

Marine Environmental Data and Information Network (MEDIN):

Funding Report: Enhancing the metadata shared with the MEDIN portal

The ADS undertook some metadata and OAI-PMH enhancements, to provide more useful metadata to the MEDIN and NERC portals. The enhancements corrected underlying misalignments in the OAI-PMH representation of the metadata held at the ADS and added relevant Internet Archaeology metadata into an OAI-PMH target for MEDIN portal consumption.

The first issue that needed addressing was the OAI-PMH timestamps, which were aligned to a valid but less useful property in the underlying dataset. Since the OAI-PMH timestamps are used to optimise metadata harvesting, aligning our timestamps with a generic “released” date from the depositor didn't accurately reflect updates to the metadata. This meant that our metadata was potentially not harvested after updates occurred, and was therefore stale in the MEDIN & NERC portals. To fix this we added triggers to our Collection Management System (CMS), which is the system the ADS manages all of its collection metadata. An audit table was also set up to manage this data, and then fed into the underlying database view of the metadata that is published via the OAI-PMH targets. The outcome has been more accurate timestamps associated with our OAI-PMH records, which will improve data consistency in the MEDIN and NERC portals.

The second enhancement was the inclusion of the Internet Archaeology metadata into an OAI-PMH target. Internet Archaeology, which is a fully online electronic journal, is a sister organisation to the ADS. The two organisations share infrastructure and systems, and the CMS also hosts metadata related to the journal. However, due to the differences in journal data compared to archive data, the existing OAI-PMH systems would not be immediately compatible with Internet Archaeology metadata. Some updates were required to the metadata for properties that are not usually captured by Internet Archaeology, such as bounding boxes and MEDIN categories. Once the underlying metadata was updated, a new OAI-PMH application was deployed and tested. There are currently no articles related to NERC in Internet Archaeology, so that OAI-PMH set is empty.

This work has tightened up all of the metadata provided by the ADS to the MEDIN and NERC portals, and has improved the quality and currency of marine metadata published by the ADS.

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