International Research Vessels Site

Developed by OCEANIC
at the University of Delaware
The Boring History Stuff

- Originally developed to facilitate the identification of available RVs for use in the World Ocean Circulation Experiment (WOCE)
- 1991 - the US Federal Oceanographic Fleet Coordination Council (FOFCC) began using OCEANIC to post their ship schedules and characteristics
- 1995 edition of RP34, The National Oceanographic Fleet Platform Characteristics, stated that 1995 and future editions would no longer print ship schedule information as it was available electronically from OCEANIC
- 2002 - the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission’s Committee on International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange: “We are therefore recommending terminating the paper mailing of NOPs and request the Member States to enter their NOPs (ship schedules) directly into the OCEANIC system”
- 2002 - provided a European view of the data for the EurOcean Portal project. Began a collaborative data gathering effort with EurOcean.
- 2004 – provided a Baltic Sea view of RV facilities for the Baltic Sea (BONUS) Portal project.
- 2004 – Began planning the next iteration of the International RV site.
- 2005 – Funded efforts on IRV stopped – began development of the NSF Ship Condition Form
Current RV Database Holdings

- Ship Specifications
  - 815 vessels
  - 59 countries

- Cruise Schedules
  - >10,000 cruise entries
  - 198 vessels
  - 19 countries
Other RV-Related Projects

• OCEANIC is also:
  – Hosting the UNOLS servers
  – Aiding in the development of the next generation UNOLS Ship Scheduling system and Shiptime Request system
  – Completing phase I of an online Ship Condition Form for use in inspecting NSF-funded research vessels
Proposed Ship Specification Changes

• Provide operators with a login account to allow them to modify their own vessel specifications if they desire to do so.
• Expand and normalize the “General” specifications collected for all RVs.
  – Question: What should be included in these “General” specifications?
• Add “Detailed Specs” to allow for more detailed RV specifications for the BONUS Portal project and others seeking to get a broad view of the types of equipment in use.
  – A first draft was discussed at ISOM 2004 and it was stated that the “level of technical details about each vessel is too deep today”
  – Question: What additional technical details should be collected?
    • Engines, Met Sensors, Labs, Echosounding equipment, Satellite Communications, etc…the list can get quite extensive.
Proposed Cruise Schedule Changes

• Provide operators with a login account to directly modify their vessel schedules if they desire.
• Provide filtered “Portal” views of cruise schedules
  – Allow for a Program/Region/Agency-only listing of cruise schedules, the countries originating them, and the major programs that the cruise may be affiliated with (i.e.: CLIVAR, BITS, IBTS, etc…)
• Allow for the display of a vessels “Cruise Track”, both recent and historic. Requested by individuals at CLIVAR and other Surface Meteorology projects.
• Allow for multiple science missions per cruise leg. Currently, only one PI and science mission is shown per cruise.
• Evaluate how the “location” of a cruise is designated in the future. The current system uses an arbitrary “US Navy Grid” system. Other possibilities are:
  – IHB Sea Areas (currently doesn’t cover the US Great Lakes and possibly other areas)
  – Marsden Squares (How fine a grid system to use?)
  – Australian C-Squares (Like Marsden Squares but with better text-search capabilities)
  – Operator designed Lines, Points and/or Regions in a GIS mapping system.
  – Others???
Other Possibilities

• Incorporate cruise schedules into a web-based GIS mapping system
  – Allows users to show science missions and/or cruise tracks of interest
  – Allows for mining cruise schedule data and displaying color-coded maps showing the types and locations for various types of scientific research

• Create a mechanism for scheduling and displaying schedules for pooled and/or shared equipment

• Create a mechanism for operators to post crew exchange opportunities

• Add ROVs, AUVs, VOS, etc…

• Others?
Thank You

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