



## Powering Knowledge Discovery and Knowledge Flow with AI

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APQC's 2019 KM Conference

The vision of the Society of Petroleum Engineers is to enable the global oil and gas E&P industry to share technical knowledge needed to meet the world's energy needs in a safe and environmentally responsible manner. SPE is the industry's leading publisher of technical papers, best practices and lessons learned. However, the increasing volume of information and diversity of channels make it difficult to connect with the knowledge and subject matter experts needed to solve problems. As a result, cross-industry knowledge flow is impaired. To address the challenge, SPE has implemented a new research portal, supported by artificial intelligence (AI). The portal integrates subject matter expert knowledge with AI natural language processing and machine learning. It automatically enriches documents by classifying them into relevant taxonomies, geotagging oil fields, and extracting key concepts, authors, and institutions. These enrichments enable SPE members to zero in on the relevant information from all SPE channels and to graphically analyze timeframes, geography, related concepts and cross industry collaboration (using social network analysis).

Keywords: AI, Cognitive, Tacit, Collaboration, Learning, SME, Social, Knowledge Flow, Classification.

Conference Theme: ***Bridging High-Touch and High-Tech.*** Explore the new capabilities that are affecting the KM discipline while positioning them within a holistic strategy that combines people, process, and technology. Learn which tools hold the greatest promise, how to build new KM tools and approaches into the flow of people's work, the keys to engaging end users, and how successful KM programs are weathering the storm of change.

Track: **High-Tech Solutions to Knowledge Problems**

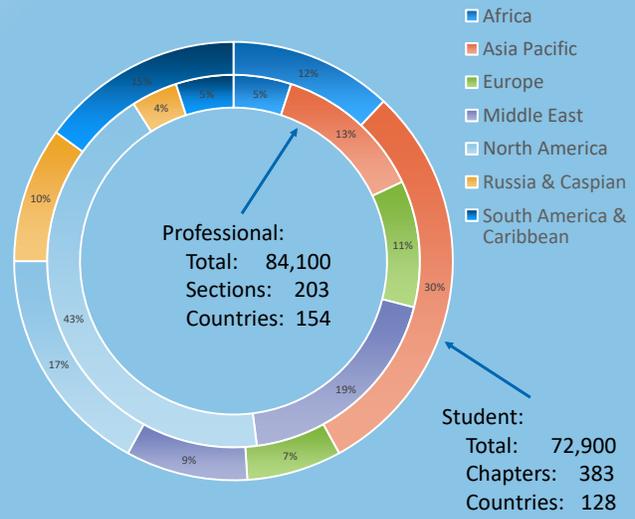
Advice for navigating the evolving technology landscape and real-world examples of new capabilities that are improving knowledge discovery.

## **Outline of the Presentation**

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- SPE overview and the issues we set out to address
- SPE Research Portal
- Timeline/Implementation Process
- Results – Measures of Success
- Lessons Learned

Vision: Enable the global oil and gas E&P industry to share technical knowledge needed to meet the world's energy needs in a safe and environmentally responsible manner.



**E&P = Exploration & Production**

**Mission:** collect, disseminate, and exchange technical knowledge concerning the exploration, development and production of oil and gas resources, & related technologies for the public benefit; and to provide opportunities for professionals to enhance their technical and professional competence.

**Vision:** enable the global oil and gas E&P industry to share technical knowledge needed to meet the world's energy needs in a safe and environmentally responsible manner.

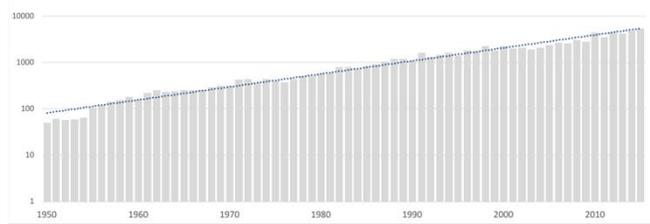
## Addressing the Issues

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- Over 200,000 distinct items on SPE's web sites
- Content doubling every 10-11 years, since the 1950's
- Many new channels

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- Finding information and subject matter experts is hard
- Sheer amount of content obscures industry trends



- Solution: Research Portal to improve findability and consistency
- Partner with i2k Connect – deep experience in both AI and E&P

From a Knowledge Management point of view, the Research Portal is intended achieve two goals: connecting people with the information and the subject matter experts needed to solve problems, and improving cross-industry knowledge flow.

