



How to become a WIS centre

This WIS stuff is really cool. How can my centre participate?



Dr. Jagbaja, the head of a regional African climate research centre understands that joining WIS will make his data easier to find.

However, he is afraid that the cost and complexity of joining are too high.

No problem, Boss. I have checked the WIS website and becoming a WIS centre is not difficult. We just have to comply with two specifications



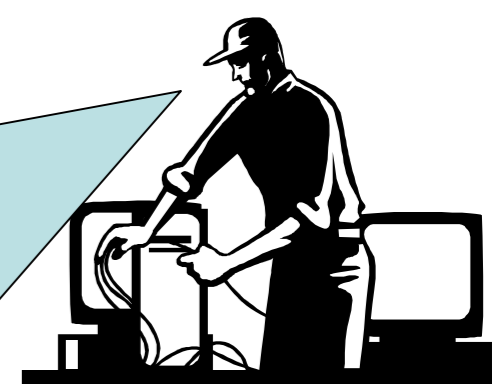
Mr. Georg, the chief technician, reads the documentation on the WIS website (www.wmo.int/wis) and understands that in order to be a WIS Data Collection or Production Centre (DCPC), only two simple steps have to be made. To describe the data available at the centre and to make this descriptive information available to a Global Information Systems Centre (GISC)

This is good news! Can you do some more research what exactly we have to do to become such a DCPC?



Dr. Jagbaja knows that increased usage of his centre's data by international partners will give the centre the necessary visibility for difficult budget negotiations. He decides to join WIS and asks Mr. Georg to investigate the options.

We have two options. Either we create ISO19115 Metadata and upload them to South Africa or Morocco, the African GISCs. We can use a free open source software called Geonetwork to create the metadata, and to make it available for harvesting.



We can also become compatible through including info on our data into a distributed search with Search and Retrieval via URL (SRU). We can do this with Geonetwork, too.

Excellent! But, we have a lot of data. How long will it take us to generate all the metadata?



I'm also worried that you would have to maintain an extra IT-System.

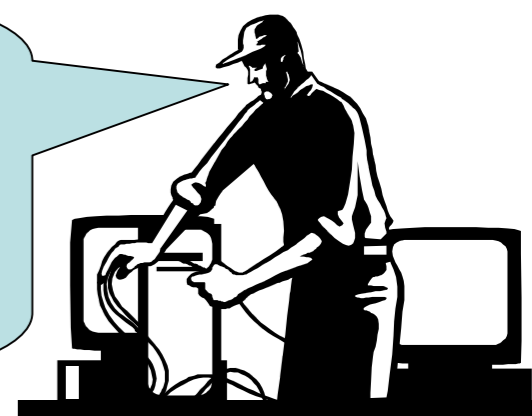
Mr. Georg talks to the WIS Project office at WMO. He finds out that the open source Geonetwork software, created by WFP,FAO and WMO, supports the three basic interfaces for WIS. ISO19139 Metadata creation, Search and Retrieval by URL (SRU) and OAI metadata harvesting. Using these interfaces, he can make his centre's products known in the WIS catalogue by connecting to a GISC.

He is also pleased to find out that his regional GISCs will support him with training and that the WMO WIS Project Office also has a WIS Jumpstart offer.

Dr. Jagbaja does not have many staff and they already have high workloads. He is afraid of extra work if all his products would have to be described.

He is also concerned that WIS would be an extra IT system which his staff would have to manage.

No worries, Boss! The WIS team say we only need to do this in steps. We can create a simple metadata template first and gradually add detail for more products later. This makes it very easy for me.



Since Mr. Georg has now become an WIS expert, he is not worried. He knows that the metadata will be similar for most of the products.

Using his SQL and XML skills, he shows his surprised boss that the metadata can mainly be created using the information in his existing IT systems.

Having seen the tools for building SRU and OAI interfaces out there, he understands that the interfaces needed for WIS compatibility can easily be integrated into his existing systems.

More Info on WIS:

-www.wmo.int/wis

-www.wmo.int/wiswiki

-WIS Jumpstart Offer

The END. The climate centre joins WIS, and ..

- makes its valuable climate data accessible to the world
- Dr. Jagbaja successfully negotiates a new budget
- Mr. Georg receives a promotion with more responsibilities