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# **How to Prepare a MEDI Entry**

# HOW TO PREPARE A MEDI ENTRY

## WHY DO IT?

MEDI<sup>1</sup> is a directory system for data sets, data catalogues and data inventories and run within the framework of the IOC's International Oceanographic Data Exchange (IODE) system. The entries are deliberately kept simple so that they can be collected and disseminated as rapidly as possible.

By taking the time to prepare a MEDI entry for your organization, you will make your own work better known and you will help the increasing numbers of scientists and ocean users who are seeking data. In order to speed up data entry and get the directory information to users soonest, we prefer that you follow the instructions given below. If you have a document that already contains all or almost all the information requested, you may use this as an alternative method of submitting information. Your dataset may be just the one the users are looking for; make sure they find it; write your MEDI entry today.... right now!

## WRITING YOUR ENTRY

Each MEDI entry starts with a section describing the data holding *organization*. This is followed by one or more sections, each giving a description of a single *data set*, *data catalogue* or *data inventory* held by the organization.

### DESCRIBING AN ORGANIZATION

A MEDI entry section describing an *organization* should contain three components - the organization *name*, the organization *address* and a plain text *description*. Give the address for user enquiries. In the *address* give mailing, telephone, fax, telex, cable, electronic mail and communications network addresses, if any. In your *description*, mention any special conditions and procedures for the supply of data.

### EXAMPLE

National Oceanographic Data Center

User Services Branch  
NOAA/NESDIS E/OC21  
Washington, DC 20235  
USA

Tel: +1 (202) 673-5549 Telemail: NODC.WDCA SPAN: NODC::SERVICES

NODC is an NODC within the IODE system and operates WDC-A Oceanography and RNODCs for IGOS and MARPOLMON-P. Archived NODC datasets are available from NODC as magnetic tape copies of specified data subsets. For the major global files, data are also available as formatted printouts, data summaries, analyses, and plots. These files are sorted by cruise number (cruise file) and by a

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<sup>1</sup> Marine Environmental Data Information Referral System

geographic grid system (geofile). Datasets in originator formats are provided only as direct copies of whole data tapes. Subsets cannot be retrieved. The data files, as well as products, inventories, and cost information, are described in more detail in the NODC Users Guide (available from the above address). Data are on 1600 bpi tapes unless noted as being 6250 bpi tapes.

#### DESCRIBING A DATA HOLDING

A MEDI entry section describing a data *holding* is divided into three components- a *title* for the holding, *identifiers* and a plain text *description*. Start with the heading title and separate each component with a blank line. Note that you use the same format both to describe actual data sets and to describe catalogues and inventories (meta-data). Include separate sections for each major data type that you have, even if you manage your data as an integrated database.

Try to include the following *identifiers*: Data type, Geographic area, Time Period, Number of Observations and Media. If possible choose the data type from the list in Annex I, based on the ROSCOP form. Choose the Geographic Area from the list in Annex II based on IHB Sea areas. For both data type and geographic area you may enter more than one descriptor if necessary. If none of the list entries apply, substitute your own descriptor. For the media when applicable give both the type e.g. magnetic tape and the volume e.g. number of tapes, disk file size.

In the *description*, include relevant information such as type of instrument used, processing and quality control applied, project that data was collected for, etc.

#### EXAMPLES

Oceanographic Station Data (SD2) File.

Classical oceanographic bottle stations and vertical profiles (STD/CTD). Global. 1900-present. 693,259 stations. Cruise file 19 tapes (6250); geofile 42 tapes (6250).

Oceanographic data at discrete depth levels mainly from Nansen or other bottle casts (<5% CTD/STD data). Principal parameters are T, S; however, O<sub>2</sub>, PO<sub>4</sub>, P, SiO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>3</sub>, and pH may be recorded, as well as water color and water transparency. Values of sound velocity, sigma-T, and dynamic depth anomaly are computed.

ROSCOP File.

Data Inventory. Global. 1970-present. 20000 cruises. 20000 data sheets. 13 reports.

ROSCOP forms from 30 countries, providing information on data collected in Oceanographic cruises. Semi-annual catalogues of ROSCOP-2 Forms published. Issues 1-5, 1978-1980.

This gives you complete flexibility to include any other type of information that is important for your organization or your data holding. Follow the few simple guidelines and the pattern of the examples given above and you'll write informative MEDI entries that will guide potential users straight to your data (and ward off those users for whom your data is not relevant).

