

Outcropedia.org - An open access online database of geological outcrops of the world.

PASSCHIER, C. W. Institut für Geowissenschaften, Johannes-Gutenberg Universität, Mainz, Germany.

CHANOU, A., achanou@uwo.ca, University of Western Ontario, 1151 Richmond St., London, Ontario, Canada

Introduction

Outcropedia is a public online database of geologic outcrops of the world. The project which is hosted under the domain outcropedia.org is the initiative of a small group of structural field geologists lead by Dr. C. W. Passchier and is sponsored by the Commission on Tectonics and Structural Geology (TecTask) of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS). The project became active on the summer of 2010 and has continually expanded and updated since then. Outcropedia currently counts over 350 users and several hundreds of outcrops from all over the world. Ultimately, Outcropedia aims to become a central database for all important and diverse geologic outcrops. Such a readily available and informed library of outcrops will be easily accessible by both the scientific community and general public. Outcropedia and its overarching goal hopes to contribute and strengthen significantly arguments towards the conservation of geoheritage monuments, as well as contribute to the identification and distinction of exceptional geological outcrops from relatively unknown places. The Outcropedia team would like to invite Canadian geoscientist community to support the initiative by contributing material (i.e., photos of geologic outcrops) to the database.



Raising awareness and conserving global geoheritage



The two core objectives of a central outcrop database are to make outcrops in unfamiliar places known and raise awareness on the protection of global geoheritage sites. Complementary to each other both these objectives can be achieved through Outcropedia. Geologists, educators and Geo-enthusiasts can access outcrops, their geographic locations, description and basic background information. As a result, Outcropedia serves as a valuable teaching, research and outreach resource. Virtual and actual field-trips of academic, educational or even recreational content can be planned using Outcropedia's easily and freely accessible database. In addition, scientifically unique, geo-historically important or just beautiful outcrops are regularly threatened by building activity, irresponsible geo-tourism, overzealous sampling, and other activities. Raising awareness within the geosciences community, as well as the general public will prevent the destruction of important geologic monuments around the world.

WWW. OUTCROPEDIA.ORG

1. Freely and easily accessible database of geologic outcrops.

2. Open access database where anyone can upload and pin outcrops on the map.

3. Raise public awareness on geoheritage conservation issues.

4. Plan virtual and/or actual fieldtrips.

5. Promote interesting and/or beautiful outcrops from unknown areas.

6. Interact with other users through the blog and social media.

Photo panels A-E. We invite you to visit Outcropedia.org and outcropedia-blog.com to read more about these outcrops! Simply visit the Outcropedia map page and enter the appropriate "photoID" in the search bar.

A - Marly-Calcareous deposits, photo by Marzorati S. PhotoID785

B - Sheath folds, photo by Bons P.. PhotoID116

C - Rio de las Peñas thrust, photo by Passchier C.W. PhotoID105

D - Boudinaged dolerite dykes, photo by Passchier C.W. PhotoID561

E - Curtain folds from Outcropedia-blog.com titled "Cadaques, Cap de Creus, Spain". Post by Passchier C.W.

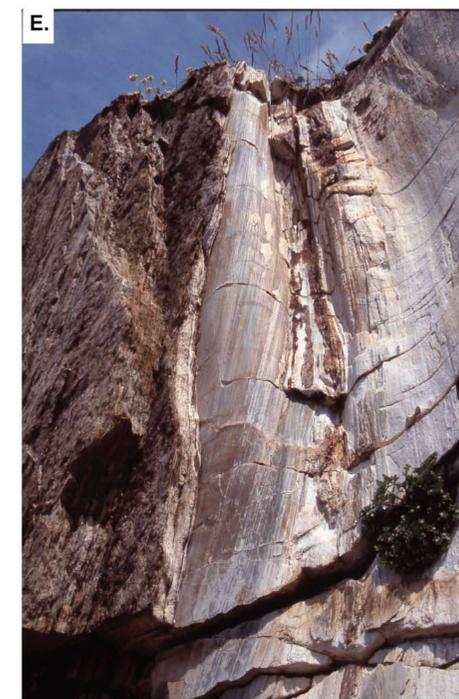
Outcropedia - Main Website and Map



Figure 1: General layout of the Outcropedia map showing geographic position (pins) and number of outcrops on each area. A simple magnification refines both position and number.

Outcropedia includes an integrated global Google map (Figure 1) that allows users to upload outcrops either directly by clicking on the map or by using the outcrop's coordinates. Along with the outcrop photo the user can add a short description and references (if necessary) relating to the submitted geologic site. Outcrops appear on the map by location although the database is also searchable by the use of keywords (e.g., types of structure). In addition, each outcrop acquires a photoID number that is also searchable in the search bar of the main map page. Outcropedia users who wish to submit photos of outcrops will have to complete a quick and free registration in order to start posting their photos. Outcrops currently need to be checked by at least one Outcropedia administrative member in order to prevent inappropriate material from being added.

Outcropedia - social media and blogosphere



In an attempt to create an interactive and vibrant community around the project as of last year Outcropedia maintains a Facebook page, as well as a blog. Articles and posts on both can be posted by all Outcropedia users interested.

Outcropedia is present on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/Outcropedia

And on the blogosphere at:

<http://outcropedia-blog.com>

Finally, we would like to invite Canadian geoscientists to contribute and use this unlimited resource in order to document, protect as well as share the exceptionally rich geological heritage within Canada and globally.