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**SPE Research Portal:** supported by artificial intelligence (AI). Integrates SME knowledge with AI natural language processing and machine learning. Automatically enriches documents by classifying them into relevant taxonomies, geotagging oil fields, and extracting key concepts, authors, and institutions. These enrichments enable SPE members to zero in on the relevant information from all SPE channels and to graphically analyze timeframes, geography, related concepts and cross industry collaboration (using social network analysis).

<https://search.spe.org/i2kweb/SPE/search?filters=taxnodes:SPE%20Disciplines%7CReservoir%20Description%20and%20Dynamics%7CUnconventional%20and%20Complex%20Reservoirs%40%40taxnodes:SPE%20Disciplines%7CWell%20Completion%7CHydraulic%20Fracturing%40%40store:OnePetro%40%40institutions:Schlumberger>

Let's start with the information displayed by the Portal for a single item.

# SPE Research Portal

<https://search.spe.org/>

**Alleviating the Solids Issue in Surat Basin CSG Wells**  
Kalnin, Daniel (Schlumberger) | Choo, Daryl (Schlumberger) | Waling, Ashley (Schlumberger) | Liu, Hai (Schlumberger) | Kong Teng, Ling (Schlumberger) | Soo Hui, Gog (Schlumberger)

OnePetro October, 2018

Quick Summary Topics Concept Tags Publishing

A system for reducing solids production in Surat basin coal seam gas (CSG) wells was developed in the laboratory and tested in the laboratory and field trials.

Several thousand CSG wells were completed in Surat basin in eastern Australia using what was considered an economic method at a time - an open hole with a predrilled liner.

Although the majority of the wells are meeting production expectations, a many wells are producing a substantial amount of solids originating from an interburden rock representing approximately 90% of completed interval length and comprising mudstones, sandstones, and siltstones rich in illite/smectite and other water-sensitive clays. Relatively fresh water, with total dissolved solids (TDS) of approximately 4000 to 7000 mg/l, produced from multiple thin coal seams during dewatering and production phases is causing the interburden rock to swell or disintegrate. Prolific wells with high water rates or high gas velocity are capable of carrying solids to the surface where the solids are deposited in separators, flowlines, and water-treatment setting ponds. Higher solids concentration on lower-rate wells are causing issues with positive cavity pumps (PCP), the artificial lift method of choice in CSG wells. Pump intake plugging with solids, excessive torque and rotation seizure, and wear of tubing/rod strings are frequent causes of workovers and shorter-than-expected pump run-life. Some wells are able to flow freely; however, an extra monitoring program is required to ensure wellheads are not suffering from solids-induced erosion.

Recompletion of the wells is not considered practical at this stage because pre-perforated joints form an integral part of the 5 1/2-in. or 7-in. casing string, which is cemented above the Walloons subgroup coal seams. An external casing packer (ECP) is often used. Some coal seams were underreamed, thus further complicating recompletion. Plugging existing wells and drilling a pair of wells using same surface location and infrastructure have been considered.

A chemical wellbore stabilization solution been developed to alleviate/stop solids production from the interburden rock. The treatment comprises two fluids separated by a spacer that contains clay stabilizer that is typically 3 to 7% KCl, the same as drilling mud base. Proprietary surfactant reduces the possibility of coal damage. Regained permeability testing performed using crushed and sieved coal pack plugs indicated a low level of damage. The wellbore stabilization system could be energized/foamed to reduce hydrostatic pressure and increase compressibility, hence increasing the chance of contacting rock surface in an enlarged wellbore.

