

The MPI Database GEOROC: a New Web Tool for Geoscientists

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Geoscientists are faced with a rapidly growing volume of published analytical chemical data. Therefore, an easily accessible and reliable tool is needed for fast access and efficient selection and sorting of these data.

GEOROC (**GEO**chemistry of **Rocks** of the **O**ceans and **C**ontinents) is a geochemical database served over the world wide web by the Max-Planck-Institute for Chemistry, Mainz. The database contains available chemical analyses of whole rocks, minerals, and inclusions. These chemical data are combined with additional information comprising geographical location, rock type, age, method, analytical uncertainty, and standard measurements. Currently, GEOROC covers ocean-island volcanic rocks. It includes analyses of about 20000 whole rocks, 15000 minerals, and 2000 melt and mineral inclusions. In the future, data on other oceanic as well as continental rocks will be added.

GEOROC is a relational database that is accessible over the world wide web. It runs on a Windows NT server. The web interface uses "Active Server Pages", an application environment that combines HTML and server-side Visual Basic scripts to create dynamic web pages. With GEOROC, data can be selected by bibliographical, geographical, petrographic and chemical criteria. The resulting datasets can be downloaded as text or HTML file and can be saved on the client machine as Excel file. Along with the database, we provide Excel input forms that include fields for all necessary analytical data and metadata. We recommend that these forms be used for submitting data to GEOROC. They may also serve as guidelines for reporting geochemical data in future publications.