



KARST

INFORMATION
PORTAL

The Impact of Grey Literature in Advancing Global Karst Research: An Information Needs Assessment for a Globally Distributed Interdisciplinary Community--A Follow-up

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What is Karst?

- Karst is a globally-distributed terrain resulting from the dissolution of soluble rocks such as limestone and dolomite.
- This dissolution occurs when rain water infused with carbon dioxide passes through layers of soil and bedrock.
- Karst regions contain aquifers and common geological structures such as sinkholes, springs, and caves.
- The relationship between karst landscapes and



Information Needs Assessment

*Conducted in 2006 to guide development of the
Karst Information Portal (KIP)...*

Purpose

- Define information content needs
- Assess role of grey information sources
- Define desired web services

Method

- “Snowball” sampling (11 initial targets)
- Web-based
- Piloted January 2006
- Administered August-September 2006



What we found:

96.6% Use Grey Information n=58

86.2% Proceedings

82.8% Trip/Cave Reports

81.0% Theses/Dissertations & Maps

89.3% Produce Grey

Information n=55
80.8% Proceedings

76.9% Trip/Cave Reports

65.4% Images & Speeches/Invited
Talked



To the following
statements:

“Would you use the KIP as a personal digital repository?”

Yes 43.6 %

No 20.0%

“Grey literature is a very important source of information to karst researchers ...”

70.9 % agree



KIP & Grey Literature

A core function of KIP is to facilitate access to grey literature such as:

- Maps
- Measurements of cave notes
- Notes on subterranean wildlife

Audience for KIP:

- Geologists & geographers
- Land managers & land planners
- Insurance companies & home buyers
- Biologists & cave enthusiasts



Design Goals

Open-access to quality information

- Organized for discovery
- Vetted for inclusion
- Described by the community of users

Facilitate information preservation & digitization

Promote collaboration

Benefits to Community

Informs research, filters the “information avalanche,” reduces impact of economic & access limitations

Ensures long-term access to information resources

Facilitates research & information sharing

Home

Quick access to

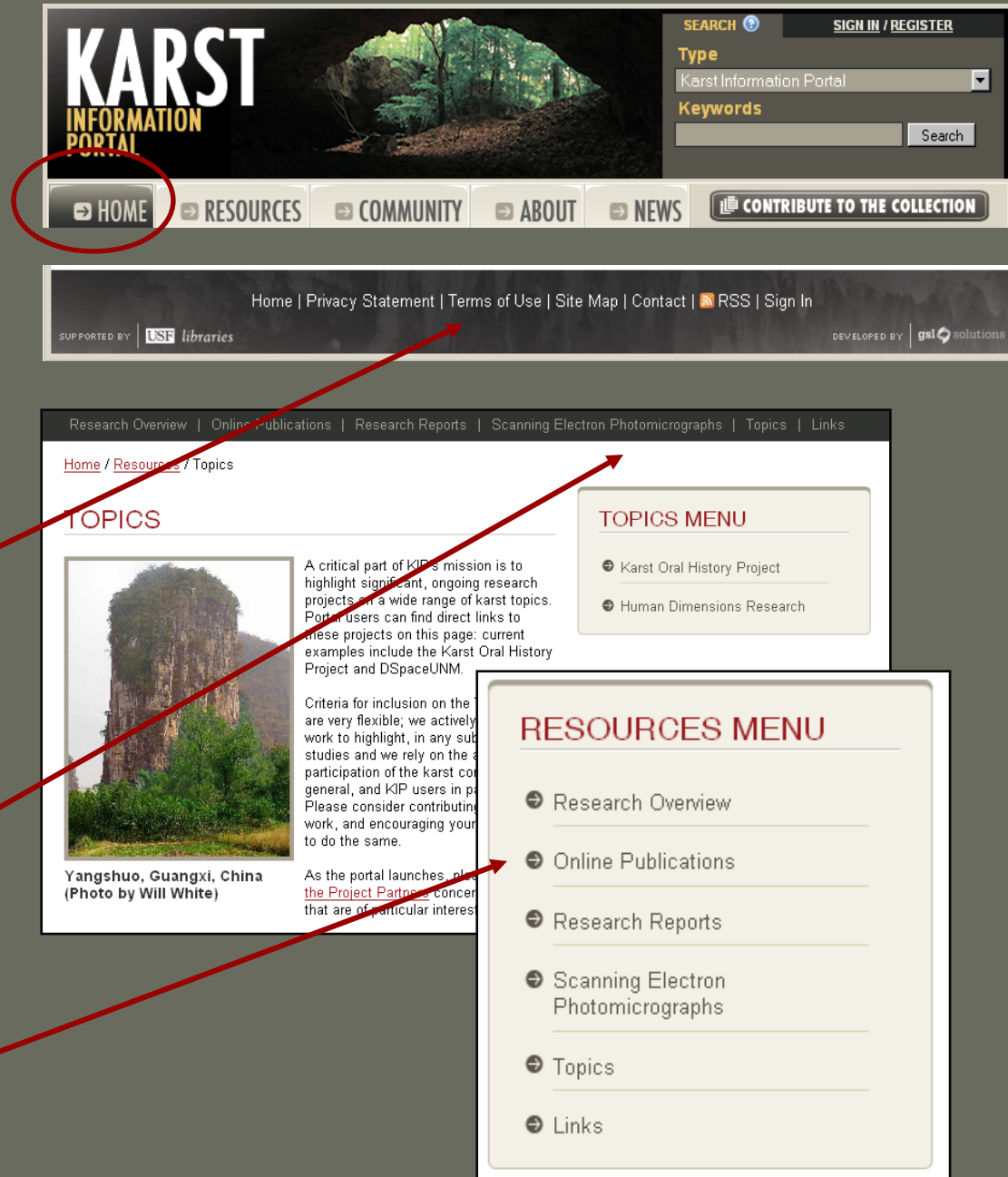
- Announcements
- News
- Events
- Research updates