## SENDING YOUR MEDI ENTRY

The quickest way of submitting your MEDI entry is to send it as a Telemail message to IOC.SECRETARIAT (Omnet) with the subject given as "MEDI INPUT".

If you are unable to use this medium, submit the MEDI entry on a IBM-PC compatible floppy disk (3 1/2" or 5 1/4", low or high density). A simple DOS text file is best but most common word processor file formats can also be accepted.

Alternatively simply send the MEDI entry on paper.

Floppy disk and paper MEDI entries should be addressed to

MEDI Co-ordinating Centre  
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission  
UNESCO  
7 Place de Fontenoy  
75700 Paris  
France.

Tel: +33 (1) 45 68 40 08

This same centre will give you details on how you can get information from MEDI.

Thank you very much for your willingness to assist the effective use of oceanographic data by submitting a MEDI entry.

## ANNEX I

# Geographic Area Names

These names are based on those in I.H.B. Special Publication No 23 (Third Edition, 1953) - 'Limits of Oceans and Seas', which contains a precise definition of each area. Modifications to the I.H.B. system include the addition of sub-divisions for the major oceans and of entries for the Southern Ocean (Southern limit - the Antarctic Continent. Its northern limit is dependent on the oceanographic conditions e.g. Antarctic Convergence, and is typically 50° S) and the use of the name 'global' to describe data holdings covering a worldwide range. Except for the name 'global' the same names are also used in the ROSCOP form and in the GF3 data formatting system.

### OCEAN/SEA AREA NAMES

Global	Bay of Fundy
Baltic Sea	Gulf of Mexico
Gulf of Bothnia	Caribbean Sea
Gulf of Finland	Mediterranean Sea
Gulf of Riga	Western Basin
Kattegat, Sound and Belts	Eastern Basin
Skagerrak	Strait of Gibraltar
North Sea	Alboran Sea
Greenland Sea	Balearic Sea (or Iberian Sea)
Norwegian Sea	Ligurian Sea
Barents Sea	Tyrrhenian Sea
White Sea	Ionian Sea
Kara Sea	Adriatic Sea
Laptev (or Nordenskjöld) Sea	Aegean Sea (The Archipelago)
East Siberian Sea	Sea of Marmara
Chukchi Sea	Black Sea
Beaufort Sea	Sea of Azov
The Northwestern Passages	South Atlantic Ocean
Baffin Bay	SE Atlantic (Limit 20° W)
Davis Strait	SW Atlantic (Limit 20° W)
Labrador Sea	Rio de La Plata
Hudson Bay	Gulf of Guinea
Hudson Strait	Gulf of Suez
Arctic Ocean	Gulf of Aqaba
Lincoln Sea	Red Sea
Inner Seas off the West Coast of Scotland	Gulf of Aden
Irish Sea and St. George's Channel	Arabian Sea
Bristol Channel	Gulf of Oman
English Channel	Gulf of Iran (Persian Gulf)
Bay of Biscay	Laccadive Sea
North Atlantic Ocean	Bay of Bengal
NE Atlantic (Limit 40° W)	Andaman or Burma Sea
NW Atlantic (Limit 40° W)	Indian Ocean
Gulf of St. Lawrence	Mozambique Channel

Malacca and Singapore Straits

Malacca Strait

Singapore Strait

Gulf of Thailand (Siam)

East Indian Archipelago (Indonesia)

Sulu Sea

Celebes Sea

Molukka Sea

Gulf of Tomini

Halmahera Sea

Ceram Sea

Banda Sea

Arafura Sea

Timor Sea

Flores Sea

Gulf of Boni

Ball Sea

Makassar Strait

Java Sea

Savu Sea

South China Sea (Nan Hai)

Eastern China Sea (Tung Hai)

Yellow Sea (Hwang Hai)

Japan Sea

Inland Sea (Seto Nalkai)

Sea of Okhotsk

Bering Sea

Philippine Sea

North Pacific Ocean

NE Pacific (Limit 180 deg.)

NW Pacific (Limit 180 deg.)

Gulf of Alaska

Coastal Waters of SE Alaska and British

Columbia

Gulf of California

South Pacific Ocean

SE Pacific (Limit 140 W)

SW Pacific (Limit 140 W)

Great Australian Bight

Bass Strait

Tasman Sea

Coral Sea

Solomon Sea

Bismarck Sea

Southern Ocean

Atlantic Sector of Southern Ocean

Indian Ocean Sector of Southern

Ocean

Pacific Sector of Southern Ocean

Land Areas

## ANNEX II

**Data types**

These names are adapted from those used for the ROSCOP form. The data types 'Data catalogue' and 'Data Inventory' have been added.

