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Enhancing Communication and Knowledge Discovery Among Karst Scientists: The Role of the Karst Information Portal (KIP)

George Veni

National Cave & Karst Research Institute

Diana Northup

University of New Mexico - Main Campus

Penelope Boston

New Mexico Tech

Todd A. Chavez

University of South Florida, tchavez@usf.edu

Robert Brinkmann

University of South Florida

See next page for additional authors

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Authors

George Veni, Diana Northup, Penelope Boston, Todd A. Chavez, Robert Brinkmann, H. Len Vacher, Alexander Klimchouk, Linn Marks-Collins, and Johann van Reenan

Presentation Time: 4:15 PM-4:30 PM

ENHANCING COMMUNICATION AND KNOWLEDGE DISCOVERY AMONG KARST SCIENTISTS: THE ROLE OF THE KARST INFORMATION PORTAL - KIP

[VENI, George](#), Executive Director, National Cave and Karst Research Institute, 1400 Commerce Drive, Carlsbad, NM 88220-9187, gveni@nckri.org, NORTHUP, Diana E., Biology Department, Univ of New Mexico, MSC03 2020, Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001, BOSTON, Penelope J., Associate Director, National Cave and Karst Research Institute, 1400 Commerce Drive, Carlsbad, NM 88220-9187, CHAVEZ, Todd, Tampa Library, University of South Florida, 4202 E. Fowler, LIB 122, Tampa, FL 33620, BRINKMANN, Robert, Department of Geography and Department of Environmental Science and Policy, University of South Florida, 4202 E. Fowler Ave, CPR 107, Tampa, FL 33620, VACHER, H.L., Department of Geology, University of South Florida, 4202 East Fowler Avenue, SCA 528, Tampa, FL 33620, KLIMCHOUK, Alexander, Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, P.O.Box 136, Kiev-30, 01030, Ukraine, COLLINS, Linn Marks, Research Library, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, NM 87545, and VAN REENEN, Johann, University Libraries, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131

Karst science is an intrinsically multidisciplinary field of study that is poorly indexed and difficult to access. While much of the significant body of international literature is accessible, many important works remain largely unknown or inaccessible. Some of the more difficult and essential documents to access are what is characterized as gray literature, which includes maps, databases, technical reports, graduate theses or dissertations, images, video, and government publications. Also, karst-related documents published in less-accessible languages are hard to access or find. The creation and implementation of the Karst Information Portal (KIP) beginning in 2005 addresses these and other information access and management problems by focusing on providing a global portal to provide a gateway to the Web for karst information and services. Digital versions of many karst resources will be available through KIP. Databases, datasets, bibliographies, images, gray literature, etc. that have been created world-wide by karst scientists, explorers, and educators will be accessible through KIP federated searching (i.e. simultaneous search of multiple data sources) identified karst sites on the Internet. In June 2007, an enhanced KIP was launched that includes The Guide to Speleological Literature database, a scanning electron micrograph repository, and links to key electronic karst resources. Like other well-known portals, such as Chronos, the KIP will continue to grow as users and developers bring more information within the network. We seek to expand KIP by developing partnerships to populate the portal with pertinent databases, maps, gray literature, and other information of interest to the geoscience community. Knowledge discovery, commenting by users, and collaborative workspaces (collaboratoria) are being tested through an image database of scanning electron micrographs in a joint project with Los Alamos National Laboratory. The KIP has the potential to transform geologic, biological, paleontological, archaeological, and historical research in karst by creating new knowledge through the integration of international information in the discipline.

[2007 GSA Denver Annual Meeting \(28–31 October 2007\)](#)
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