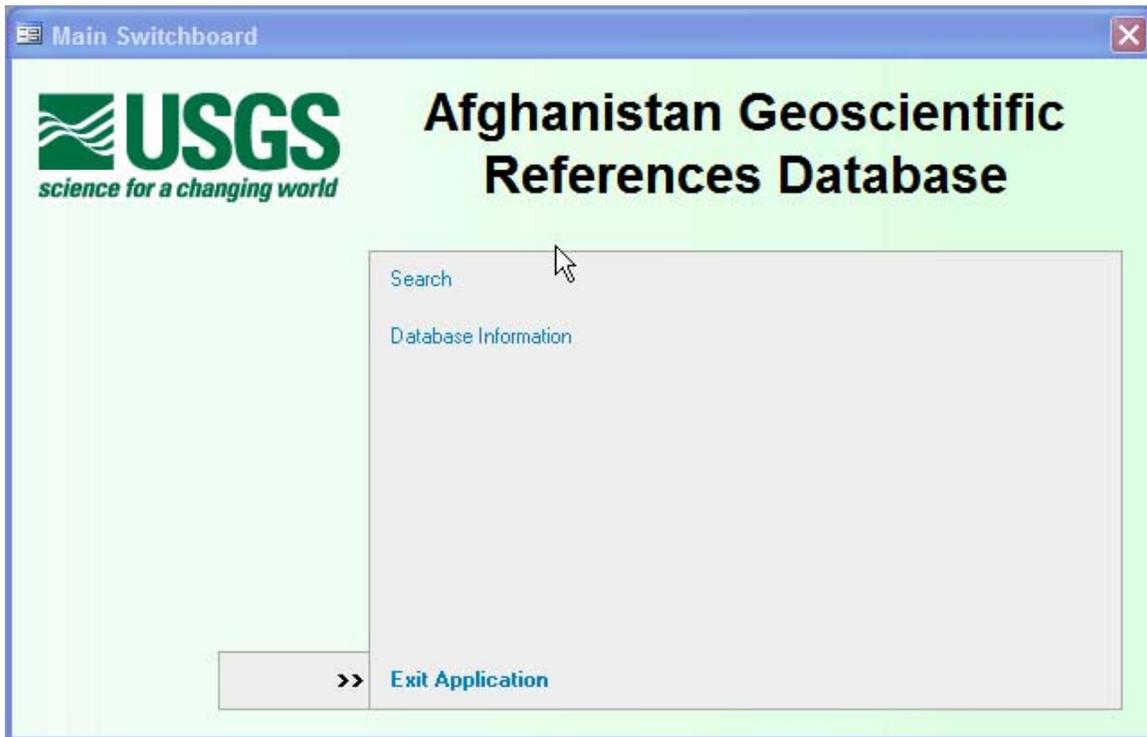


Figure 2. The reference database main switchboard screen.



Figure 3. The “Database Information” screen.

Clicking on the “Search” option on the main switchboard opens the search criteria dialog screen (fig. 4). The search criteria screen is divided into four parts: scientific keywords, geographic and cultural keywords, year of publication range, and user-entered freeform keywords. At the bottom of the screen is the ability to apply the chosen search criteria to the published references, to the unpublished references, or to both. To use the scientific and geographic/cultural dialogs, simply click on the letter of the alphabet and the keywords starting with that letter appear in a drop-down box. Clicking a keyword from the drop-down list and then clicking “Select” places the keyword into the keyword search field. Multiple keywords can be selected. The “Year of Publication” on the search screen includes the option of “No Publication Year” to capture the few references where no publication year was listed (29 total). If no year range is selected, then all publication years are searched. The user-entered freeform keywords search *all fields in the tables*, including the author name fields. Thus, a search for a specific author in the database would be done by typing the author name in the freeform keyword box. Multiple freeform keywords should be separated with a semicolon (;) and a search for question mark symbol should be done by enclosing the question mark in brackets [?]. User-entered freeform keywords can also include the wildcard character “*”. As an example, using the wildcard “paleo*” would produce all references having “paleo” in them (Paleozoic, paleontology, paleoseismicity, etc.).

