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EDITORIAL

Computerized storage of igneous geochemical data

To meet the ever increasing amount of geochemical data which is becoming available, the editors have decided that it should become the policy of the *Mineralogical Magazine* to utilize computerized storage for these data. The principle will be that the geochemical analytical information contained in all papers accepted for publication in the *Mineralogical Magazine* should be stored in the UK-IGBA* file presently housed by the Institute of Geological Sciences in association with the National Geochemical Data Bank in London and by agreement with the Royal Society.

At present, only igneous rock geochemical data are to be stored. The data which will be accepted are one or more of the following items: major oxides (minimum of 5); minor and trace element contents (minimum of 5); isotopic analyses. Besides recording the rock name, number, locality, and method of analysis, it is hoped that authors will also supply petrographic and mineralogical data on the analysed samples. Such information greatly enhances the value of the data stored.

The method of collecting the data is through the authors. They will be sent, at the same time as the letter of acceptance of their manuscripts, the explanatory booklet and coding forms which give the details and codes of how the data should be submitted to the data bank. Data will be accepted by the editors via disc, tape, cards, or coding forms. The system is simple and is quite quickly implemented.

The data are likely to be already in tabular form as part of the manuscript, but these data may represent only a part of the total geochemical analytical information gathered by the author and on which the paper is based. The total information is requested for storing in the data bank. The knowledge that complete storage, and therefore subsequent retrievability by interested persons, is available will undoubtedly influence authors in the construction of their manuscript, and should lead to greater economy of use of the printed page. This is not, however, intended to replace completely the printed tabular format of chemical analyses. That will continue.

This new development will permit even wider use of the many good igneous rock analyses becoming available.

* IGCP Project 163—World Data Base for Igneous Petrology.