**SMEAR SLIDES MADE EASIER BY A NEW ONLINE RESOURCE: TMI (TOOL FOR MICROSCOPIC IDENTIFICATION)**

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ABSTRACT

LacCore announces the development of a new tool as web-based tool for the identification of sedimentary components in smear slides. The tool is designed to facilitate identification for the non-specialist user. A new online approach using mass-distributed image sets and web-based search/identification algorithms allows students and researchers to learn under the instructions of an experienced tutor. 

SMEAR SLIDE RESEARCH PAGE: TMI.TMI is a web-based tool for microscopic identification of sedimentary components in smear slides. The tool provides an online guide to microscopic identification of sedimentary components, with a focus on rapid identification of key elements such as chlorite and quartz.

**Use in research**

Smeared slides are virtually nondestructive, using only a tiny amount of sediment (~0.01g). Preparation is easy and low tech, requiring only a hotplate and a fluorescent black light/UV lamp. In a pinch, a windshield wiper can substitute for both. 

Smeared slide analysis greatly improves understanding of the depositional environment. Improved sediment description facilitates communication between researchers and data in interoperability, allowing curated core material to be used more effectively.

**Use in education**

Helps students to ask and understand: What is made of this? Introduces younger students to the core material. Integrates geology, biology, chemistry. 

**Uses, reinforces, and expands optical microscopy knowledge**

Can use images if microscopes are not available in the classroom.

**Funded by a University of Minnesota Interdisciplinary Informatics Seed Grant**

With additional support from the Minnesota Supercomputer Institute, and from NSF to LacCore, the National Lacustrine Core Facility. In memory of Kerry.