As an example, figure 4 shows a search screen with the following selections: scientific keyword = “carbonatites,” geographic keyword = “Khanneshin,” no year range specified (so all years are selected). The search criteria include both the published and unpublished tables. With these selections chosen, clicking on the “Search” button results in nine references matching the above search criteria; eight of the references are published and one is not published (fig. 5). The search criteria keywords (in the example, carbonatites and Khanneshin) are listed at the top of the “Search Results” screen. On the “Search Results” screen, published references are shown first

Search [X]

Scientific Keywords

All Any

carbonatites

CLEAR

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z All

And Or **To remove a selected keyword, reselect it.**

Geographic & Cultural Keywords

All Any

Khanneshin

CLEAR

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z All

And Or

Year of Publication

Before 1900 1970 to 1979 1990 to 1999 No Publication Year

1900 to 1969 1980 to 1989 2000 to Present

And Or **Freeform keywords must be separated with semicolons (;)**
To search for a question mark, enclose it with brackets: [?]

Keywords

Search

Published Unpublished Both

Search Clear All Cancel

Figure 4. The search criteria dialog screen.

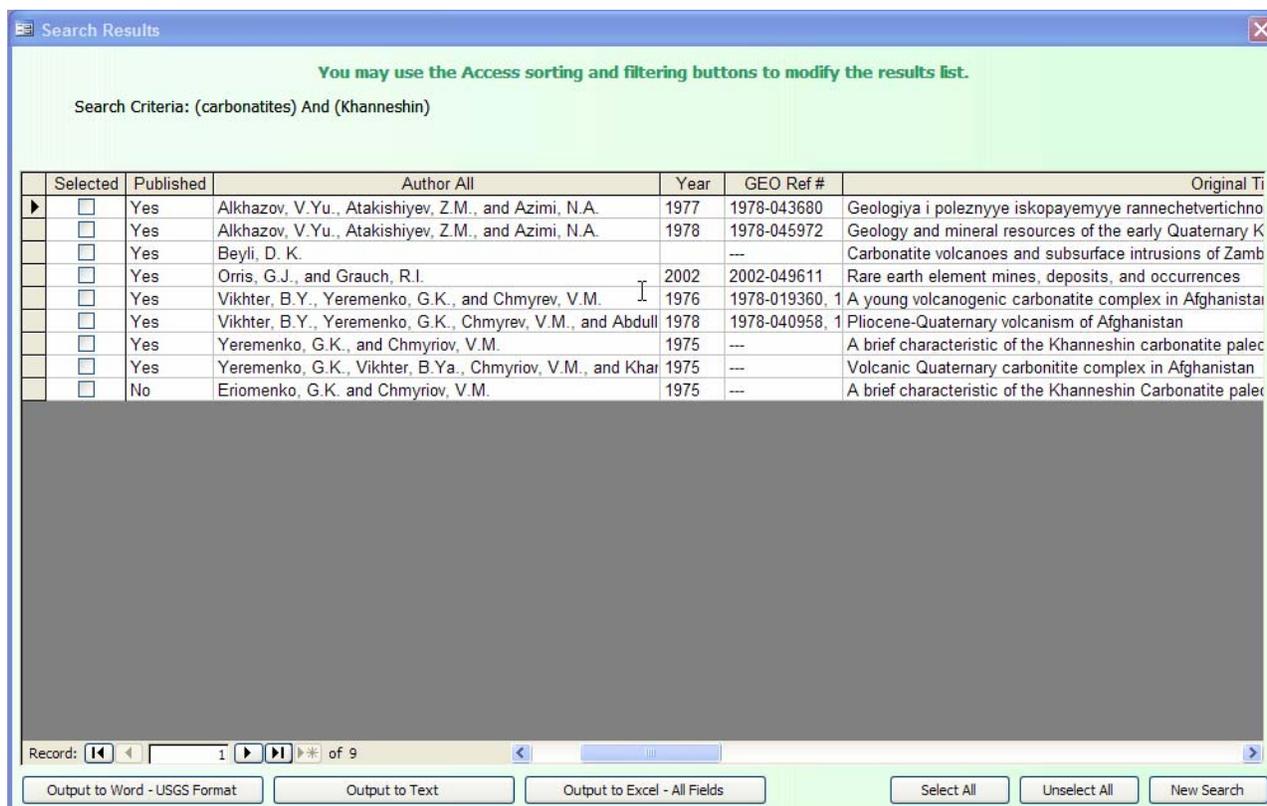


Figure 5. Example search results screen.

followed by unpublished references, both in alphabetical order by author. Clicking on the “New Search” button brings the user back to the search screen with the previous search criteria remaining. This criteria may be modified for a new search. A completely new search can be performed by clicking the <Clear All> button; the new search criteria can be entered at this point. Those familiar with Microsoft® Access™ may use the sorting and filtering capabilities to further refine the results list.

