Preserving Access and Increasing Discovery of State-Level Geoscience Grey Literature

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What is grey literature?

Grey literature is factual documents "produced on all levels of government, academics, business and industry in electronic and print formats not controlled by commercial publishing, i.e. where publishing is not the primary activity of the producing body".^{1, 2, 3}

Examples include: technical reports, fact sheets, case studies, monographs, conference proceedings, working papers, guides, position papers, etc.

State geological surveys are the primary producer of state-level geoscience grey literature.

Why is grey literature important?

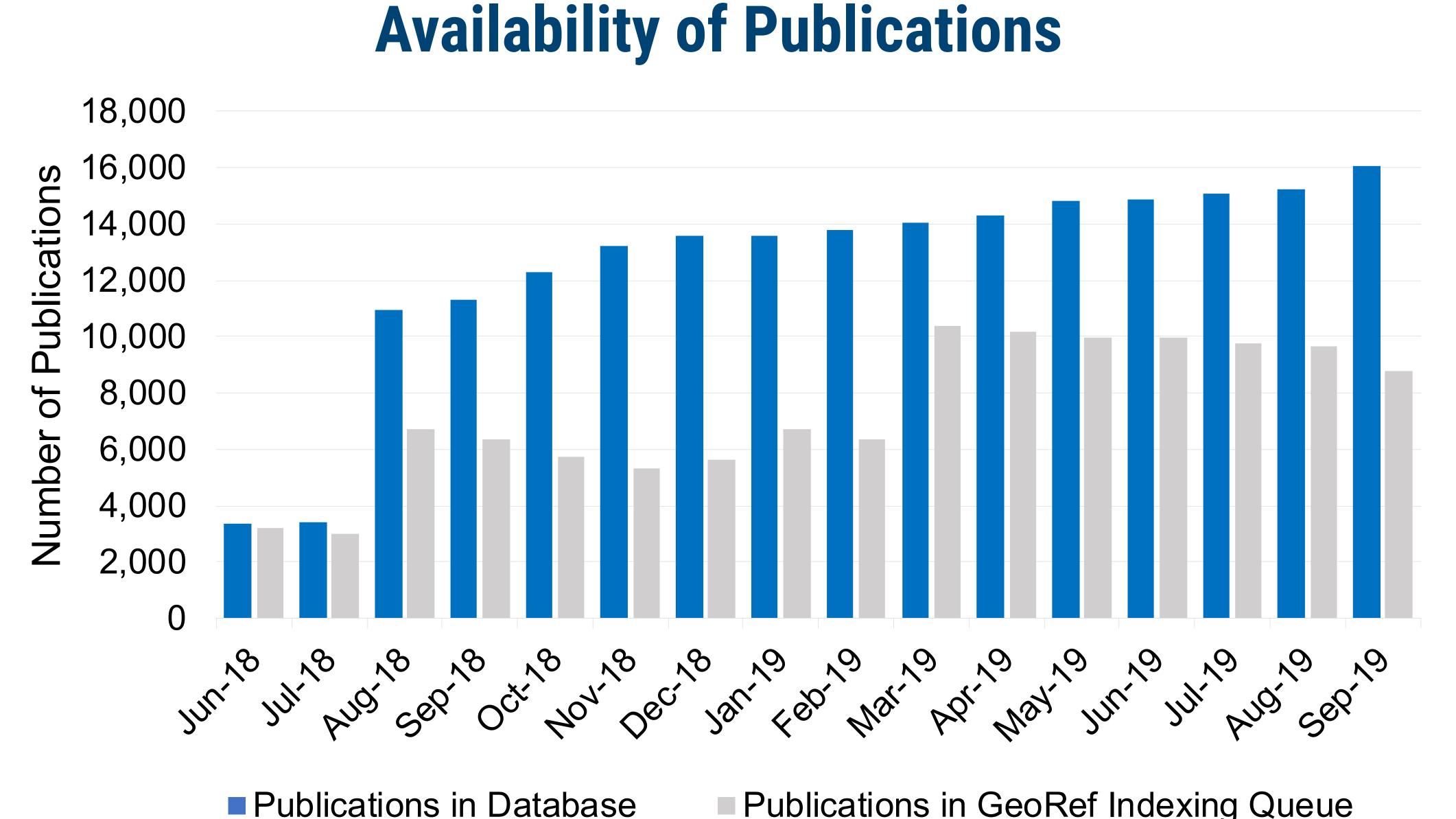
Grey literature fills the gaps in scientific knowledge by corroborating conclusions found in peer-reviewed scholarly journals, and in many cases provides unique, location-specific or detailed applied science information.

Grey literature is aimed at informing policy making, sharing case studies of successful outcomes, translating scientific knowledge for non-scientific audiences, and increasing access to research and information in a timely fashion.^{3, 4}

Issues with access, discovery, and preservation

Lack of long-term access Lack of adequate bibliographic information Lack of full-text searching Overwriting or removal of online information

The loss of access to online geoscience literature is approximately 8% per year (source: AGI's GeoRef Information System)



