

*U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Natural Resource Information Division*



Bibliographic Database

July 1996

The Natural Resource Inventory and Monitoring (I&M) Program was established to gather information and develop techniques for maintaining the integrity of the ecological communities in the approximately 250 National Park System units with significant natural resources. The details of the program are outlined in *Natural Resource Inventory and Monitoring in National Parks*, available from the address listed below.

Since its inception in 1992, the I&M Program has funded mapping of vegetation, soils, and geologic features; collection of base cartographic data; and compilation of automated park-based bibliographic databases; initiation of several prototype monitoring programs; and development of data management standards and protocols. The series of fact sheets provides updated information on the progress in each of these areas.

Automated Natural Resource Bibliographic Database

The comprehensive inventory of parks with significant natural resources began with surveys, cataloging, and archiving of information from all the natural resource studies in parks. All historical scientific material including rare event records, maps, photographs, manuscripts, and specimen collections is incorporated into an automated database.

Standards and Products

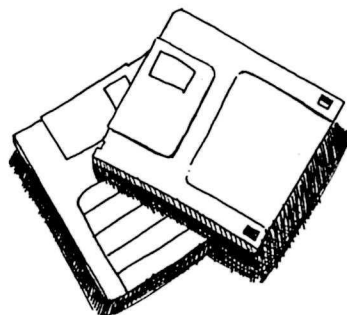
The gathered information will be used to produce a data theme layer for each of the park units in the program. Each park unit will receive a ProCite database with a thesaurus of keywords and descriptors and the procedures for

keeping the information current. The database will be kept and maintained at the park unit to ensure accessibility by managers. The I&M Program distributed the ProCite software and the NPS ProCite manual to each park and will ensure on-site staff are trained in using the databases.

Copies of each park's completed database will be transmitted to the NPS Technical Information Center in Denver for eventual conversion to CD-ROM format. Through dial-up access, managers will have easy access to data from every park in the National Park System. However, the quality of the data will depend on the regularity with which each park updates the ProCite files and transmits them to the Technical Information Center.

Partnerships

Data entry and data conversion are proceeding on schedule under arrangements with CPSUs at the Colorado State University, Idaho State University, University of Northern Arizona, University of Hawaii, and Rhode Island State University.



Program Status

As of March 1996, the databases for all parks in the Southwest and Alaska are complete; databases for parks in the Rocky Mountain and Colorado Plateau areas are nearing completion; and data entry for parks in the West and Southeast will be completed this year. Trained data entry teams began entries in New England, the mid-Atlantic, and the Midwest.

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<http://www.aqd.nps.gov.nrid/im/bbiblio.htm>