Add feedback

<https://search.spe.org/i2kweb/SPE/search?filters=taxnodes:SPE%20Disciplines%7CReservoir%20Description%20and%20Dynamics%7CUnconventional%20and%20Complex%20Reservoirs%40%40taxnodes:SPE%20Disciplines%7CWell%20Completion%7CHydraulic%20Fracturing%40%40store:OnePetro%40%40institutions:Schlumberger>

Quick Summary / Abstract / Snippet

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 OnePetro October, 2018

**Country:**

- Oceania > Australia (0.93)
- North America (0.69)

**Oilfield Places:**

- Oceania > Australia > Queensland > Surat Basin (0.99)
- Oceania > Australia > Queensland > Bowen Basin (0.99)
- Oceania > Australia > New South Wales > Surat Basin (0.99)

**SPE Disciplines:**

- Well Completion > Hydraulic Fracturing (1.00)
- Reservoir Description and Dynamics > Unconventional and Complex Reservoirs > Coal seam gas (1.00)
- Production and Well Operations (1.00)

<https://search.spe.org/i2kweb/SPE/search?filters=taxnodes:SPE%20Disciplines%7CReservoir%20Description%20and%20Dynamics%7CUnconventional%20and%20Complex%20Reservoirs%40%40taxnodes:SPE%20Disciplines%7CWell%20Completion%7CHydraulic%20Fracturing%40%40store:OnePetro%40%40institutions:Schlumberger>

Classifications – from three of the four taxonomies used in the SPE Research Portal. Out of the box, the i2k AI Platform classifies into 17 taxonomies.

<https://search.spe.org/i2kweb/SPE/search?filters=taxnodes:SPE%20Disciplines%7CReservoir%20Description%20and%20Dynamics%7CUnconventional%20and%20Complex%20Reservoirs%40%40taxnodes:SPE%20Disciplines%7CWell%20Completion%7CHydraulic%20Fracturing%40%40store:OnePetro%40%40institutions:Schlumberger>

Concept Tags – key words and phrases

# SPE Research Portal

Page 1 of 88 results

### Core analysis

Development of a Powerful Data-Analysis Tool Using Nonparametric Smoothing Models To Identify Drifts in Tight Shale Reservoirs With High Economic Potential

Liu, Chen (Tsinghua University); Wang, Chen (Tsinghua University); Wang, Chen (Tsinghua University)

**OCEANOGRAPHY** June 2018

1 Quick Summary | [Add to Favorites](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Feedback](#)

**Summary**

The oil and gas industry is entering an era of "big data" because of the huge number of wells drilled with the rapid development of unconventional oil and gas reservoirs during the past decade. The massive amount of data generated requires a good approach for the industry to use this massive data to help make informed decisions. The main challenge is the lack of the application of effective and efficient data-analysis tools to analyze and extract useful information from the development-stage process flow data.

**Investigation of Salt-Bearing Sediments Through Digital Rock Technology Together With Experimental Core Analysis**

Niu, Ma, Wang (Shanghai International Exploration and Production); Wang, Ben (Shanghai International Exploration and Production)

**OCEANOGRAPHY** February 2018

1 Quick Summary | [Add to Favorites](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Feedback](#)

**Abstract**

In this study, digital rock analysis was combined with a variety of experimental core analysis measurements to investigate the effect of salt saturation and distribution on the permeability and porosity of saline saturated core samples. Natural and micro-CT scans of core sections (and 3D scan CT) images were processed and the image generated according to the form of digital rock. High-resolution images of core samples were processed by the image processing software to generate digital rock.

**Application of an Optimization Method for the Restoration of Core Samples for SCAL Experiments**

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Let's now discuss how to find information and subject matter experts, plus how to analyze information.

# SPE Research Portal

## Faceted Search

- Peer Reviewed
  - Yes (96)
- Source
  - OnePetro (96)
- SPE Disciplines
  - Reservoir Description and Dynamics (96)
  - Fluid Characterization (2)
  - Formation Evaluation & Management (96)
    - Core analysis
    - Cross-well tomography (1)
    - Drillstem/well testing (1)
    - Open hole/cased hole

## Search Refiners

The search refiners for faceted search appear on the left.

