The British Columbia Geological Survey (BCGS) is the custodian for several provincial geological datasets, including bedrock geology, surficial geology, and geochemistry. These datasets and the products derived from them provide geological information for mineral exploration, environmental assessment, and land use planning. However, the lithogeochemical dataset has not been used to its full potential, due primarily to its intrinsic complexity (diverse analytical methods and numerous analytes), scattered data storage, lack of consistent data updates, and inadequate data quality control (QA/QC).

To address these problems, we developed a new lithogeochemical database and initiated systematic compilation of publicly available provincial lithogeochemical data, following release of the new provincial Regional Geochemical Survey (RGS) database (Rukhlov and Naziri, 2015). We: 1) developed a logical data model based on the intrinsic relationships between basic data entities and essential attributes of the lithogeochemical data; 2) systematically populated and updated the database with data compiled from BCGS publications released between 1986 and 2015; 3) conducted quality assurance and control to the existing and newly added data (referring to the original lab reports where available); 4) enabled production of customizable data products derived from the database; and 5) automated in-bound and out-bound data flow for loading the database and generating products. With the above renovations, we established a streamlined process and an operational database system to manage, maintain, update, and distribute province-wide lithogeochemical data routinely and consistently.

Managing lithogeochemical data

Source data (in different formats)

Loading script

Data QA/QC script

Other BCGS databases

Managing lithogeochemical data

New British Columbia lithogeochemical database development and preliminary data release: British Columbia Geological Survey GeoFile 2017-6
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Acknowledgements
We are grateful to Ray Lett (British Columbia Geological Survey Emeritus Scientist) for many discussions about the original BCS lithogeochemical databases and for reviewing the new database. We also thank the BCGS geoscientists who provided background information and their datasets.

References

MapPlace web-service (on-demand data query and retrieval)

Product generating script

Data products in tabular, map, and database formats (customized by analyte, analytical method, concentration, and location)

For More Information
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