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# A lunar geosciences database – the Earth's MapPlace analog

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Lunar science is now the focus of space missions planned by China, Europe, India, Russia and USA in preparation for a human return to the Moon around 2020. A series of new orbital, lander and rover space vehicles are scheduled to remote sense and sample the lunar surface in preparation for the human return. These missions will build upon the scientific databases created by prior missions undertaken by USA, Russia and Europe and they will utilize advanced technology in acquiring vast amounts of high resolution scientific data. This paper proposes the development of a lunar geosciences database similar to the British Columbia MapPlace that has recently been ranked by the international mining community as the best geological database in the world. MapPlace was developed by the British Columbia Geological Survey as an internet-based GIS that integrates geographical, geological, geophysical, geochemical, imagery and land tenure data as an aid to mineral exploration. It has enjoyed wide success in delivering a very large array of geosciences data via the internet to industry, government and academia. The authors recommend the development of a lunar geosciences database similar to MapPlace using state-of-the-art information management technology.