As of July 2018, the Geological Surveys Database replaces the Critical Issues Research Database, providing an improved portal for decision makers and others to locate and comprehensively search state geological survey publications and U.S. Geological Survey factsheets.

The Geological Surveys Database provides full-text searching of publications meaning that users can not only search metadata fields (i.e., title, author, notes, etc.), but also search against the entire text of the publications in the database in order to find the information they are seeking. The database also features interactive geographic searching of publications that have geographic coordinates, browsing of publications, faceted searching, and more.

Record display views include robust metadata that is based on a combination of GeoRef metadata that is supplemented with additional metadata from the state geological surveys and U.S. Geological Survey, links to state geological survey websites, suggestions for similar items, and a map display of associated geographic metadata coordinates.

The Geological Surveys Database also provides a wide array of user features including the ability to export citations, create user accounts to save queries, citations and create curated lists, add comments and custom tags to records in the database, and more.

The Geological Surveys Database is a collaborative effort between the American Geosciences Institute and U.S. state geological surveys to help increase the discoverability and use of geological survey publications by decision makers as they address issues at the intersection of the geosciences and society.