**GENERAL**

Data catalogue  
Data Inventory

**METEOROLOGY**

Upper air observations  
Incident radiation  
Air-sea interface studies  
Ice observations  
Occasional standard measurements  
Systematic standard measurements  
Meteorological measurements

**HYDROGRAPHY*****SURFACE***

Continuous temperature recording  
Continuous salinity recording  
Discrete temperature measurements  
Discrete salinity measurements

***PHYSICAL***

Classical oceanographic stations  
Vertical profiles (STD/CTD)  
Sub-surface physical measurements  
underway  
Mechanical bathythermograph  
Bathythermograph expendable  
Sound velocity stations  
Acoustic stations  
Transparency  
Optics  
Diffusion (Dynamic)  
Physical measurements

***NEAR SEA FLOOR (< 10 m)***

Continuous temperature recording  
Continuous salinity recording  
Discrete temperature measurements  
Discrete salinity measurements

**CHEMICAL**

Oxygen  
Phosphates  
Total - P  
Nitrates  
Nitrites  
Silicates  
Alkalinity  
pH  
Chlorinity  
Trace elements  
Radioactivity  
Isotopes  
Dissolved gases  
Chemical measurements

**POLLUTION**

Suspended solids  
Heavy metals  
Petroleum residues  
Chlorinated hydrocarbons  
Other dissolved substances  
Thermal pollution  
Pollution measurements  
Waste water: BOD  
Waste Water: Nitrates  
Waste water: Microbiology  
Waste water: Other  
Discoloured water  
Bottom deposits  
Contaminated organisms

## GEOLOGY GEOPHYSICS

### MEASUREMENTS MADE AT A SPECIFIC LOCATION

Dredge  
Grab  
Core-rock  
Core-soft bottom  
Sampling by divers  
Sampling by submersible  
Drilling  
Bottom photography  
Sea floor temperature (< 1 m from bottom)  
Acoustical properties of the sea floor  
Engineering properties of the sea floor  
Magnetic properties of the sea floor  
Gravimetric properties of the sea floor  
Radioactivity measurements  
Geology/Geophysics measurements

### MEASUREMENTS UNDERWAY

Motion picture of sea floor  
Bathymetry-wide beam  
Bathymetry-narrow beam  
Side scan sonar  
Seismic refraction  
Gravimetry  
Magnetism  
Underway geophysical measurements

### TYPES OF STUDIES

Physical analysis of sediments  
Chemical analysis of sediments  
Paleothermy  
Paleomagnetism and rock magnetism  
Paleontology  
Geothermy  
Geochronology  
Mineral and fossil resources  
Littoral zone studies

## DYNAMICS

Current meters  
Currents measured from ship drift  
GEK  
Drifters  
Swallow floats  
Drift cards  
Bottom drifters  
Tidal observations  
Sea and swell  
Dynamical measurements

## BIOLOGY

Primary productivity  
Phytoplankton pigments  
Seston  
Particulate organic carbon  
Particulate organic nitrogen  
Dissolved organic matter  
Bacterial and pelagic micro-organisms  
Phytoplankton  
Zooplankton  
Neuston  
Nekton  
Invertebrate nekton  
Pelagic eggs and larvae  
Pelagic fish  
Amphibians  
Benthic bacteria and micro-organisms  
Phytobenthos  
Zoobenthos  
Commercial demersal fish  
Commercial benthic molluscs  
Commercial benthic crustacean  
Attached plants and algae  
Intertidal organisms  
Borers and foulers  
Birds  
Mammals and reptiles  
Deep scattering layers  
Acoustical reflections on marine organisms  
Biologic sounds  
Bioluminescence  
Vitamin concentrations  
Amino acid concentration  
Hydrocarbon concentrations  
Lipid concentrations  
ATP-ADP-AMP concentrations  
DNA-RNA concentrations  
Taggings  
Biological measurements



## **BIOLOGY (continued)**

### ***TYPES OF STUDIES***

Identification  
Spatial and temporal distribution  
Monitoring and surveillance  
Biomass determination  
Description of communities  
Food chains energy transfers  
Population and environments  
Population structures  
Taxonomy, systematics, classification  
Physiology  
Behavior  
Pathology, parasitology  
Toxicology  
Gear research  
Exploratory fishing  
Commercial fishing  
Aquaculture