

Geotechnical Information Unit

Since 1983, the Geotechnical Information Unit (GIU) has been an important source of geotechnical information for the public including authorized persons, registered structural engineers and their consultants. It is the largest and most comprehensive collection of site-specific geotechnical data in the Territory. It is operated by the Geotechnical Engineering Office and is housed within the Civil Engineering Library on the First Lower Ground Floor of the Civil Engineering Building in Homantin, between 9:00 - 12:30 and 14:00 - 16:15 on Mondays to Fridays (except public holidays).

2. The GIU holds the following material:
 - (a) ground investigation reports including geophysical survey reports;
 - (b) reports on laboratory testing of soils and rocks;
 - (c) a card index of cut slopes, fill slopes and retaining wall;
 - (d) landslip record cards;
 - (e) piezometric monitoring data; and
 - (f) rain gauge records.

In particular, most of the data on geology, hydrology and soil properties collected in the course of the Mid-levels Study between 1979 and 1981 are available in the GIU.

3. Retrieval of ground investigation information and laboratory test reports is accomplished using the GIU Cell Referencing System. This is based on an array of numbered cells superimposed on 1:5 000 scale survey sheets for the urban areas and 1:20 000 scale sheets for the remainder of the Territory.

4. GIU users can also consult the wide range of geotechnical literature held in the Civil Engineering Library. This includes:

- (a) a collection of geotechnical and geological textbooks, reports, journals and periodicals, including reference books on ground investigation, testing and engineering standards; and

/(b) a

- (b) a comprehensive collection of published papers on Hong Kong geology and geotechnical engineering.

These materials are referenced by class (type) of publication and by subject matter. Retrieval is now assisted by a computerized catalogue that allows keyword searching by title or author.

5. Data from the GIU may be examined in the reading area but is not to be taken out of the library. There are photocopying facilities available at a nominal charge.

6. The GIU has a set of plans showing the locations of registerable slopes and retaining walls contained in the Catalogue of Slopes prepared by the Consultant to Government in 1977/78 and subsequently updated by the Survey Division of the Civil Engineering Department. There are also data sheets and photographs. General enquiries on the GIU should be directed to the librarian who can be contacted by telephoning 2762 5147.

7. Those who wish to obtain information from the Catalogue should fill in an application form available from District Offices and the GIU and preliminary information will be sent to the enquirer in ten days.

(Helen C P Lai YU)
Building Authority

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