

Steven Cordivola and Brandon Nuttall, Kentucky Geological Survey, University Of Kentucky

Oil and Gas Records on the Web: An Independent's Dream

In July 2002 the Kentucky Geological Survey (KGS) inaugurated a free service to provide images of oil and gas records from Kentucky over the Web (<http://www.uky.edu/KGS/pubs/lop.htm>). Coupled with an online searchable database, this service allows anyone to inspect, copy, and print plats, drillers' logs, completion reports, and even geophysical logs from anywhere in the world, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The data set of images contains over 1 million pages of documents for over 130,000 drilled wells throughout the state. KGS uses modern compression technology (DjVu® from Lizardtech™) so that users can quickly download thumbnails of the documents from a selected folder (each folder contains all the documents for a single well). The document image is loaded into the DjVu Viewer, which is available free for most Web browsers, only after a user selects a specific thumbnail. Since the images are relatively small, this system provides very fast access, even when relatively slow modems are being used. This service has been well received, and many diverse users from industry, government, and the general public have found it invaluable. The feedback has helped KGS to develop additional features and make better use of technology, but has also instigated some special challenges for KGS, such as dealing with documentation issues, training, and special requests, which were not anticipated in the design of the online system. These challenges and solutions may provide valuable experience to others who wish to develop a similar service.