<https://search.spe.org/i2kweb/SPE/search?filters=peer-reviewed%3Atrue%40%40store%3AOnePetro%40%40taxnodes%3ASPE+Disciplines%7CReservoir+Description+and+Dynamics%7CFormation+Evaluation+%26+Management%7CCore+analysis>

# SPE Research Portal

The image shows a screenshot of the SPE Research Portal search results page. On the left, there is a sidebar with various filters such as 'Current Filters', 'Peer Reviewed', 'Source', 'SPE Disciplines', 'Geologic Time', 'Journal', 'Publisher', 'Concept Tag', 'Country', 'Oilfield Phase', and 'File Type'. The main content area displays search results, including a 'Core analysis' section with a chart and a map, and a list of articles. An inset box on the right, titled 'Text Search', shows a search bar with the text 'SCAL surfactant +wettability' and a magnifying glass icon. An arrow points from the search bar in the main page to this inset box.

APQC's 201

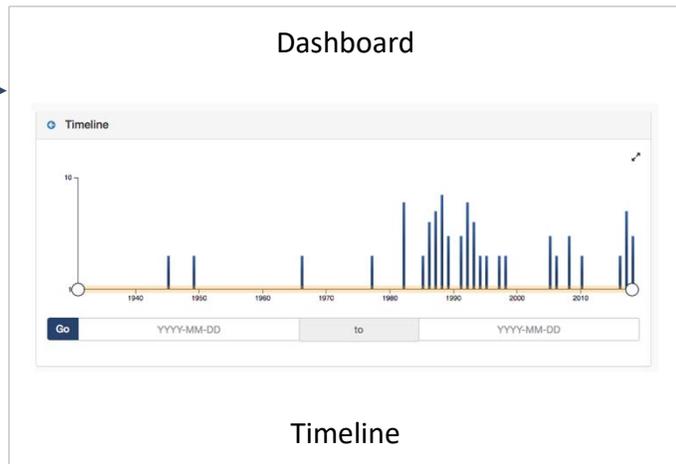
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<https://search.spe.org/i2kweb/SPE/search?filters=peer-reviewed%3Atrue%40%40store%3AOnePetro%40%40taxnodes%3ASPE+Disciplines%7CReservoir+Description+and+Dynamics%7CFormation+Evaluation+%26+Management%7CCore+analysis>

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## Dashboard



## Timeline

<https://search.spe.org/i2kweb/SPE/search?filters=peer-reviewed%3Atrue%40%40store%3AOnePetro%40%40taxnodes%3ASPE+Disciplines%7CReservoir+Description+and+Dynamics%7CFormation+Evaluation+%26+Management%7CCore+analysis>

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## Dashboard

The 'Document Map' dashboard shows a world map with colored dots representing oilfield locations. A legend indicates that blue dots represent 33840 oilfield places and orange dots represent 53250 countries. The map is labeled with continents (North America, Europe, Asia, Africa, South America, Australia) and oceans (North Atlantic Ocean, South Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean, Pacific Ocean). The map is titled 'Document Map' and has a 'Map' label below it.

<https://search.spe.org/i2kweb/SPE/search?filters=peer-reviewed%3Atrue%40%40store%3AOnePetro%40%40taxnodes%3ASPE+Disciplines%7CReservoir+Description+and+Dynamics%7CFormation+Evaluation+%26+Management%7CCore+analysis>

**SPE Research Portal**

**Dashboard**

Collaborating Authors

Vinegar, H.J. Latest: 1990

Collaborating Authors

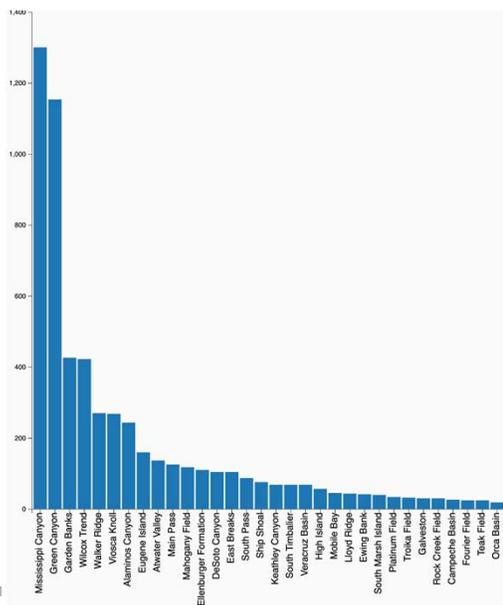
APQC's 2014

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This panel shows collaborations among authors of papers. A simple “Social Network Analysis” graph. The size of a bubble is an indicator of how many papers the person has authored. The connections show authors who have collaborated. The thickness is an indicator of how many papers they have co-authored. You can click on a bubble to reveal the author and go to his/her papers. You can see a few individual authors, plus clusters of authors. The very tight cluster in dark blue is a group at Texas A&M. This panel is particularly useful for identifying subject matter experts.

