



IAMS LIC

The International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers (IAMS LIC) is an association of individuals and organizations interested in library and information science, especially as these are applied to the recording, retrieval and dissemination of knowledge and information in all aspects of aquatic and marine sciences and their allied disciplines. The association provides a forum for exchange and exploration of ideas and issues of mutual concern.

Participation in developing the Aquatic Commons is just one of the benefits associated with IAMS LIC Membership. Details of these and how to join IAMS LIC can be found at <http://www.iamslc.org/join-iamslc>



S. Borghesi, FAO

Fish market, Lake Nokoué, Benin



J. Seeto, USP

Women fishing in Fiji

Further information

About Aquatic Commons, see <http://aquaticcommons.org/> and <http://www.iamslc.org/publications/aquatic-commons> for more information.

How to join IAMS LIC: <http://www.iamslc.org/join-iamslc>. Correspondence concerning the Aquatic Commons should be sent to AquaticCommons@gmail.com.

Correspondence about IAMS LIC in general should be sent to:

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<http://aquaticcommons.org/>

Information sharing via the Aquatic Commons

A digital repository covering the natural marine, estuarine/brackish and freshwater environments.

- Access it
- Support it
- Contribute to it

Participate in sharing our information about the aquatic environment.



The repository

The Aquatic Commons is a thematic digital repository covering the natural marine, estuarine/brackish and freshwater environments. It includes all aspects of the science, technology, management and conservation of these environments, their organisms and resources, and the economic, sociological and legal aspects.

The repository contains a growing collection of published and unpublished research, organizational publications, and other scholarly materials contributed by researchers, librarians and their institutions.

It is directed by the International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers (IAMSLIC: <http://www.iamslc.org/>) to provide visibility, usage and impact through global access to digital publications from worldwide marine and freshwater organizations that do not have access to an institutional repository of their own.

The initial implementation of Aquatic Commons was completed under contract by the Florida Center for Library Automation (FCLA). FCLA hosted, developed and managed the Eprints software from 2007 to November 2010.

In December 2010, within the framework of the long-standing collaboration between IAMSLIC and the International Oceanographic Commission, the IODE Project Office in Oostende (Belgium) agreed to host Aquatic Commons as part of its efforts to promote free and open access to marine scientific information, which also includes its own OceanDocs repository (<http://www.oceandocs.org/>). IODE began hosting Aquatic Commons and providing technical support with the implementation of Eprints version 3.2.4, the free software developed by the University of Southampton, UK.

Benefits

Developing and maintaining an in-house digital repository is too resource demanding for many small to medium size organizations.

Security – the hazards of computer crashes, file corruption and virus attacks put publications which reside only on a Web site or only in one digital copy seriously at risk of being lost. Aquatic Commons provides a secure site.

Long-term availability – rapid developments in computer hardware and software lead to high levels of uncertainty for long-term sustainability if larger investments are needed. Aquatic Commons is a robust technical platform.

Preservation - we have an obligation to preserve our publications so that they are available for future generations. Aquatic Commons provides a more long term solution than a Web site publishing system. Digitized legacy collections are of great research value and are also being included in the repository.

Integration – AVANO, the official harvester of the Aquatic Commons, enables users to search the digital publications of marine and freshwater organizations worldwide. AVANO currently harvests more than 250,000 publications from almost 300 open archives: <http://www.ifremer.fr/avano>.

Participation

Depositing digital documents is a quick and simple process requiring basic skills. Easy to follow illustrated guidelines are provided at

<http://www.iamslc.org/publications/aquatic-commons>.

Contributing organizations can be seen at http://aquaticcommons.org/view/issuing_agency/.

Funding

Support of the Aquatic Commons is welcome. Current funding is from IAMSLIC and the Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA) Trust Fund. For further information please contact: janet.webster@oregonstate.edu.

Purpose

Changing technology provides new opportunities to share information globally to more people. One new development is the Aquatic Commons, an Open Access digital repository for the aquatic sciences.

The Aquatic Commons is an opportunity to improve the capture, dissemination and preservation of information addressing the aquatic environment, based on the principles of equal ownership and resource sharing. Its specific aims include:

- ◆ Facilitate sharing of information and knowledge on the science and management of aquatic environments.
- ◆ Provide free and Open Access to information.
- ◆ Ensure equal participation and coverage of the literature from developing and developed countries.
- ◆ Empower managers and resource users to publish their findings.
- ◆ Enable the use and validation of research results.
- ◆ Avoid costly and wasteful duplication of effort.
- ◆ Ensure the preservation of information and its availability for future generations.

Statistics

Aquatic Commons was started in September 2007 and currently has more than 5,000 full text documents available. The total number of downloads is: 345,926 (August 2011).

At present Aquatic Commons has been ranked 278 in the World Ranking of over 1,100 repositories.