

COASTAL DATA & INFORMATION RESOURCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

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ABSTRACT: Producers of coastal data and information must look to new ways to distribute their products to potential users. Scientists analyze and summarize raw data and then provide access to the information through published reports while librarians traditionally gather, organize and facilitate in the use of these reports by consumers. However, the Internet and World Wide Web now allow users sitting in a government planner's office, a classroom, or even in a private home, anywhere in the world, to seek and manipulate resources without our hands-on guidance.

The University of Rhode Island, in conjunction with the National Sea Grant Depository and NOAA's Coastal Services Center, is creating a 'digital center' to facilitate electronic access to data and information that is ever more critical for marine and coastal issues, research and management. The project's four key components will be described:

1. Data will be accessed by an internet-based tool, Distributed Ocean Data System (DODS) [<http://dods.gso.uri.edu/DODS>].
2. The distributed data resource will be populated with data sets.
3. A significant portion of the US National Sea Grant Depository collection will be digitized to provide access to the reports and information products generated by a multi-institutional, US coastal and marine science research program.
4. A coastal web site will be created to provide a point of entry to the distributed data and information system.

