

With a Little Help from My Friends

The Carbonate Network is an international network for carbonate researchers. It aims to be a scientific forum where questions and problems related to carbonates can be freely exchanged on the internet.



Photo: Private
 Founder and editor of the website www.carbonet.net. Bjarne Rafaelsen, in a geological environment where he belongs: The Bahamas, with active carbonate deposition.

Geoscientists from all geological disciplines are invited to participate in the Carbonate Network www.carbonet.net.

In one of the sections on this site you will find the *Carbonet Forum*. Here you can post questions, messages, ideas, new knowledge, and then get response from your friends in the network. If your friends are slow to respond, however, there are moderators that can assist you.

A Carbonate Network e-mail containing recent carbonate related information is submitted to all members quarterly.

"The overall scope of this internet-based international network, is to stimulate an

increased exchange of knowledge between carbonate researchers from different geological institutions," says Bjarne Rafaelsen, petroleum geologist with StatoilHydro in Harstad, Norway.

"It is also meant to be a forum where questions and problems related to carbonates can be raised and discussed, and where knowledge, methods, references and links, as well as news about conferences, courses and field trips can be exchanged," adds Rafaelsen, founder and editor of the website.

In addition, if you have a need, you can get an overview of the existing carbonate specialists and their fields of expertise. "I

consider this as one of the key functions of the network," the geologist says.

The Carbonate Network was formed in September 2003 in order to facilitate and stimulate increased exchange of knowledge and experience between people working with carbonates. The web-page was officially opened in March 2004. Up to now, 150 students, consultants, oil and service company representatives, as well as university professors from all over the world are members.

You will also find a comprehensive section with links to e-learning journals, geological departments at key universities, courses, journals and other items of interest to the carbonate geologist. Although not all sections are updated regularly, the latest information can be found at the "Upcoming events" page.

"The Carbonate Network is a free and informal network for carbonate geologists from academia and industry. It is run on a purely voluntary, unfunded basis and includes researchers with different geological background (e.g. geophysics, geochemistry), thus providing a wide scientific platform."

"The "heart" of the network is the discussion forum ("carbonet forum"). Here members can join in discussions, make contacts across disciplines and institutions or comment on recent developments on various topics, get feedback from each other or post relevant information (methods, references, links, conferences, job opportunities, etc)," says Bjarne Rafaelsen.

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GEO ExPro
GEOSCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EXPLAINED

DON'T MISS ISSUE NO.4

Ad. Deadline:
 August 22.

Publication Date:
 September 8.

Editorial Focus:

- Hot Topic: Brazil
- West Africa
- Reservoir Management
- Reservoir Geophysics

Additional Distribution at:
SPE Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition
 Denver, USA,
 September 21-24

AAPG International Conference and Exhibition
 Cape Town, South Africa
 October 26-29

www.geoexpro.com