

Background Information

The DMTT members edited, with the help of the IPO Assistant Executive Officer, a data product entitled "JGOFS International Data Collection, Volume 1: Discrete Datasets" DVD, and distributed it during the final JGOFS OSC (May 2003), and upon request, in their respective countries. Members of the Pangaea team at the World Data Centre for Marine Environmental Sciences (WDC-MARE, Germany) met last January with JGOFS representatives to build and improve an initiative aiming at the full online accessibility and long-term archiving of all JGOFS data and metadata through the WDC system (see Report at www.uib.no/jgofs/Publications/other_pub/JGOFS-PANGAEA_Bremen2003.pdf).

During its final meeting, in March 2003 (see JGOFS Report 37 at www.uib.no/jgofs/Publications/Report_Series/JGOFS_37.pdf), the DMTT supported the plan of the Pangaea team to publish a DVD version 2, to be entitled "International JGOFS Data Collection. Volume 2: Integrated datasets". It was recommended that all datasets in this new data product be accessible in a common file and data format through the Pangaea user and visualization interface and organised by project, cruise and data set for each parameter.

The DMTT and IPO will continue to work with the Pangaea team until JGOFS comes to an end in December 2003. Afterward, they could continue, on a voluntary basis, their involvement with the WDC-MARE in order to help produce the version 2 of integrated dataset DVD (with possible additional inputs).

Since January 2003, the team at the WDC-MARE has carried on their tasks to compile and harmonize the JGOFS datasets in its Pangaea information system (about 40,000 dataset entries, so far [*mid-December 2003*]).

Comments after ExComm Meeting

During the ExComm meeting, it was noticed that since DVD version 1 has been published, at least, the German and Japanese (and probably French) data managers have been active to gather some additional JGOFS datasets. It was noted that a new Japanese representative to the JGOFS DMTT, Satoshi SATO (JODC Deputy Director, sato@jodc.go.jp) has been nominated in replacement of Takeharu Miyake. Other countries might also have made new JGOFS datasets available for archiving.

The cover page of a report regarding the DVD v.2 provided by WDC-MARE shortly before the ExComm meeting was presented and discussed: The JGOFS ExComm kindly requested that the

JGOFS name and logo appear on the cover of the paper report and of the DVD v.2. In addition to the relevant WDC-MARE staff, it is requested that the authorship includes the JGOFS DMTT members who have actively contributed with additional datasets or metadata. It is requested that the DVD v.1, which is now in the public domain, be fully referenced (see its internal documentation) and the editors of the DVD v.1 be fully acknowledged. The relevant funding agencies which contribute directly to this new DVD v.2 should also be fully acknowledged, upon request from the DVD v.2 authors.

For this new data product, it is a recommended policy to enable access to JGOFS data by scientific researchers at no more than the direct access costs. No commercial use of any information included in the DVD v.2 should be made without the prior written consent of the funding agencies involved in the data acquisition and collection (from DVD v.1 or v.2).

The ExComm also suggested that whatever top documents regarding the JGOFS project are included in the DVD v.2, they should be reviewed and commented by Margarita Conkright (DMTT Chair), Roy Lowry (former DMTT Chair), and Bernard Avril (IPO Assistant Executive Officer), who could be included as co-authors for those documents, if relevant. It is suggested that the JGOFS report 19 (protocols for JGOFS core parameters) be included within the DVD v.2. Other JGOFS reports of relevance could be also suggested before December 2003. It is kindly requested that the DVD v.2 be made available to the DVD v.1 editors, when released. A "draft" DVD v.2 should be sent to the DMTT members (and those who have contributed with additional datasets, not available for v.1) so that they could check the validity / accuracy of the "harmonized" data and the full usability of the Pangaea interface in diverse configurations and utilizations (similar to the beta-testing of a new product). Part of this task could be done earlier directly through the Pangaea website, where each national JGOFS datasets are accessible at www.pangaea.de/PangaVista?query=@JGOFS_xyz, where xyz is a country name, among the following list: Australia, Canada, France, Germany, India, Netherlands, New_Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Spain, UK, and US.

All comments, suggestions and requests from WDC-MARE are welcome and will be examined carefully by the JGOFS ExComm and IPO.

(initially prepared in late September, last revised in December 2003)