

Oil Shales of the World 2.0: A web-based revision in honor of Paul Russell

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The Oil Shale Information Office at the Colorado School of Mines has received permission **from the heirs of Paul Russell to digitize and post Paul Russell's Oil Shales of the World: Their Origin, Occurrence, and Exploitation.** Posting of this well-known book about oil shale is intended to support development of a new version of the nation-by-nation summary of oil shale deposits. Preparation of the new volume will be done through a controlled-access wiki system, with authors solicited from among the experts on the oil shale of each country. Submissions will be reviewed by a committee of experts recruited through the Oil Shale Symposium and other professional organizations. The first step, digitizing the volume, is already complete. The next step will be to develop a proposed outline for national level articles, as well as defining summary sections that may take on non-geographical topics. The objective will be to provide a refereed but rapidly updatable encyclopedia of oil shale occurrences, characteristics, development history and current status. By coding the structure of national **articles and summary sections into the wiki system's user interface**, the project will both promote uniform assessments of national oil shale resources and facilitate comparative analysis of these assessments. The Oil Shale Information Office will be soliciting contributions to support development of the new web-based version of the book. Solicited contributions will include tools to enable collaborative work on technical content, **tools and processes to ensure quality control, and development of the project's overarching web architecture.** The plan is to make the Oil Shales of the World as accessible as possible to the growing audience for oil shale information. Construction of this wiki could not have proceeded without the historic work of Paul Russell and the many contributors cited in his earlier work, as well as the generosity of Lillian and Roger Russell, whose careful but enthusiastic engagement was essential in getting this project started.