Navigation

Persistent headers & footers.

“Breadcrumbs” orient to site hierarchy.

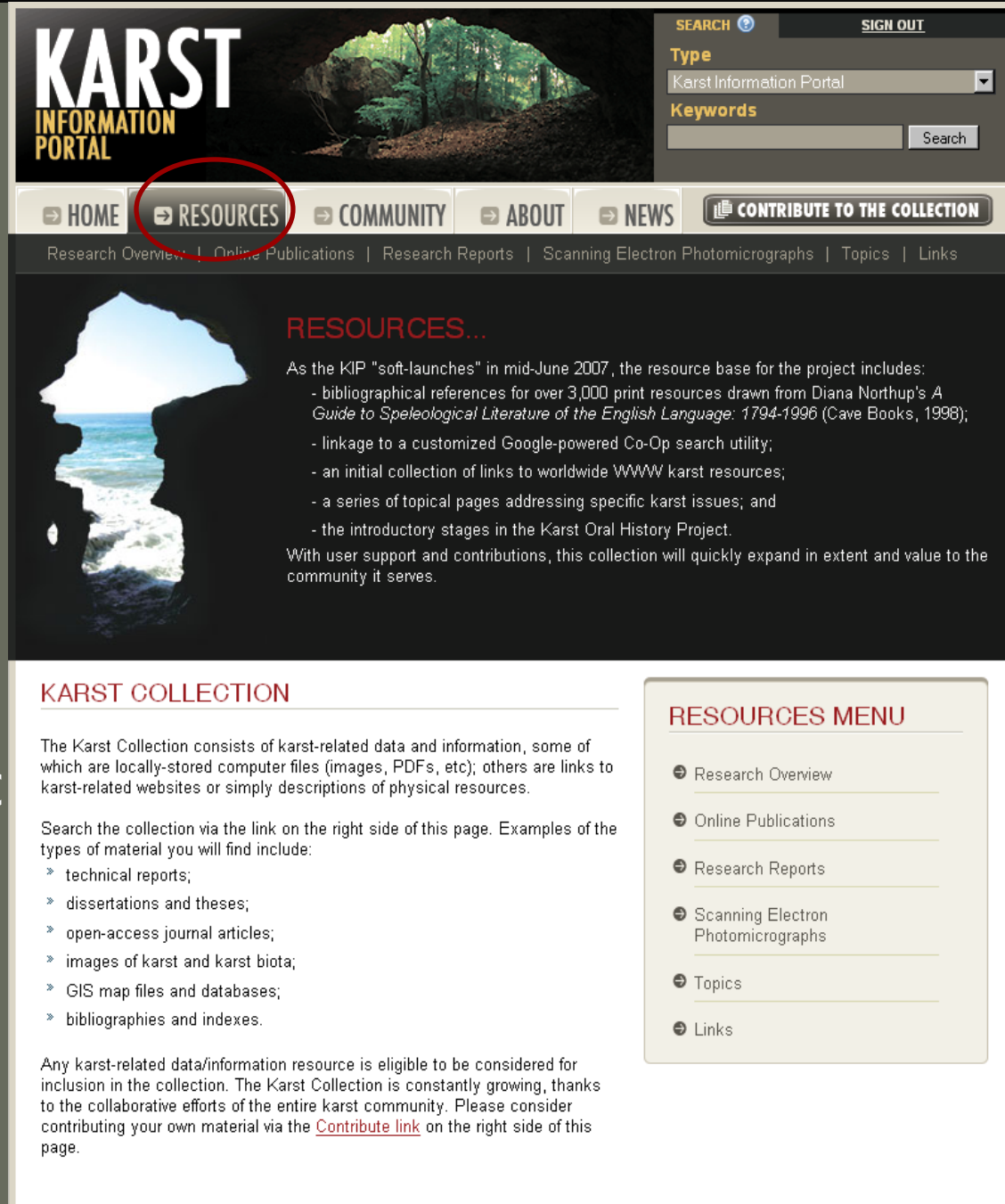
Context-valid menus guide access to sub-sections.



Resources

The “information core” with access to ...

