



Online Platform for Groundwater Knowledge

The GW-Project is administered at the University of Guelph, ON, Canada.

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The Groundwater Project: Background Information

The Groundwater Project (**GW-Project**), a non-profit organization, registered in Canada, is committed to contribute to advancement in education by creating and making available online free high-quality groundwater educational material for all. The GW-Project is led by Dr. John Cherry, recipient of the 2020 Stockholm Water Prize, and managed by an 11-member international Steering Committee and a larger and globally diverse Advisory Committee.

The UN Secretary-General's message on World Water Day (March 22, 2019) stated that *2.1 billion people live without safe water, and that growing demands, coupled with poor management, have increased water stress in many parts of the world. Climate change is adding dramatically to the pressure, and by 2030, an estimated 700 million people worldwide could be displaced by intense water scarcity.* The global water crisis is urgent and requires innovation to identify, prioritize, and accelerate global solutions. **The focus must include groundwater because it makes up 99% of the Earth's liquid freshwater.**

Vision - The Groundwater Project will be the source that people throughout the world will rely on for groundwater education and how it relates to other waters and societal needs and issues.

Purpose - To create synthesized knowledge about 'all things groundwater' for global distribution and raise groundwater consciousness globally.

Mission - The Groundwater Project will provide accessible, engaging, high-quality, educational materials, free-of-charge online in many languages, to all who want to learn about groundwater, and how groundwater relates to and sustains ecological systems and humanity.

The GW-Project's mission is innovative in that it encompasses an entire realm of environmental science (**all things groundwater**) documented by volunteer experts from around the globe in online **books** aimed at education for readership at all levels and all global circumstances to serve humanity and our Planet's ecology.

Key to the mission of the GW-Project is to foster rapid **knowledge dissemination and methods** to universities everywhere including those in developing countries so that those with inadequate teaching resources for comprehensive groundwater education can direct students to synthesized knowledge at a high global standard. Emphasis is on overcoming inadequacy in knowledge and technical resources for improved access to safe drinking water in both remote rural areas and the large urban centers where there is water poverty and for understanding and avoidance of contamination.

The GW-Project publishes books in **four categories and 23 domains**: (1) **Children's Books** - dedicated to all sorts of groundwater information for children; (2) **Introductory Books** - cover a wide



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range of groundwater topics, written for a broad audience; (3) **Overview Books** - comprehensive books which cover groundwater topics in a larger context in a descriptive manner (mostly without equations); and (4) **Specialized Books** – primarily tailored towards groundwater education at the university level and continuing education for groundwater professionals.

Each Domain emphasizes one or more topic areas or interfaces with another discipline, and each Domain and Topic will have one or two designated leaders responsible for coordination of the books (from creation to production). Each book is a stand-alone publication (with ISBN number), and all books will ultimately be available in different languages. The GW-Project will also publish supporting materials by directly providing, or linking to, public domain software for various groundwater applications supporting the educational process.

The GW-Project is volunteer-based but has required funds for administrative support and travel for occasional meetings to seek out and communicate with participants. Since its inception in 2017, the GW-Project has successfully created a comprehensive list of hundreds of books within carefully selected topic areas and domains, encompassing nearly the entire scope of groundwater.

The volunteer group is growing in number, but already nearly 300 well-recognized scientists and practitioners (including retirees) from around the world have volunteered as authors and reviewers. These contributors are associated with over 200 organizations worldwide. The GW-Project has developed a comprehensive educational philosophy and methodology for the implementation of the project and has a formalized, rigorous, peer-review process for all materials issued by the GW-Project.

The GW-Project encourages participation from a wide variety of stakeholders. In addition to writing one or more major books, people can participate by writing or sharing short books, monographs, open-source software, reports, course notes, stand-alone worked problem sets, old (decades ago) publications, and educational videos.

The GW-Project has been extremely fortunate to have participation of scientists (current and emeritus) from government organizations such as geological surveys, who have committed to authoring and/or co-authoring books for the project. This strong-showing of early participants has been crucial to the GW-Project and shows that the GW-Project is aligned with many other organizations around the globe.

The GW-Project engages with its stakeholders through virtual media outlets (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram) in addition to its website (<https://gw-project.org>) which will be the **GW-Project Platform** where all books and educational materials are published and made available to the world. The GW-Project **registration list**, growing rapidly, now with over 2200 email addresses from over 120 countries is a testimony that the GW-Project is gaining world recognition across sectors.

A **major milestone** occurred on August 21, 2020, with the publication of the first book: “**Groundwater in Our Water Cycle**” by Dr. Eileen Poeter and colleagues, along with two other books; a dozen more books are scheduled for publishing in 2020 and many more in 2021 and beyond.

Further details about the GW-Project are in the *Vision and Progress Report*. Please contact us for any questions or further information on ways to get involved.



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