

THE POLAR DATA CATALOGUE: SECURING THE IPY LEGACY THROUGH ARCHIVING OF METADATA AND DATA

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Abstract:

The International IPY Data Management Committee is working towards an IPY Master Directory that will provide a discovery portal for metadata in either the FGDC (Federal Geographic Data Committee) or GCMD (Global Change Master Directory) standard. This will, in time, evolve towards the international ISO standard for Metadata.

In Canada, we have been developing a Metadata discovery portal for the ArcticNet program which is currently operational. This program includes scientists working in the natural, social and health sciences and, as such, addresses a wide range of issues associated with Metadata cataloguing within a multidisciplinary program.

With support from the Federal IPY Secretariat, this Metadata portal has been modified to address many of the needs of the Canadian IPY scientists. We are also working with the National Contaminants Program of Canada (Scott, anything more specific to identify this?) to provide a similar service for their data management issues.

The system is evolving towards a 'Polar Metadata Catalogue' that will include flexibility to address the needs of scientists in a wide range of programs dealing with Polar science issues. In doing this, we will maintain interoperability with other Metadata catalogues to ensure a wide-ranging discovery experience for the scientists, no matter what the discipline, provide long term support of the information beyond the IPY sunset years, and provide information and tools for ongoing outreach and communications.

In this paper we will describe the evolution of this portal and potential new directions.