- Online publications
- Research reports
- Scanning Electronic Micrograph (SEM) database (UNM)
- Topics
- Links



KARST INFORMATION PORTAL

SEARCH ? SIGN OUT

Type
Karst Information Portal

Keywords
Search

HOME RESOURCES COMMUNITY ABOUT NEWS CONTRIBUTE TO THE COLLECTION

Research Overview | Online Publications | Research Reports | Scanning Electron Photomicrographs | Topics | Links

RESOURCES...

As the KIP "soft-launches" in mid-June 2007, the resource base for the project includes:

- bibliographical references for over 3,000 print resources drawn from Diana Northup's *A Guide to Speleological Literature of the English Language: 1794-1996* (Cave Books, 1998);
- linkage to a customized Google-powered Co-Op search utility;
- an initial collection of links to worldwide WWW karst resources;
- a series of topical pages addressing specific karst issues; and
- the introductory stages in the Karst Oral History Project.

With user support and contributions, this collection will quickly expand in extent and value to the community it serves.

KARST COLLECTION

The Karst Collection consists of karst-related data and information, some of which are locally-stored computer files (images, PDFs, etc); others are links to karst-related websites or simply descriptions of physical resources.

Search the collection via the link on the right side of this page. Examples of the types of material you will find include:

- » technical reports;
- » dissertations and theses;
- » open-access journal articles;
- » images of karst and karst biota;
- » GIS map files and databases;
- » bibliographies and indexes.

Any karst-related data/information resource is eligible to be considered for inclusion in the collection. The Karst Collection is constantly growing, thanks to the collaborative efforts of the entire karst community. Please consider contributing your own material via the [Contribute link](#) on the right side of this page.

RESOURCES MENU

- Research Overview
- Online Publications
- Research Reports
- Scanning Electron Photomicrographs
- Topics
- Links

KARST

INFORMATION PORTAL



SEARCH

[SIGN IN](#) / [REGISTER](#)

Type

Karst Information Portal

Keywords

Search

→ HOME

→ RESOURCES

→ COMMUNITY

→ ABOUT

→ NEWS

 **CONTRIBUTE TO THE COLLECTION**

Five options tailor search targets:

- Karst Information Portal (comprehensive)
- Karst Collection
- Forums
 - Posts/comments
- News
 - Announcements
 - Events
 - New publications
 - Research updates
- KIP Google Co-op



Over 4,000 references for karst-related data and information sources forms the core of the collection.

Queries a Google-powered customized search engine leveraging participant expertise with Google's search technologies.

Access to Resources

Links to select resources external and/or internal to KIP.

When content is not available online and is limited in distribution ... information about host repository functions as location aid.

Requirements for access and copyright.

KARST COLLECTION RESULTS

Associated File:
http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2005/5160/PDF/Part1_2.pdf

DESCRIPTIVE METADATA...

Resource Title
 Borehole geophysical techniques for mapping
 freshwater/saline-water transition zones in
 south-central Texas

Authors
 Lambert, R.B.; Hunt, A.G.;

Year Published
 2005

Keywords
 USGS; Edwards Aquifer; G

Description
 From U.S. Geological Survey
 2005-5160

Abstract
 The Edwards aquifer is the
 people in the San Antonio area
 freshwater/saline-water transi
 moderately saline with di
 1,000 to 10,000 milligrams
 Survey in cooperation with t
 that the transition zone is p
 previously thought, and that
 within the transition zone. E
 fluid profiling of conductance
 surveys, and flowmeter sur
 to indicate which fractures a
 Edwards aquifer are more tr
 geologic, geochemical, and
 provide a two-dimensional s
 freshwater/salinewater trans
 improve the understanding o
 zone.

Journal Title
 U.S. Geological Survey Kar

Pages
 39

Place of Publication
 Rapid City, SD

KARST COLLECTION RESULTS

Associated File:
[297_03a.jpg](#) (489.3 KB)

DESCRIPTIVE METADATA...

Resource Title
 29-7_03-a.jpg [Scanning Electron Photomicrographs and Spectra]

Authors
 Braybrook, George; Melim, Leslie; Jones, Brian

Year Published
 2006

Keywords
 Crust; Hidden Cave; Nevada; Pool precipitates;

Description
 Abstract: "Closer on 01, detail of thin coating (less than 1micrometers)
 over dogtooth crystals". Freshly broken chip, break parallel to small
 dense finger. Etched 15s in 5% HCl.

CLASSIFICATION DATA...

Geographic Location(s)
 Americas / North America / United States of America / Nevada

Document Type
 Visual Materials / Images (VIS)

Language(s)
 English

Term(s)
 Biospeleology

Derived from [Speleological Subject Classifications](#)
 Informatics Commission (UISIC) of the International Union of Speleology.

ADMIN METADATA...

Current Repository
<http://hdl.handle.net/1928/99>

Digitization Note
 Copyright Reserved by Authors



The Challenge

The karst research community and its knowledge base are fragmented, globally distributed, and highly interdisciplinary.

As karst issues move to the forefront of attempts to develop solutions to significant environmental degradation, information integration and linkages, promoting collaboration is

The Solution

The Karst Information Portal is a growing international community seeking to create an open system for karst-related information.

The goal is a freely accessible web-based information network to inform research, to enhance collaboration, and to address policy decisions in karst environments.