2019 IODE Update: AIUs, ODISCat, OceanDocs

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Abstract
This presentation gives an overview of current IODE projects that intersect with IAMSLIC interests. This includes an update on the Associated Data Units program for eligible Library and Information Centers.

Keywords: International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE), Associated Data Unit (AIU), ODISCat, Ocean Best Practices.

Introduction
IAMSLIC and the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO have long maintained a relationship that is mutually beneficial. In this update, we hope to encourage IAMSLIC members to participate in IODE projects and highlight IODE resources that can benefit IAMSLIC members.

Background
IAMSLIC and IODE maintained a joint Group of Expert in Marine Information Management (GE-MIM) through 2019. This group was within the IODE organizational framework that included Groups of Experts on a variety of areas important to the organization. GE-MIM provided an opportunity for Librarians and Marine Information Managers to share their expertise with the Oceanographic Data Community, including metadata standards, preservation and open access policies. However, at IODE XXIV, it was decided to transform the Groups of Experts structure to a project-based model. While the formal abolishment of GE-MIM would not take place until February 2019 at IODE XXV (with the agreement of IAMSLIC), a transitional committee made up of members appointed by IAMSLIC and IODE (Joint IAMSLIC/IODE Group of Experts on Marine Information Management (IAMSLIC/IODE GE-MIM) in a

[transitional capacity](#)) referred to as GE-MIM in Transition, met in February 2017 to consider a way forward. This group consisted of the following members:

- o Sally Taylor, Woodward Library, University of British Columbia, Canada
- o Saida Messaoudi, Institut National des Sciences et Technologies de la Mer, Tunisia
- o Heike Lust, Vlaams Instituut voor de Zee, Belgium
- o Wenjing Dong, National Marine Data and Information Service, China
- o Aida Sogaray, Dirección Nacional de Recursos Acuáticos, Uruguay
- o Jennifer Walton (Chair), MBLWHOI Library, Marine Biological Laboratory, USA

A main activity of the GE-MIM in Transition was to introduce a new IODE structural element - formation of Associate Information Units (AIU) as a means for Library and Information Centers to participate in IODE projects on an equal footing with Associated Data Units (ADU) (https://www.iode.org/index.php?option=com_oe&task=viewDocumentRecord&docID=21424)

Implementation of the AIU Application Process
The GE-MIM in Transition group laid out a framework for the AIU application process and functioned as the review committee through July 2019. The application form (https://www.iode.org/index.php?option=com_oe&task=viewDocumentRecord&docID=20292) was designed to allow an applicant to highlight how they could support IODE projects.

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It was deemed essential that a library have an online presence and make their holdings available online either through their own catalog or a group catalog. It was also important that the institution support the library or information center with a professional position and that they participate in professional organizations or network. In addition, the applicant is asked to include information about their participation with Open Access repositories, research data management support, digitization, institutional publishing, IODE MIM activities, other consortial or membership organization activities and user instruction. The application also asks about institution support such as support for that person to participate in professional meetings and if there is an IT developer on staff. The group felt that this evaluation was critical to ensure that the AIUs were in a strong position to fully participate in IODE activities as needed or desired.

The benefits for the AIUs were recognized as:

- Being part of an international marine data and information vision.
- Influencing the future digital direction of marine information.
- Participating in innovative projects, meetings, training courses, workshops.
- Sharing and gaining experience in new technology applications.
- Being part of a professional network of global marine information managers.

The GE-MIM in Transition group reviewed the application. The aim of the group was to have a response to the applicant as quickly as possible; however, on occasion it was month taking into account professional obligations and holidays. The group scored the application based on an agreed rubric agreed by the GE-MIM group. Once the group had come to a decision it was sent to Peter PISSIERSSENS Head, IOC Project Office for IODE. The group agreed that members would recuse themselves from the consideration of their own institution.

Experience of Applicants
Several successful AIU applicants were asked to share why they chose to apply. The answers included:

- To continue channels of direct communication with IODE.
- To be part of the IODE Management Group.
- Be part of an international marine data and information vision.
- Participate in innovative projects, meetings, training courses, workshops.
- Share and gain experience in new technology applications.
- Be part of a professional network of global marine information managers.
- To provide information generated by the institution.
- Sharing knowledge, experiences and difficulties with colleagues is the way to find answers to our questions.
- Support IODE efforts.
- Recognize benefits to both the Library and the Institutions.
- Librarians are involved in institutional data projects.

One of the libraries recounted that they had some difficulty achieving the institutional endorsement letter. "We had to convince our authorities of the importance of being f an AIU, both for the institution and for users of marine data and information." It was also recognized that the application criteria was a good opportunity to implement the requirements of the application process if they had not already.
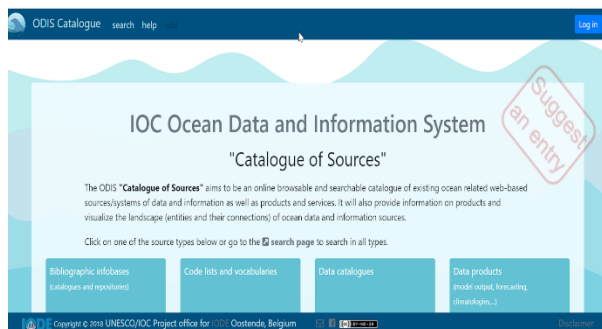
AIU Organizations
The process of recruiting AIU applicants is ongoing. As of September 30, 2019, the following institutions were approved as AIUs:

- Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ) Library, Oostende, Belgium
- DINARA Library, Montevideo, Uruguay
- INSTM Library, Salammbo, Tunisia
- MBLWHOI Library, Woods Hole, MA, United States of America
- SPREP Library, Apia, Samoa

In addition to the AIU program, IODE provides librarians and information managers the opportunity to participate in a variety of professional activities. Prior to IAMSLIC 2019 an IODE Survey of IAMSLIC members was conducted to assess IAMSLIC members knowledge of IODE programs and gauge interest in future collaborations. IODE training courses through OceanTeacher Global Academy, https://www.oceanteacher.org/, provide opportunities for professional development. IAMSLIC members are encouraged to create a profile for themselves in the OceanExpert (OE) database, a directory of Marine and Freshwater Professionals and asked to advocate OE to all their organizations staff. The database can also serve as a resource for information professionals assisting users at their institution searching for collaborative partners, projects or meetings. Other important IODE resources that IAMSLIC members can offer to their researchers include ODISCat and Ocean Best Practices System.

Ocean Data Information System Catalog of Sources (ODISCat)

ODISCat https://catalogue.odis.org/was launched February 1, 2019. The ODIS "Catalogue of Sources" aims to be an online browsable and searchable catalogue of existing ocean related web-based sources/systems of data and information as well as products and services. There are 16 content types, including library catalogs, repositories, data catalogs, information on vessels, manuals, standards, real-time observing systems and software. Currently there are over 600 records in the database. This is a growing resource and new entries are welcome.
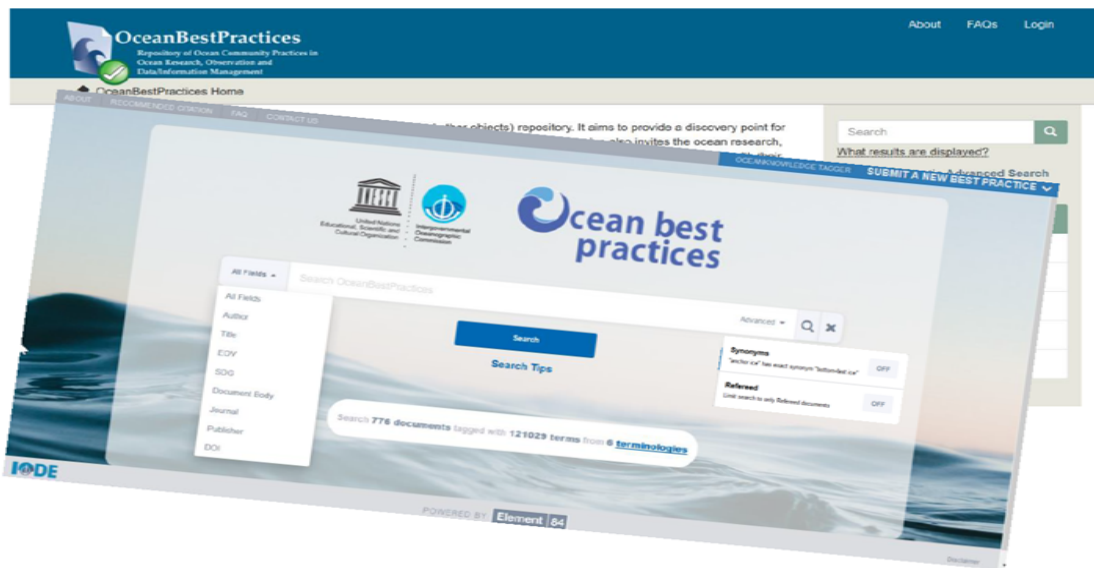

The Ocean Best Practices System
The Ocean Best Practices System (OBPS), http://obpsystem.org/ supports the entire ocean community in sharing methods and developing best practices.

It is a new system comprising technological solutions and community approaches to enhance management of methods as well as support the development of ocean best practices. The OBPS includes: a persistent repository with enhanced discovery and access capabilities; a peer-reviewed

journal research topic; training approaches leveraging social media and the use of OceanTeacher Global Academy (OTGA) and a strong community engagement program.

The OBPS-Repository https://www.oceanbestpractices.org/ is the hub of the Ocean Best Practices System built on the IODE OceanBestPractices Repository. It offers:

- An array of services in publication, discovery, access and training of Best Practices
- Enhanced non-bibliographic metadata fields Essential Ocean Variables; Sustainable Development Goals; Maturity Level etc.
- A new UI built with advanced technology.
- The UI supports semantic indexing utilizing authoritative marine vocabularies and natural language processes.
- Search provided by a managed Elasticsearch.

In June 2019, OBPS was approved as an IOC Project sponsored by IODE and GOOS. The System is hosted at the Project Office of IODE of UNESCO-IOC in Oostende, Belgium and managed by a Steering Group representing major Stakeholders which will have its first meeting in December 2019.

Currently, there are active IAMSLIC members as a part of IODE Steering Groups for the following projects:

Ocean Docs Steering Group: Pauline Simpson, Andrea Cristiana*, Kateryna Kulakova*, Arame Keita, Susana Macanawai, Lisa Raymond, Saida Messaoudi, Jennifer Walton.

Ocean Best Practices System: Pauline Simpson (Project Manager).

IAMSLIC and IODE have a long history of working together for the good of their members, researchers and the long-term availability of information about marine and freshwater environments. While changes in both organizations have at times changed the relationship, new opportunities can continue to evolve as well.