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BOOK REVIEW

REYBOLD, W. U., PETERSEN, G. W. (ed.): SOIL SURVEY TECHNIQUES – SSSA Special Publication Number 20. – Soil Science Society of America, Inc., Madison, Wisconsin 1987. US \$ 15.00 + 0.75 outside USA.

The book consists of eight independent chapters the purpose of which is to inform soil scientists about new techniques improving the efficiency of their work. Some chapters (1, 7, and 8) analyse the possibility of the remote sensing data application – both large-scale aerial photography and Landsat multispectral data. For interpretation purposes they are combined with different variations of a digital elevation model based on a 30 m square grid. An application of advanced image processing methods based on exploration of specialized microcomputers is typical for the evaluation of the data mentioned above. Because of technical reasons no colour computer outputs are presented and some black-and-white ones are not of good quality. An example of a ground-penetrating radar application (chapter 2) belongs to this group, too. This ground geophysical method is capable of charting the profiles up to a depth of five meters according to the resistivity of soil.

The remaining chapters deal with the improvement of classical soil survey. Three of them (3, 4, and 5) demonstrate the possibility of standard microcomputer application in cataloguing and description of soil profiles. A specialized software as an automated modular text writing system and examples of database systems are demonstrated there. The sixth chapter applies classical but sophisticated classification of soil properties and their seasonal changes.

It is a pity that all chapters are based on papers presented at the Symposium “Soil Survey Techniques” held in 1985. More than 5 years delay is too long for the application of microcomputers. On the other hand, all that is described in this book could be applied nowadays in our conditions without principal problems.