

# Developing a data capture & sharing platform for Maine ocean data

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## What are metadata?

*data about data that have been collected and organized in a database*

Site Coordinates

File Format

Location

Funding

Variables Collected

Start Date

If you have metadata you would like to share, please log on to [tinyurl.com/maineoceandata](http://tinyurl.com/maineoceandata)

## What is the motivation?

- Poor data management inhibits scientific progress and applications of knowledge.
- Marine labs host many investigators from multiple institutions, who have collected many different types of data over long periods of time. This exacerbates data challenges.
- Oftentimes data are:
  - unpublished and no one except one researcher on or off site knows it exists,
  - buried in a file cabinet, and/or
  - stored on a floppy disc or some other technology that has become obsolete.
- Data repositories are digital data warehouses that allow people store and organize data. They can be a very useful tool in combatting some of these issues and also help meet funding agencies requirements for public access to research results.



## What are our methods?

### Research

- Conducting research on metadata literature
- Learning about metadata languages and what terms are most widely used
- Exploring data repositories online to determine which repository fits the DMC's needs and how to become a contributor

### Social Science

- Interviewing data managers, interns, and researchers at the DMC and other institutions
- Surveying researchers to better understand what data are being and have been collected
- Assessing which repository is best fit for the data we are want to capture and share

### Creation

- Creating a template with the metadata variables we need to capture
- Creating a google form for metadata input in the near term, with a test planned for Fall 2018
- Synthesizing the summer research and offering next steps to the DMC to develop a long-term repository for DMC and Maine ocean data

## How can you contribute?

- Add your information at [tinyurl.com/maineoceandata](http://tinyurl.com/maineoceandata), or talk with one of us about the data and/or metadata you'd like to share. This will aid in development of a long-term repository for DMC and Maine ocean data.
- Contribute to the DMC node of the Northeastern Coastal Stations Alliance (NeCSA). NeCSA has a data management team (HL is the rep for the DMC) that is working to identify appropriate cross-institutional data management, sharing, and communication policies that the DMC and other marine labs can contribute to, long term.
- Talk with fellow researchers, students, citizen scientists, and other community partners about your data and how it can be used and shared in meaningful, user-friendly ways.

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