

The colour of distributed internet resources available through the Global Change Master Directory (GCMD)

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NASA's Global Change Master Directory (GCMD) is effectively using XML, Java, and in-house developed Local Database Agent (LDA) software to offer a distributed directory of Earth science data sets and Earth science data-related services. The GCMD staff members are also capitalizing on the vast offerings of "Open Source" software available through the Internet by incorporating several of these software packages in the design of the directory.

The innovative development of customized portals for organizations that wish to offer their data and services, both through the directory and through their own portal subset, has resulted in new collaborations within the ocean community. The offering of Earth science keywords for the search interface, as well as the ongoing maintenance of the keywords, has attracted interest from a broad range of users - including those interested in the semantic web. The latest XML enhancements, the current MD8 software, the Local Database Agents, the Operations Facility, and a new XML authoring tool developed in Python (DOCbuilder), along with the open source software will be discussed.