

Lessons in Data Publication from the Journal Earth System Science Data

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Started during the International Polar Year 2007-2008, the Earth System Science Data journal (Copernicus) has gradually built a substantial collection of useful and relevant open access data sets, and a corresponding network of open access data centres. The ESSD publication opportunity attracts data sets from discrete events or projects as well as systematic global-scale data compilations and, following a discriminating review of methods and quality, returns formal accreditation for the substantial data preparation efforts and enhanced visibility for the data products. Often, ESSD supports joint special issues with science journals, to publish data sets side-by-side with associated science papers. Because the journal intersects with the evolving worlds of data access and of scholarly publication, our experience offers valuable and continuing lessons for data providers, reviewers, data centres, publishers and editors. The ESSD published products - accessible documented high-quality data sets - represent a very positive step forward for the data and science communities.