Modelling the ocean with the aid of compiled data.

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How can data archives aid the modeller? Field data / measured data complement models. To the modeller, a set of measured data is the “correct answer” which his model should be able to reproduce. Measured data is therefore important for evaluating the model at hand. For a working model, measured data may serve as initial/boundary conditions. Thus, field data can provide two milestones, a starting point and a checkpoint. Oceanographic datacenters compile and store enourmous amounts of data. Easy access to these data is required if the modeller is supposed to make use of them. This poster will show some of the work at the Institute for Marine Research in Norway, with spesial emphasis on the JGOFS project data. The Norwegian JGOFS datasets includes physical, biological and chemical data. These are stored in a database that is accessible through web technology. SQL databases and the scripting language PHP is used to retrieve the data selected by the user. The data is displayed on a web page accessible with web browsers like MS Explorer or Netscape.

This technology makes it simple to create interfaces between the researcher and the database, and the interface is easily accessed via internet/intranet. NMD (Norwegian Marine Data Centre) is using this technology on the NGOFS (Norwegian JGOFS) datasets and other tasks.