

Publishing and Citing Ocean Data

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Introduction

Data collected in the ocean sciences, whether generated from research or operational observations, are not always deposited in national or international repositories or data centers in a format that makes them retrievable and reusable. Often, there are insufficient incentives for data submission, resulting in low submission rates and even when submitted, a bare minimum of metadata. The problem is, in part, cultural. Publications of data do not carry the same weight in deciding promotion and tenure as papers that include analyses of the data. Promotion criteria do not take into account the innovation and complexity of data acquisition in challenging environments.

The advent of publisher and funding agency mandates to make data accessible is a requirement that is forcing scientists to make their data available. However, the ability to cite the data accurately and to make re-use easier, is advantageous to researchers. Scientists are now becoming aware that Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) offer the means to easily cite their datasets and gain citation metrics.

Data Publication

The Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR), the Marine Biological Laboratory/Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (MBLWHOI) Library, and the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission have assembled a team of librarians, data managers, and scientists who are collaborating to identify best practices for tracking data provenance and clearly attributing credit to data collectors/providers.

A key element in the data publication process is the assignment of persistent identifiers to enable access to data sets and accurate data citation. The MBLWHOI Library can assign a DOI to appropriate datasets deposited in the Institutional Repository (IR) Woods Hole Open Access Server (WHOAS) by scientists from the participating institutions. The DOI is ideally assigned before submission of the article in which the data are used, so the DOI can be included in the published paper and readers can link directly to the dataset. However, DOIs are also being assigned to datasets that support papers that have already been published. WHOAS metadata records link the article to the datasets and the datasets to the article.

Data Associated with an Article

1 Deposit Data and Metadata

2 DOI Assigned

3 Dataset can be cited

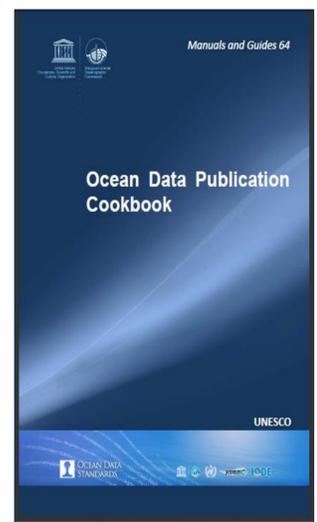
Data Held by Data Centers

The Published Data Library (PDL) was recently implemented by the British Oceanographic Data Centre. It provides snapshots of specially chosen datasets that are archived using rigorous version management. The publication process exposes a fixed copy of an object and then manages that copy in such a way that it may be located and referred to over an indefinite period of time. Using metadata standards adopted across NERC's Environmental Data Centres, the repository assigns DOIs obtained from the British Library/DataCite to appropriate datasets.

Results

The project team has compiled a Cookbook (available online as IOC Manuals and Guides No. 64) to enable other data centers and libraries to institute these services. Feedback from those who use the Cookbook, will help determine the weaknesses and strengths of the document, and the online version will be updated as more experience is gained.

WHOAS is now included in the Thomson Reuters Data Citation Index, providing citation metrics and credit for the creation of research data.



iode.org/mg64

Related Websites

Woods Hole Open Access Server <https://darchive.mblwhoilibrary.org/>
Biological and Chemical Oceanography Data Management Office <http://www.bco-dmo.org/>
BODC Published Data Library https://www.bodc.ac.uk/data/published_data_library/
Information about the project, including reports from project meetings, can be found at <http://www.iode.org/datapublishing>.

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