The Search Results screen includes all fields in the tblPublishedReferences and tblUnpublishedReferences tables. Also appearing at the far left of the Search Results screen are two additional fields generated by the searching query, Selected and Published. The Selected field is used for selecting specific references for output (discussed below) and the Published field is a Yes/No field that specifies whether the record is published or unpublished.

Database Output

Once the user is satisfied with the search results, desired references for output are chosen by using the “Selected” field on the “Search Results” screen (fig. 5). Clicking on the “Output to Word – USGS Format” button saves the selected results in a Microsoft® Word document, following standard USGS style for listing references. The Microsoft® Word document retains the search keywords at the top of the document and the words “Published” or “Unpublished” precedes each reference. Clicking on the “Output to Text” button saves the selected results as ASCII comma+tab delimited text file with a .TXT extension, with the words “Published” or “Unpublished” preceding each reference. Clicking on the “Output to Excel - All Fields” button saves all of the information

related to the selected reference records in a Microsoft® Excel format spreadsheet. The order of references for output to Word, text, or spreadsheet format is the same as that shown on the “Search Results” screen (published, then unpublished references; both arranged alphabetically by author).

Database Structure

The published (*tblPublishedReferences*) and unpublished (*tblUnPublishedReferences*) reference tables have identical database structures. The database fields and their descriptions are listed in table 1. Microsoft® Access table and query naming conventions follow those suggested by Reddick (1995, accessed 8/28/2007). The two keyword tables are simply listings of keywords used in the reference tables. They each have three fields: a numeric index field, a memo keyword field, and a date field specifying when the keyword was entered in the database.

References Cited

American Geological Institute, 2006, The GeoRef database: Alexandria, Va., American Geological Institute [<http://www.agiweb.org/georef/index.html>].

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Goodman, B.A., 2000, GeoRef thesaurus, 9th ed.: Alexandria, Va., American Geological Institute, 830 p.

Reddick, Greg, 1995, The Reddick VBA [Visual Basic for Applications] naming conventions: Greg Reddick, Available for download at <http://www.xoc.net/standards/rvbanc.asp>.

Table 1. Database field names and descriptions for reference tables.

Field name	Field type	Description of field
Index	AutoNumber	Key field and database index
AuthorSenior	text	First author, in the format: Last name, first name (initials or spelled out)
AuthorSecondary	text	Additional authors, same format as above, listed sequentially as found in reference
AuthorAll	memo	Complete author listing for building citation
PublicationYear	text	Year of publication
GEORefAccessionID	text	ID that ties reference to the AGI GeoRef database; blank if no data
USGSLibraryID	text	ID that ties reference to the U.S. Geological Survey Library system catalogue number; blank if no data
OriginalTitle	memo	Full title of reference as originally found in it's native language
TranslatedTitle	text	English title translation for the reference; irregularly populated field
Source	memo	Source of the reference; for example, journal title, volume, series, and page number
DocumentType	text	Type of document for the reference
SourceForDatabase	memo	Mechanism in which the reference was found for this database
Language	text	Language of original reference
EnglishSummary	text	For non-English references, note whether there is an English translation in the paper; irregularly populated
ScientificKeywords	memo	Scientific keywords; see <i>tblKeywords_Scientific</i> for complete list of keyword possibilities
GeographicCulturalKeywords	memo	Geographic and cultural keywords; see <i>tblKeywords_Geographic&Cultural</i> for complete list of keyword possibilities
OtherID	text	Secondary ID for the reference, such as the reference code for a different library; irregularly populated field
AuthorSeniorAltSpelling	text	First author, spelling as found in original source, if different from Author_Senior
AuthorSecondaryAltSpelling	text	Additional authors, spelling as found in original source, if different from Author_Secondary
Comment	text	Comment related to reference; irregularly populated field
DateAddedToDatabase	Date/Time	Date in which reference was added to this Access database