<https://search.spe.org/i2kweb/SPE/search?filters=peer-reviewed%3Atrue%40%40store%3AOnePetro%40%40taxnodes%3ASPE+Disciplines%7CReservoir+Description+and+Dynamics%7CFormation+Evaluation+%26+Management%7CCore+analysis>

## Analytics



### Top Areas

Mississippi Canyon  
Green Canyon  
Garden Banks

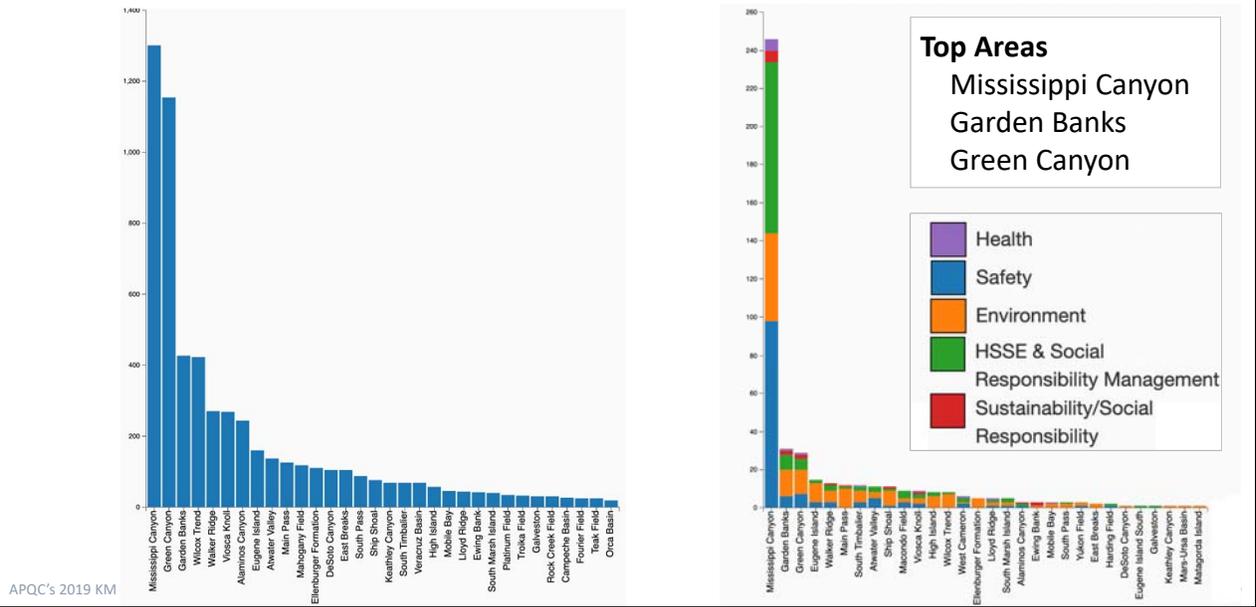
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All OnePetro content related to the Gulf of Mexico.

<https://search.spe.org/i2kweb/SPE/search?filters=store:OnePetro%40%40taxnodes:Oilfield%20Places%7CNorth%20America%7CUnited%20States%7CGulf%20of%20Mexico>

