

OceanTeacher: building capacity in oceanographic data and information management

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Within the framework of the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) program, the IOC has developed a capacity building program to train data and information managers in developing countries with the objective of establishing and strengthening National Oceanographic Data and Information Centres. As part of these capacity building activities, IODE has developed OceanTeacher, a comprehensive self-training and resource tool for oceanographic data and information management.

OceanTeacher is a browser-driven system designed to provide training tools used primarily during IODE capacity building courses but can also be used for self-training and continuous professional development. The OceanTeacher system comprises two components: the IODE Resource Kit and the Resource Kit Training Manuals. The Resource Kit contains a wide range of marine data-management and information-management material, including software, quality control and analysis strategies, training manuals, and relevant IOC documents. The Resource Kit Manuals are collections of outlines, notes, examples, and miscellaneous class work documents used in conjunction with the Resource Kit to organise a training program in marine data and information management. Due to the extreme size of the Kit (over 10,000 files at present) structured access via the Manuals has proven quite valuable.

This paper details the OceanTeacher system and describes the approach being taken by IODE in providing capacity building to assist developing countries including regional group training courses and workshops to instruct centre managers in the different aspects of oceanographic data and information management.