

DOIs for Data Sets (from <http://ioc.unesco.org/ioccp/Pilots.htm#DOIs>)

To facilitate rapid release of data, we need to develop a system to appropriately recognize the efforts of data contributors. While the system of having data contributors participate in synthesis activities for co-authorship may resolve many of these issues, there will be cases where data contributors may not be able to participate actively in the synthesis work. And ultimately, the system needs to evolve to the point that data sets are released as soon as possible without waiting for the start-up of another 2-3 year synthesis activity. In the carbon community there has been a persistent phobia that data made public will be used without recognizing the contribution made by the contributor, although participants emphasized that, in practice, there are very few examples of this ever happening. However, participants felt that it is still important to establish community-wide practices to standardize how to appropriately acknowledge data contributors.

Nicolas Dittert described a system currently being used by WDC-MARE that involves identifying data sets with DOI identifies (Digital Object Identifiers). The DOI system provides a framework for identification and management of intellectual content across all forms of electronic media (e.g., electronic publications as well as data sets). Once a data set has been given a DOI, it can be referenced in the same manner as a publication in a journal article. Participants also recognized the importance of charging reviewers of journal articles to insist that data sets are appropriately recognized in publications using this DOI reference system.

The IOCCP has accepted to follow-up this action item and to investigate the ways and means of putting this practice into wide-scale use. The International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange program of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission is the coordinating body for all national and regional data centers, and has agreed to work with IOCCP to investigate this practice as a way to encourage early data release and proper recognition for data contributors.