



The Center for Oil Shale Technology & Research  
& The Colorado School of Mines

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

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# Outline

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- What Paul Russell did
- Why we think it's important
- Why we are doing this online
- The *Oil Shales of the World* wiki
  - Similar collaborative authoring projects
  - The *Oil Shales of the World* wiki process
- What we need from you

# What Paul Russell did

## *Oil Shales of the World, Their Origin, Occurrence, and Exploitation*

- Published in 1990
- Comprehensive description of oil shale deposits, history, technology, etc.
- 6 Regions; 52 Countries
- Information gathered by mail\*
- Written on a Commodore 64 computer\*
- One, possibly two printings\*
- 400 copies, perhaps fewer\*

\*Source: Roger Russell

## **Oil Shales of the World, Their Origin, Occurrence and Exploitation**

PAUL L. RUSSELL

6050 West Yale Avenue, Denver, Colorado 80227, USA



**PERGAMON PRESS**

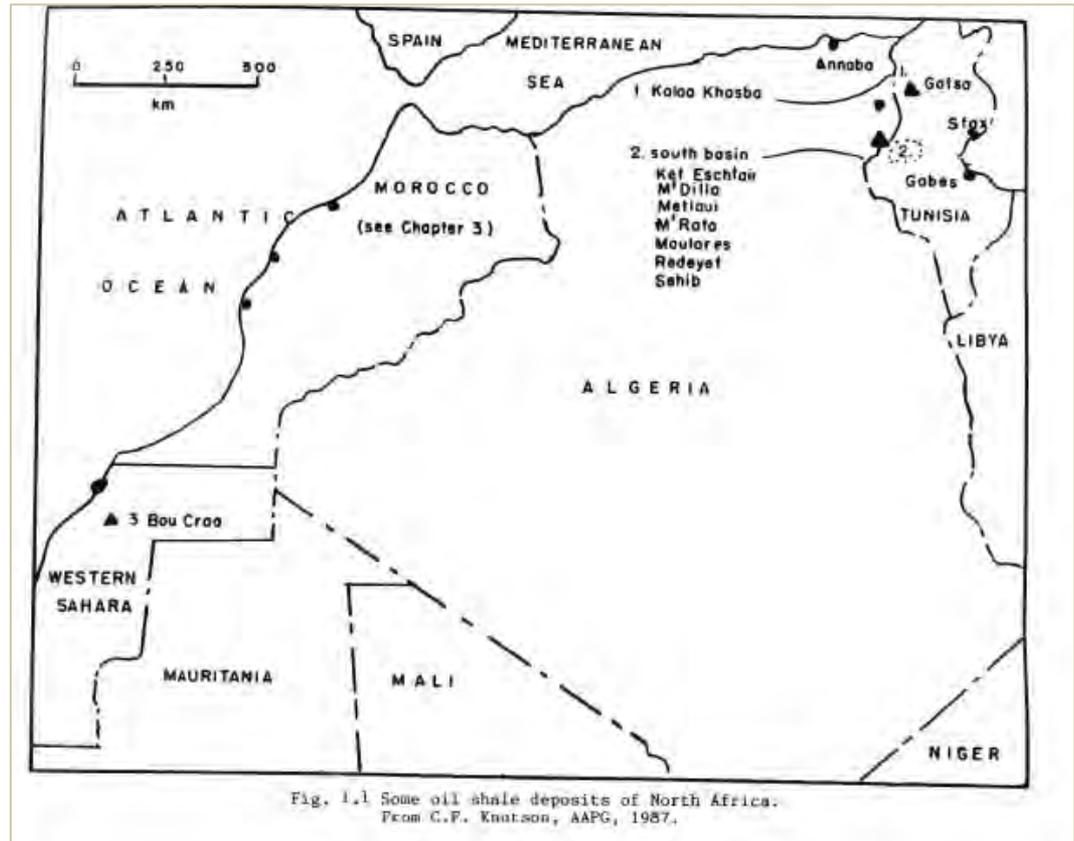
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# Why we think an update is important

- Copies are hard to come by
- Articles and formats are out of date
- Provides a common basis for comparison
- Offers unbiased information about national resources and operations



# Why we are doing this online

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- Widespread dissemination
- Regular updating
- Enables complex interlinking of related information

# Similar collaborative authoring projects

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- **Wikipedia**

- Free-content encyclopedia; collaboratively written.



- **Encyclopedia of Earth**

- National Council for Science and the Environment; Boston University.



# Key Differences in Our Project/Process

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- A single source document
  - Document serves as the initial textual “canon” and establishes the initial structure.
- Controlled editorial process
  - Editorial board; chapter and subject working groups; iterative revisions and expansions of both content and structure.
- No single view of the text
  - Default view, but object categories, coded relationships, and metatags enable users to “construct” the book.

# The *Oil Shales of the World* Wiki process

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- Create an Editorial Board
  - Generally local to enable face-to-face meetings
  - Oil shale and web experts
  - Defines intended structure of wiki
  - Reviews author/co-author credentials
  - Reviews chapters

# Who are we?

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- Oil Shale Information Office (OSIO) Director
  - Jeremy Boak, [jboak@mines.edu](mailto:jboak@mines.edu)
- OSIO Librarian and Archivist
  - Julie Carmen, [jcarmen@mines.edu](mailto:jcarmen@mines.edu)
- OSIO Web Wizard
  - Kevin Doran, [dorank@colorado.edu](mailto:dorank@colorado.edu)
- Where can you find us?
  - <http://www.costar-mines.org>

# What we need from you

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- Download the book from:
  - <http://minesdr.coalliance.org/fedora/repository/cog:4044>
- Nominate editorial board members
- Offer thoughts on the format and outline for the chapters
- Volunteer to write a chapter
- Provide information and references on individual countries or deposits

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# ROGER RUSSELL RECOLLECTIONS

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I called my sister about some of the questions you asked and it turns out that neither of us can remember how many copies of the book were printed. I know that it was a relatively small run and for some reason the number of 400 sticks in my mind but it may have been less than that – and I think there was only one printing. My sister thinks there might have possibly been two printings.

On the Acknowledgements page (page 6) of the book dad wrote that it took him over five years to put it together. I think it may have been closer to six or seven years. He didn't start it immediately after the History of Western Oil Shale, which was published in 1980, but it wasn't more than a couple of years after that he started looking into it. A lot of that time was spent in correspondences by mail gathering the information from all over the world for the book. It was, of course, long before the internet was around and the turn around time for mail from other countries could easily take several weeks.

Dad wrote both books on a Commodore 64 computer, which you are probably too young to even have heard of. It was a cheap looking grey plastic thing that wasn't much larger than a standard keyboard today, it was about the same width and perhaps three inches deeper. He used the Fleet System word processor which came on a 3-1/2" floppy disc and required a separate drive to load and run.

I didn't even try to keep up with all of the correspondences going back and forth but I did get to meet Dr. R. F. Kane, who wrote the chapter on Australia and was of great help to dad. He and his wife were visiting the U. S. from Tasmania, where they lived, and they stopped by dad's house once.

I don't recall much other trivia about putting the book together. I wish I had a great anecdote or two to share but mostly I recall him spending a lot of time in his home office writing, assimilating and word processing. Plain simple hard work. At some point he put me to work helping with the drafting of the charts, diagrams and other graphic work for the book which gave me a little more insight into the massive amount of information that he had received. They were, of course, all in the form of hardcopy documents, pamphlets and letters and it took up almost all of the room's flat surfaces to keep it organized.