ABSTRACT

The objectives of the 1992-93 contract period are to continue maintenance and updating of the Illinois Basin Coal Sample program database, and to disseminate the information to researchers who use IBCSP coal samples as well as to those who are interested in Illinois Basin coals. All abstracts of the final reports to ICCI, formerly CRSC, have been added to the database using an improved version of a text relational database program. Rapid retrieval of the bibliography can now be achieved using research areas, authors, dates or coal samples used. Request forms for the bibliography and coal samples as well as their chemical and physical properties; the material safety data sheet for coal (MSDS), and general instruction of how to prepare representative samples are being distributed to coal researchers who have requested for coal. Thus far, twenty four requestors have received general chemical and physical properties of the coal requested by means of computer diskettes. One investigator requested for bibliography of all research which were performed on one coal.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In co-operation with DENR through ICCI, formerly known as CRSC, the Illinois State Geological Survey established the Illinois Basin Coal Sample Program (IBCSP) in 1983. Through this program, it is possible for the coal investigators to acquire a multi-pound quantity of a chemically and physically uniformed Illinois Basin coals. Since the inception of the IBCSP program, twelve coals have been made available to research programs being partially funded by the ICCI.

The Illinois Basin Coal Bibliographical program was initiated by the ISGS and CRSC in 1987. The information system was first available to researchers via direct communication with the University of Illinois computer. However, the program was not well received by the research community. A direct approach was then pursued. All database which resided at the University of Illinois computer was down-loaded to the ISGS, Minerals Engineering section's PC. Since the beginning of this project, twenty six coal researchers have received either chemical and physical properties of IBCSP coals, or their bibliography, or both, on computer diskettes and/or hard copies. An instruction of how to prepare representative sample of coal for chemical analyses and a general material safety data sheet (MSDS), are also included on the same diskettes.
OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this project are:

1. To maintain and update the bibliography of research performed on the IBCSP coal samples.
2. To distribute the bibliography from the database, free of charge, as well as the chemical and physical properties of each IBCSP coal, by means of computer diskettes, to researchers who request for coal sample(s).
INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Illinois State Geological Survey, in co-operation with DENR through CRSC, established the Illinois Coal Basin Sample Program (IBCSP) in 1983. The objective of this effort is to make available uniform multi-pound quantities of Illinois Basin coals to CRSC participating investigators as well as to International coal researchers who are interested in Illinois Basin coals. Since then, most if not all, research programs funded through the CRSC have been encouraged to include coal samples from the IBCSP in their investigations. Until now, eleven coals have been made available and extensively used in various areas of research since the inception of the program. To further promote the utilization of Illinois coals by researchers, the information system for Illinois Coal Program was initiated in 1987 by ISGS and CRSC. Direct communication and data retrieval via on-line computer, free of charge to users, was developed. The information system was not, however, well received by the research community as expected. Direct requests for the bibliography from coal researchers to ISGS are being fulfilled either by hard copies or computer diskettes.