## Analytics

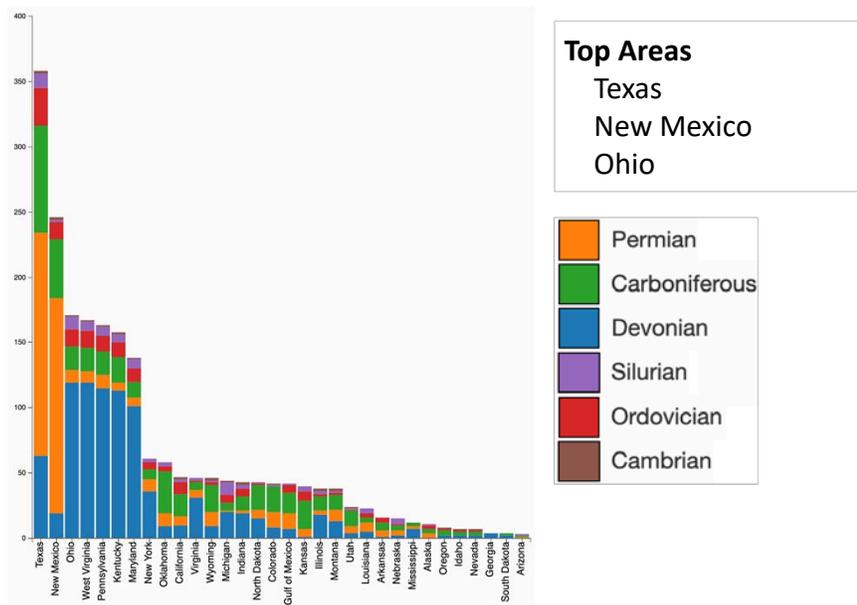


First graph: All OnePetro content related to the Gulf of Mexico.

<https://search.spe.org/i2kweb/SPE/search?filters=store:OnePetro%40%40taxnodes:Oilfield%20Places%7CNorth%20America%7CUnited%20States%7CGulf%20of%20Mexico>

Second graph. Filter by Health, Safety, Security, Environment, and Social Responsibility. Note Mississippi Canyon dominates, due to Macondo.

## Analytics



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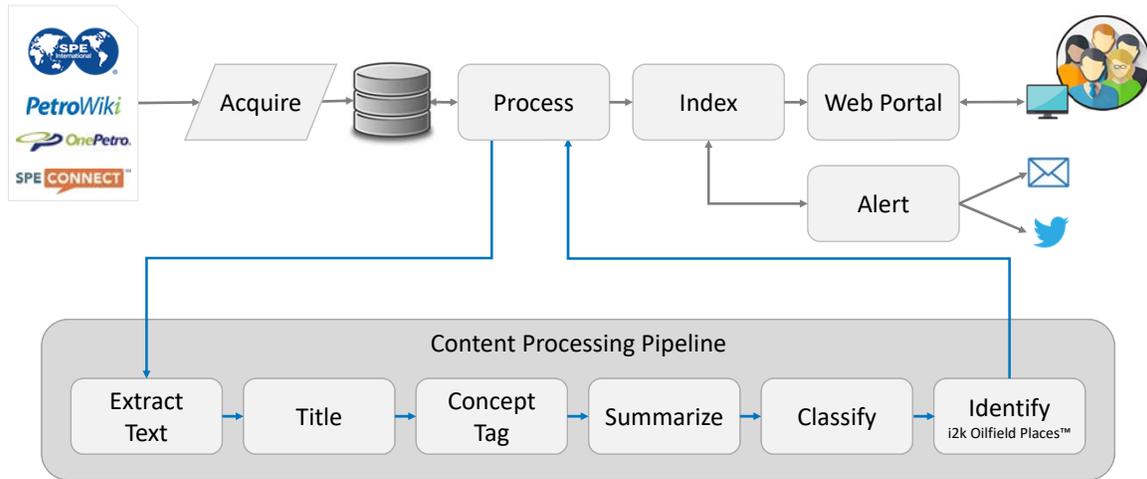
17

US States by Paleozoic era.

<https://search.spe.org/i2kweb/SPE/search?filters=store:OnePetro%40%40taxnodes:Oilfield%20Places%7CNorth%20America%7CUnited%20States>

Permian (orange) in Texas/New Mexico. Devonian (blue) – Marcellus Shale.

## SPE Research Portal: AI-powered Content Enrichment and Analysis



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Collects content from OnePetro, PetroWiki, SPE.org, and in the future, SPEConnect.

Enriches content by adding metadata:

- Titles: as opposed to filenames

- Concept tags: key words and phrases

- Summaries, authors, organizations, dates

- Classifications (SPE Disciplines, Geologic Time, ...)

- Identified entities: i2k Oilfield Places™

Indexes content to allow search by text, classification, location, author, ...

