

The Open Marine Archive (OMA): One of the largest of its kind

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Open Access is an important tool for communicating and sharing scientific knowledge. Immediate, barrier free access to marine information advances discovery, accelerates innovation and improves education. Open Access adds value to research, to the economy and to society: on this principle, the Open Marine Archive (OMA) was built.

The thematic repository OMA focusses on Belgian marine research, including all publications pertaining to a Belgian marine topic and also all marine publications from Belgian authors and foreign authors affiliated to a Belgian organization. This results in a wide range of international marine literature: from the most recent scientific peer reviewed papers to rare historical publications (the oldest title currently in OMA being published in 1559), theses, expedition reports, abstracts and much more. Almost 30 000 full texts are just a click away to use for your scientific research.

Open and standardized metadata (according to the Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH)) and systematic harvesting by online search engines like Google Scholar result in high ranking of publications from OMA in web-search results, leading to an increased visibility worldwide for Belgian marine research. Furthermore, the metadata of publications in the Open Marine Archive is linked to the world's standard taxonomic and geographical data systems World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS) and Marine Regions. In this way, the work of the Belgian marine research community is also distributed through these online platforms.