



## Putting our heads together: Physprops.net

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In the natural environment, the physical properties of minerals, rocks and fluids govern the behaviour of the Earth. Not only do these properties play a pivotal role in understanding Geology, they are also important in many other disciplines, ranging from space science to food processing, and medicine to materials engineering. To cross discipline boundaries and unite professionals, companies, researchers, teachers and students interested in physical properties the University of Leicester's Department of Geology is developing the **Physical Properties Network**. Advancement of knowledge is often hindered by a lack of communication between different complimentary disciplines, and a lot of time can be wasted pondering problems, which have already been solved elsewhere. An example of the importance of knowledge transfer between disciplines includes the use of NMR in physical properties characterization on cores and in boreholes, originally a medical imaging technique, and now a routine measurement for porosity determination. Through newsletters, conferences, seminars, and the Internet interface [www.physprops.net](http://www.physprops.net), the Physical Properties Network, initially funded by NERC, will act as a forum, a communications link and an information resource to exchange, discuss and spark ideas. Membership is free, and open to all. By working together we can advance our knowledge of physical properties, and attract future generations of budding scientists into the exciting world of physical properties.