Supports simple analytics to expose trends, distributions and correlations.

## i2k Oilfield Places™

- Recognize references to basins, fields, formations, and wells
- Use NLP to distinguish place name references from people references
- Disambiguate
  - Which “Hawkins Field”?  
Texas or North Sea?
- Map search

### Hawkins field

4 months ago-PetroWiki

The field was utilized to facilitate the implementation of a gravity drainage project using cretal gas injection. Gas injection began in 1975. Two types of gases were injected. All produced gas, less fuel and shrinkage, was re injected into the gas cap areas, and beginning in 1977, 120 MMcfd of fue gas (88% N2, 12% CO2) generated at a nearby plant was also injected[3]. More recently, pure nitrogen from a cryogenic nitrogen rejection plant has been injected. In 1987, a tertiary immiscible gas-drive process was started in the East Fault Block where the aquifer had invaded a large portion of the oil column. This tertiary process has been called the double displacement process (DDP)[3][4]. In this process, the invading aquifer is being displaced to the original OWC so that the gas drive gravity drainage process can remobilize much of the waterflood residual oil all the way down to this depth. Although the DDP is working, it is working more slowly than expected because of "higher viscosity oil (note the higher viscosity oil downsp discussed above), significant targeted oil volume found in lower-quality rock (in bypassed-oil zones), and lower-than-expected oil relative permeability."



✍ gas injection, gas injection method, upstream oil & gas, (15 more...)

📄 PetroWiki

📅 October, 2018

🔗 SPE [Web Page](#)

📄 spe:BE2EB222 / 1257974

👍 Add feedback

📁 Industry: Energy > Oil & Gas > Upstream (1.00)

📁 Oilfield Places: North America > United States > Texas > East Texas Basin > Hawkins Field > Woodbine Formation (0.99)

📁 SPE:

- Reservoir Description and Dynamics > Reservoir Characterization (1.00)
- Reservoir Description and Dynamics > Improved and Enhanced Recovery > Gas-injection methods (1.00)

👍 More like this

Oilfield Place	Text
• North America > United States > Texas > East Texas Basin > Hawkins Field > Woodbine Formation	<b>p_term_exact</b> The <b>Hawkins field</b> , [1][2][3][4] located in <b>east Texas, US</b> , contained more than 1.3 billion barrels of original oil in place (OOIP) and 430 Bcf gas in the original gas cap

### Disambiguate names

Use geopolitical and other “place” clues in the original content

Weigh evidence for best match

So... if we see “Good Omen” and Hawkins in proximity, we’ll conclude Texas, because both are in the East Texas Basin, and “Good Omen” is unambiguous.

Map interface: Correlate with labelled spatial GIS features on maps

<https://search.spe.org/i2kweb/SPE/doc/petrowiki:7D41618D/>



It took approximately two weeks for the first processing of SPE content in 2015. We had a working Research Portal from that point on. Since then we have made a number of design improvements based on tester and end-user feedback (e.g., adding the dashboard).

Knowledge base improvements are made on a continuous basis.

We have also used the same platform for other knowledge bases and industries. This is a benefit of a platform approach as opposed to a one-off solution. We also benefit from synergy – what is learned in one implementation carries over to the others. There is also synergy within a single industry. There is considerable overlap between the knowledge bases for one company in an industry and the knowledge bases for a different company in the same industry.

More recently, we have added capabilities for table identification and extraction of structured data from documents.

## Results – Measures of Success

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- Google Analytics
  - Average number of non bot hits to new Research Portal is 26,055 per month.
  - Average number of regular SPE search hits is 3,797 per month.
  - Average hold time on new Research Portal after a search and number of pages read is double regular SPE search average.
- Anecdotes

Average hold time on the new research portal after a search and the number of pages read is double the normal average.

That could imply that people are finding what they want to read though we have no proof of that.

## Discussion Questions

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- Show of hands. Who has had experience implementing high-tech KM, especially AI-powered solutions?
- What solutions did you try?
- What did you learn?

This slide is for the group discussion part of the presentation.

Our responses to survey questions posed by APQC.

Track: High-Tech Solutions to Knowledge Problems

Why do so many new technologies end up disappointing the KM programs that implement them?