A growing community resource

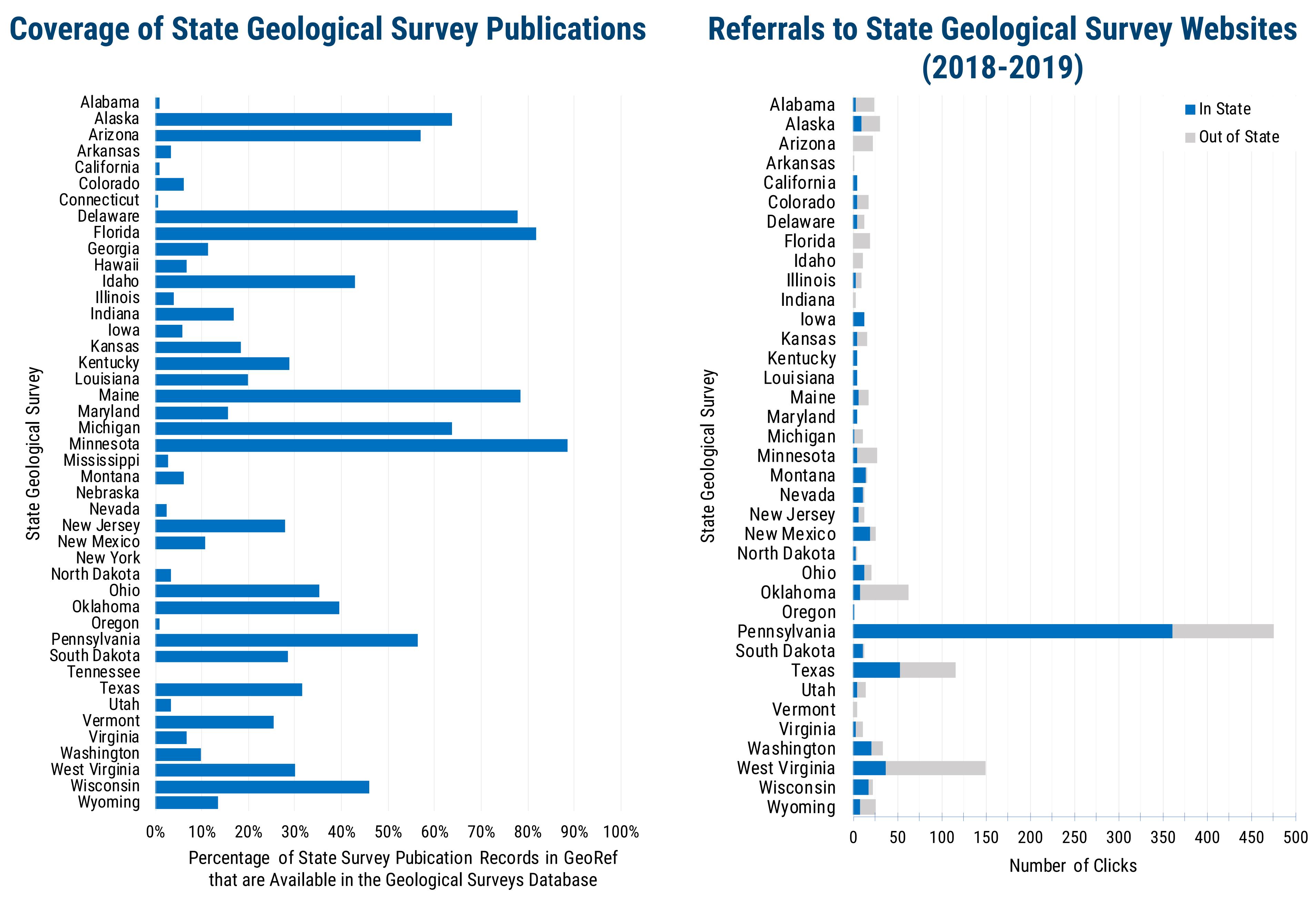
Coverage of state geological survey publications in the Geological Surveys Database is continually expanding as new publications are indexed by GeoRef staff and made available for searching in the database. New records are added and metadata is updated on a weekly basis. Links to publications and state geological survey websites are checked and updated on a monthly basis.

Metadata for new or updated records are first matched to corresponding bibliographic metadata from GeoRef and are supplemented with additional metadata from the state geological surveys if available. PDF copies of publications are either downloaded from the corresponding state geological survey publication catalog or are provided directly to AGI and then processed for full-text indexing. Next the updated metadata and the full-text of the publications are loaded to the Geological Surveys Database and are made available for searching.

¹ Farace, D.J., 1998, 'Foreword', in Third International Conference on Grey Literature: Perspectives on the Design and Transfer of Scientific and Technical Information, GL 2004 Conference Proceedings, Luxembourg, 13–14 November 1997, GreyNet/TransAtlantic, Amsterdam.

⁴ Lawrence, A., Houghton, J., Thomas, J., and Weldon, P., 2014, Where is the evidence: realising the value of grey literature for public policy and practice, Swinburne Institute for Social Research, Melbourne, Australia.

Publications in GeoRef Indexing Queue



Strategies & Strengths

- Federated searching across all state geological surveys
- Links to state geological survey websites for publication access
- Robust metadata, including geographic coordinates
- Multi-faceted searching (full-text, faceted, fuzzy, geographic)
- Ability to serve as a back-up repository if needed

https://statesurveys.americangeosciences.org

This database is supported by AGI's GeoRef Information Services and the American Association of State Geologists

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 Integration with GeoRef and dedicated support for long term maintenance of database Integration with other high-value web content on AGI website to increase exposure

² Farace, D.J., Frantzen, J. (eds)., 2005, Sixth International Conference on Grey in Progress, GL 2004 Conference Proceedings, New York, 6–7 December, TextRelease, Amsterdam. ³ Lawrence, A., 2012, Electronic Documents in a Print World: Grey Literature and the Internet Media International Australia, 143, 122-131, doi: 10.1177/1329878X1214300114.