

Increasing the Odds of Exploration Success:

Easier discovery of scientific maps and play analogs for risk assessments can make an enormous difference

FEATURED USER:

Jonathan Church

Exploration Geologist at OMV
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*“Additional information may not increase hydrocarbon volumes, but its **associated risk will be more reliable**. Geofacets is an efficient tool for **finding play analogs** that ultimately help **decrease exploration risk**. An accurate review of potential risk vs. volume can save the company money.”*

SITUATION OVERVIEW:

Knowing what’s worked before can be the best de-risking strategy

Jonathan Church is an Exploration Geologist from OMV Exploration & Production GmbH, an integrated, international oil and gas company based in Austria. As part of his role, Jonathan works in the Middle East and Caspian exploration group, primarily on new ventures that require both long-term regional studies as well as time-constrained opportunity evaluations.

Jonathan describes exploration as always having to deal with a lot of unknowns, making extra scientific knowledge a significant help in lowering the risk factors involved with a potential plays. In peer review sessions, for example, the potential play is examined closely, with scientific research playing a huge part in confirming key elements such as the maturity of the source rock, structural characteristics, and relevant propensities in the sub-surface.

In particular, play analogs are critical for reviewing risks because they demonstrate that relatively novel ideas for potential plays may have already worked elsewhere in the world. However, finding play analogs can be a wild goose chase and a cumbersome process. It is not easy to find occurrences from different parts of the world, which closely match the proposed ideas for the current play.

HOW GEOFACETS HELPS:

Discovering play analogs and reliable scientific backup for potential plays

Within minutes, Geofacets uncovers maps and related scientific information that not only provide essential context such as geologic characteristics, but also point to play analogs. Geofacets offers an extensive database of over 375,000 maps, with each map tagged and findable using geo-based facets and keywords pulled from the map’s related information (e.g. abstracts and captions). Using Geofacets therefore enables geoscientists like Jonathan to find scientific maps and information that can be cited for risk assessments and even used for illustrating analogous scenarios.

As a result, Jonathan can provide reliable scientific backup to support the potential success of his proposed plays for review sessions with peers and management teams—ultimately facilitating decreased risk in his company’s decisions regarding new areas of exploration.