- They don't provide enough power/functionality that meets the needs of users.
- They demand too large a change to users' existing operating procedures / ways of working.
- They do not incorporate sufficient subject matter expertise / knowledge of users' industries/companies/jobs to be helpful.
- They cannot explain the help they provide / the decisions they take.

How can great KM programs ensure their high-tech solutions are relevant to users' needs?

- Users are directly involved in establishing the requirements, success criteria, project plans, communications plans, and system evaluation/improvement.
- Benchmark to understand what has been successful in similar companies - critical success factors, best practices and lessons learned.
- A realistic budget is agreed in advance.
- Governance of is key and technology adds another layer of complexity to the governance of KM projects. In addition to the traditional business/operational partners, the IT department is an essential partner.

What is the most surprising benefit or capability of new KM technologies that people may not be aware of?

- AI technology can read and analyze documents that go well beyond keyword analysis to assist in connecting people to the information they need. This includes identifying data and answers to questions.
- AI technology can automate the social network analysis that is key to connecting people to the people who have the experience and knowledge to answer questions.

How can KM teams separate hype from reality when evaluating new tools and applications?

- Benchmark to understand what has been successful in similar companies - critical success factors, best practices and lessons learned.
- Partner with technology providers to understand how to get the most out of existing products and adapt existing products to meet your specific needs. This is especially true for AI products since at this immature stage of the market, most products require significant customer input to produce high-quality results.

## Our Lessons Learned from Implementing AI-powered Solutions

- AI systems will enable knowledge workers to focus on high-value activities by automating the repetitive, manual tasks of finding, extracting, and normalizing data in documents
- More likely automated intelligent assistants than “set and forget”
- AI is not a DIY activity – budget for it – partner with or hire AI experts
- Domain Knowledge is critical
- Machine Learning can accelerate knowledge acquisition but is not magic
- Continuous evaluation and improvement after deployment are essential
- There is no substitute for people and processes

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**Consistency and repeatability are important for findability** – and the current manual approach is neither consistent nor repeatable.

**AI systems will free up ...** This is another way of saying that manual information governance is not sustainable. Companies have been depending on individual workers to manually tag documents so that they will be findable. And they don't do it. As a result, as one Operator VP told us: “Our information is either lost in the cloud today, or on its way to being lost.” Employees resist being burdened with metadata entry, and they don't do it very well.

So what have we learned about implementing AI-powered solutions?

**Intelligent Assistants** are more likely than completely automated solutions. So ... As with any automation, minimize extraneous changes to existing human-powered workflows. Consider explainability, handoffs, etc.

**AI is not a DIY activity ...** Suggestions: Work with suppliers that know your industry, as well as AI. Being adept at AI is not enough. Buy a subscription to a service that improves over time by leveraging the learnings across the industry.

**Domain Knowledge is critical** – one of the earliest learnings in applied AI. To think about what knowledge to incorporate into AI systems, consider how you would train a team of colleagues to do the work.

**Knowledge Acquisition Bottleneck:** Manual knowledge acquisition is hard. Machine Learning is a way around the bottleneck ... but there is no magic. We discussed this earlier, but the point bears repeating. Machine Learning is widely applied to Big Data, but behind the scenes there is a wealth of human prep work. See: Reid G. Smith and Joshua Eckroth. [Building AI Applications: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow](#). AI Magazine 38(1): 6-22, Spring 2017. From MIT Professor Howie Shrobe: “... when you look closer at successful statistical approaches, a lot of the success is in the choice of features to attend to or other similar ways of conveying human insight to the technique ...” In addition, you won't be able to explain results, you will need many training examples ... and who does the work to create the examples or can it be automated?

**Continuous evaluation and improvement after deployment.** Things won't be perfect out-of-the-box.

**Finally, there is no magic in AI, including machine learning.** Humans guidance is essential. And as in all aspects of the Oil & Gas industry, robust processes are required to guide the humans. Two examples: 1) You will be implementing or introducing new software. History has shown how tricky that can be without processes for requirements gathering, change management, testing. 2) Taxonomy design must be supported by a process that ensures the taxonomies will be useful to the users. Otherwise, they may do more harm than good.

## Acknowledgments / Thank You / Questions

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