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The Earth Data Portal for Finding and Exploring Research Content

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Digitization and the Internet in particular have created new ways to find, re-use, and process scientific research data. Many scientists and research centers want to make their data openly available, but often the data is still not easy to find because it is distributed across different infrastructures. In addition, the rights of use, citability and data access are sometimes unclear.

The Earth Data Portal aims to provide a single point of entry for discovery and re-use of scientific research data in compliance with the FAIR principles. The portal aggregates data of the earth and environment research area from various providers and improves its findability. As part of the German Marine Research Alliance and the Helmholtz-funded DataHub project, leading German research centers are working on joint data management concepts, including the data portal.

The portal offers a modern web interface with a full-text search, facets and explorative visualization tools. Seamless integration into the Observation to Analysis and Archives Framework (O2A) developed by the Alfred Wegener Institute also enables automated data flows from data collection to publication in the PANGAEA data repository and visibility in the portal.

Another important part of the project is a comprehensive framework for data visualization, which brings user-customizable map viewers into the portal. Pre-curated viewers currently enable the visualization and exploration of data products from maritime research. A login feature empowers users to create their own viewers including OGC services-based data products from different sources.

In the development of the portal, we use state of the art web technologies to offer user-friendly and highperformance tools for scientists. Regular demonstrations, feedback loops and usability workshops ensure implementation with added value.

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