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Sample metadata at GEOMAR using LinkAhead: From registration to publication

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At GEOMAR, a multidisciplinary research centre, a large number of heterogeneous biological and geological samples need to be managed: Among other requirements, their metadata and data need to be stored in a FAIR way, their provenance information as well as their physical location in the sample storage need to be available, and scientists need to be supported in organizing their sample management and providing sample metadata in a standardized format to data portals like Marine Data where samples from different sources are searchable .

We present how GEOMAR's sample metadata schema is implemented in two instances of the research data management system LinkAhead. The workflow from (pre-)registration of samples prior to a sampling over updates of samples and storage information to export of metadata for publication is realized in the form of server-side scripts that can be accessed by scientists without any programming background from LinkAhead's web user interface. We show how exporting and updating information of multiple samples is handled by down- and uploading csv files, respectively. We also present how extensions of the datamodel that can be done by curators within the web user interface are automatically reflected in the LinkAhead crawler responsible for the upload of sample information.

Please specify "other"

In addition, please add 3 to 5 keywords.

Sample Management, Open Source,

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Researchers

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