

APPENDIX 2

The S.C. Zoltai Slide Collection

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Stephen C. Zoltai took thousands of slides during his career with the Canadian Forest Service, covering a variety of topics from peatlands and pingos to archeology and architecture. Here we present a progress report on a project to generate a digital archive of these slides and to make the images available over the Internet. Documentation will be provided with the archive, taken directly from Mr. Zoltai's own extensive indexing system, which he created and maintained until his death in December 1997.

At present, more than half of the slides have been scanned and the images adjusted for optimal color balance. Associated information includes the date of the photograph, the location (country, province, latitude, and longitude), some key words, and a short description of the item of interest in the slide.

A Web interface has been developed to allow users to search the data base with key words or a free-text search (Fig. 1) and to provide them with

thumbnail images of all slides for each matching record, together with the information that Mr. Zoltai recorded for it (Fig. 2). Mouse-clicking on a thumbnail allows the user to see a larger image (Fig. 3). This image can then be saved from the browser for personal use.

All scanned pictures are in 24-bit color, and each measures approximately 800 × 600 pixels. When saved as a low-compression JPEG file, each image is approximately 140 kbytes in size. These

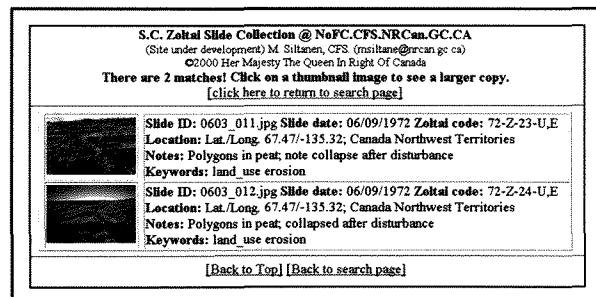


Figure 2. Sample of a search result, including thumbnail images.

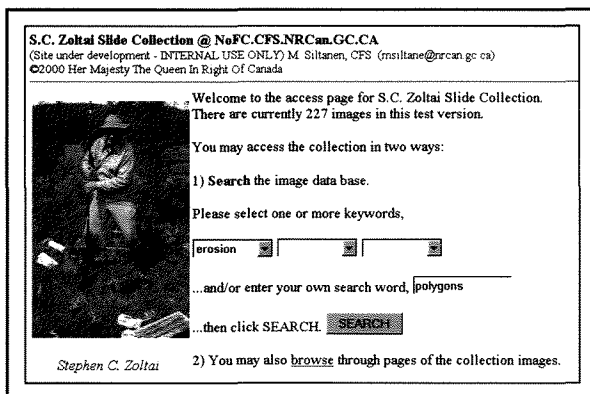


Figure 1. Opening page for slide collection, where user can search by keywords or free text.



Figure 3. Larger version of image.

image and file dimensions were felt to provide a size and resolution suitable for most presentation purposes. If better resolution is required, the actual slide could be accessed by referencing the slide number to the collection at the Northern Forestry Centre, Edmonton, Alberta. It is anticipated that requests to borrow these slides will be entertained in special circumstances.

The Canadian Forest Service retains all copyright in the images, and, once completed, the

collection will be made available on the World Wide Web. However, the extent of public access has yet to be determined. The level of access may depend upon technologies available for watermarking the images and the interest shown in the resource by the scientific community and other groups.

This work is being carried out to acknowledge Mr. Zoltai's many contributions to science and is dedicated to his memory.

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Technical Coordinators

Long-Term Dynamics and Contemporary Carbon Budget of Northern Peatlands

International Workshop on Carbon
Dynamics of Forested Peatlands:
Knowledge Gaps, Uncertainty
and Modeling Approaches
23-24 March 2001
Edmonton, Alberta

PROCEEDINGS



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