

**Earth Resources Satellite
Data Applications Series**

The Landsat Story

Module U-2 January 1980



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Preface

With the increasing interest in Landsat data by the private and public sectors, the availability of pertinent information for potential users is of vital concern. Introduction of the Earth Resources Satellite Data Applications Series of publications is directed toward bridging that gap which often arises between fast-paced technology development and the availability of practical results to the user community. This series of publications is intended to be responsive to needs of the public and private sectors for practical guidance to the disciplinary, functional, and educational uses of Earth Resources Satellite data.

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Introduction

In 1966, NASA formalized plans for an Earth Resources Survey Program which was intended to increase the practical benefits of space research by developing satellites devoted specifically to surveys of the Earth's resources. In July, 1972, the first Earth Resources Technology Satellite, ERTS 1, (later renamed "Landsat 1") began to acquire images of the Earth's surface. Since then, two more Landsats have been launched, and the first member of this satellite series has been deactivated. At present, plans are being made to launch a fourth Landsat which will acquire data and foster products of a more operational nature than provided by its predecessors.

A real value of Earth resources satellite data for both the public and private sectors lies in the availability of data products to all users at reasonable cost. However, the availability of data alone does not promote its effective use. NASA is producing a series of user assistance publications as an aid for those who must decide if, how, and when to use Earth resources satellite data and for those who will actually analyze and utilize the data. *The Landsat Story* is one of these publications; others are described in the *Guide to Publications* (Module U-1) of this series.

The intent of *The Landsat Story* is to provide an introductory, yet comprehensive review of the various Landsat program elements which are relevant to user participation. It also identifies sources for additional information and assistance where potential users may acquire more details and further guidance in using Landsat data.

