

Recent JGOFS DMTT activities: what do we have achieved so far? What are our plans?

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To really optimise the scientific value of an international research project, such as JGOFS and its successors, proper data management practices are essential. They should aim to ensure the elaboration of quality-controlled, homogeneously formatted and extensively documented datasets and their rapid, worldwide dissemination and long-term stewardship within the World Data Centre (WDC) system.

The JGOFS data management is the responsibility of each national participant, without a centralized clearinghouse for the data. As a result, many data are still not fully available for the modelling and synthesis phase. The DMTT, a consortium of national data managers (DMO), is working hard to put together a single database (so-called, the International JGOFS Master Dataset), in a single location (in the WDC system, thanks to an initiative of PANGAEA / WDC-MARE), in a single format. This should be achieved by adapting previously developed tools, especially from the US-JGOFS DMO (for the user query interface) and from ODV/PANGAEA (for the datasets visualization and metadata handling).

In this framework, the major past and current DMTT activities include:

- production of nationally approved JGOFS cruise inventories;
- preparation of a list of core parameters, associated units, methodology, and quality control criteria;
- preparation of metadata standards to describe the datasets;
- production of CD-ROMs and/or on-line databases (JGOFS and JGOFS-related);
- adaptation of existing data management tools, such as user interface (e.g., J-LAS) and visualization package (e.g., ODV-derived), to be incorporated into the International CD-ROM dataset;
- collection of relevant references associated with the datasets;
- interactions within the DMTT and with other competent bodies (e.g., NODCs, WDCs, ICES, IODE, national data managers not involved in the DMTT);
- interactions with other JGOFS WGs and TTs;
- preparation of recommendations for proper data management to the JGOFS SSC, the JGOFS parent bodies (IGBP and SCOR) and (inter)national funding agencies; in preparation of the future marine biogeochemistry programme(s)

We hope that DMTT representatives and modellers can work together (nationally and internationally) during the remaining period of the JGOFS project. Your inputs regarding the needs of the modelling community (e.g., parameters collected, quality, resolution, accessibility) will be very welcome.