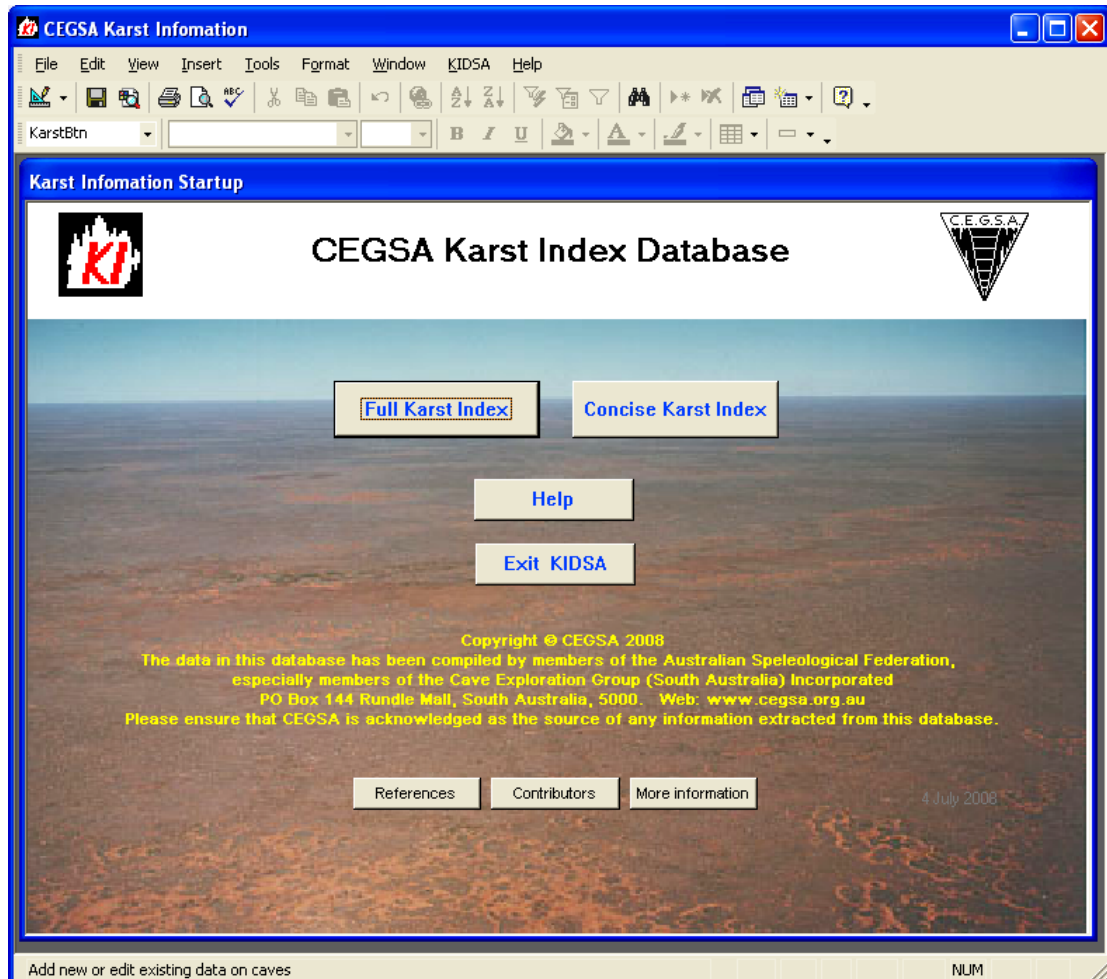


Summary of the Karst Index Database (KIDSA) of the Cave Exploration Group (South Australia)

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The ASF has a Karst Index Database (the KID) that is designed to be online and available to everyone – so why did CEGSA create its own version?



Because KIDSA:

- Was initiated before there was an electronic ASF KID. The karst feature documentation handled by CEGSA had become too large to handle manually. Storing data away was not the problem – it was making use of it. There was also the problem of making backup copies – this is much cheaper, easier, and quicker to do in electronic format. Also, electronic copies can be distributed and used in research without having to read each piece of paper.
- Matches the way that CEGSA handles karst data – an expanded version of the ASF standard. CEGSA has its own method of documenting karst features which does not quite correspond with the ASF's scheme. The main reason for this is that not all surface features are given their own code as per the ASF. In SA we have many occurrences of shallow chambers or slots with multiple small entrances. The same as often occurs in tower karst. Other States appear to have handled this problem by ignoring it (as we once did). We number the major entrance as per the ASF then allocate a "feature identifier" or FID to each surface feature. The FID is noted as a "dot" after the code: eg 5U-1.1 (the main one being ".1" and implied if absent)
- Evolves rapidly to suit our needs. For instance adding satellite images.

- Has a user interface that better suits the way that we use our karst data. KIDSA is organized to extract data not just by karst code but by other attributes. For instance, if it lies close to a specified location or other feature. The interface allows for retrieval of the actual data as well as an index to it.
- Has been expanded to hold more data types while eliminating those we do not use. South Australian karst will never need some data descriptions that are needed for other types of karst – these fields have been removed rather than always have them blank and occupying valuable screen space. However, we have added fields to handle the extra information that we require, such as for our photographs.
- Is evolving to hold the actual data – a Karst Database. Instead of just telling you where to get the data you want (a KID), we are adding the actual data into the database. For instance, instead of listing all available photographs, the photos can be displayed. The same goes for cave maps.
- Is designed for field use whereas the KID is designed for home use. Access to the data is useful if doing research, including planning a caving trip. But what if you are out on a trip and discover an unexpected karst feature? Because KIDSA can be taken with you, all that's needed is to enter the location and it will list all known features in your vicinity from which you can determine if it is known and the access and gear requirements.
- Can be installed on a PC whereas KID is only available via the internet.
- Has been seamlessly interfaced with other software such as Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and Graphical Information Systems (GIS). KIDSA can upload locations into your GPS together with pertinent information such as accuracy of location and feature type.

As an example screen, clicking on “**Full Karst Index**” and selecting region “N” gives:

The screenshot shows the CEGSA Karst Index software interface. The window title is "Karst". The main header is "CEGSA Karst Index" with "Copyright © CEGSA 2008". Below the header, there are input fields for "Select or add a karst number (eg N-83), press ENTER." and "Find by name". A dropdown menu shows "N" selected. Below this, there's a section for "N - 1 Warbla Cave" with "Feature Type Doline Cave". The interface is divided into several panels. On the left, there's a "State SA" dropdown and a "transfer karst data" button. Below that are "status good" and "origin karst" dropdowns, and "Display Map" and "Maps" buttons. In the center, there's a table with columns "FID" and "AlternateNo". The table contains one row with "1" in FID and "QW-92" in AlternateNo. Below the table is a "General description for this feature" section with text about a 50m diam doline. At the bottom left is "General location information" with text about the location. On the right, there's a list of features associated with the karst number, including "Location, Coordinates & Elevations", "Bearings & access Route", "Photo & Tag details", "Satellite Images", "Surveys and Maps of cave or feature", "Cave Name & Reports", "Flora, Fauna, and Paleontology", "Pitches & Difficulties", "Decoration & Damage", and "Archaeology & Importance/Management". At the bottom right, there are buttons for "View Report for this Karst Feature", "Range Search, Plot or GPS xler", "Save", "Help", and "Close Form".

Specific data topics for the feature can be accessed by selecting something on the right-hand side tagged with a "*". No * means no data has been recorded in KIDSA (the tagging is automated).