Leveraging the GeoLink Knowledge Base for Cruise Information

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What is GeoLink?

GeoLink is a shared language for repositories that house geoscience metadata, science data, and publications related to the same people, projects, and activities, to share the wealth of information they have trapped in these records. These repositories are run by many different organizations, with different needs, budgets, priorities, and technologies. By talking to each other, we have a much better picture of our data in the context of geoscience. To achieve this, GeoLink partners are using Linked Data, a rapidly adopted, open source technology that sits on top of our content systems. Repositories can create RDF translations for different purposes and different communities.

The Metadata Problem

Is this familiar? Gleaning information can be tedious work.

Finding things across dozens of platforms often requires an unreasonable amount of expert knowledge. Answering larger questions often constitutes an entire research project of its own.

Asking the Question

In order to query GeoLink, you need to start with a question. Our institutional repository, WHOAS (Woods Hole Access Server), includes hundreds of technical reports, many with cruise information listed as a subject. We added JavaScript to the page that looks for a subject meta tag indicating a cruise, grabs the string, and searches the GeoLink SPARQL endpoint for cruises with matching labels.

GeoLink Contributors:

This process works with a handful of files compiled by Doug Fils and Adam Shepherd. Use and contribute your customizations, using our GitHub repository. Get creative with SPARQL and HTML. You don’t need to be an expert. This is why we work together.

Don’t be afraid to ask for help! Email me to get help using GeoLink info. If I can’t help you, I will find someone who can.

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GitHub: github.com/atmickle/geolink-component
Endpoint: data.geolink.org/sparql
GeoLink Site: geolink.org