Access to field data

The main objective of this task is to provide access to existing facilities on field observations, for the general public and scientific users.

This has been achieved through the development of the ACCENT MetaDatabase, or MDB, a sophisticated and advanced application that allows ACCENT WP Administrators to create metadata records for anything at all. Metadata, or data about data, is organised thematically to create a virtual data centre. No actual data sets are collected in the database.

So far, three work packages are included in the MetaDatabase;

- Access to Field Data
- Training and Education
- Air Quality and Climate

A compilation of meta-data from the major international databases on field observations was made during the first year, and these data were then used as a "case study" for the general meta-database that was developed as part of the web portal. Pending the completion of the meta-database, a first version of the field database was released by the end of year one.

The first compilation of data focused around on-line services, with data from monitoring networks and programs. The next step was to index more research campaign data. These are traditionally stored by individual institutions with many of them having restrictions on their use.

The heart of the new MetaDatabase is the Administration tool that allows WP Administrators to create new meta records. This has been designed to allow for generic data, but is also customisable to ensure that it can meet the needs of any data type, no matter how diverse.

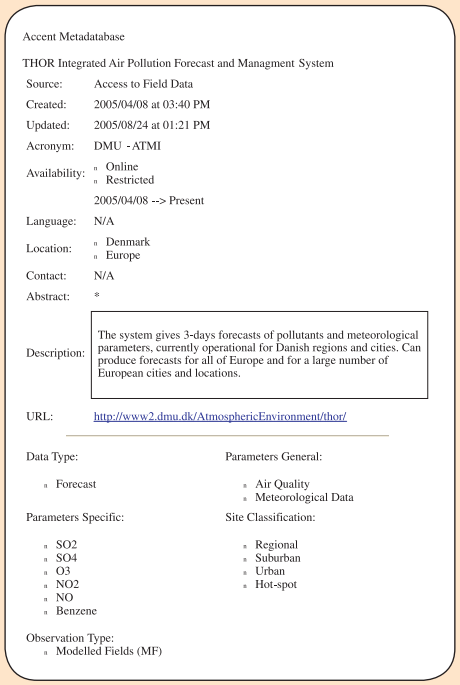
In addition, the MDB will have advanced filter tools to allow users to 'weed out' unwanted search results, as well as provide cross Work Package searching, so that it is possible to search one, or more, of the existing Work Packages directly.

A new filter tool has been developed and will be available to the public in October 2005. In addition, the recent integration between the main ACCENT search engine and the MetaDatabase means that the data is more visible and accessible than ever.

In the future, the MDB will allow public access to update the content directly, as well as to manage the various parameter attributes that comprise the 'engine' of the MDB. This means that if you cannot find a specific data type to relate to your data, you can add it!

While still in its infancy, it is clear that these resources have the potential to grow to become large data structures that will make locating specific resources on a global scale much easier.

ACCENT's MetaDatabase has arrived. And it is here to stay!


Accent Metadatabase

THOR Integrated Air Pollution Forecast and Managment System

Source: Access to Field Data
Created: 2005/04/08 at 03:40 PM
Updated: 2005/08/24 at 01:21 PM
Acronym: DMU - ATMI
Availability: Online, Restricted
2005/04/08 --> Present
Language: N/A
Location: Denmark, Europe
Contact: N/A
Abstract: *
Description: The system gives 3-days forecasts of pollutants and meteorological parameters, currently operational for Danish regions and cities. Can produce forecasts for all of Europe and for a large number of European cities and locations.
URL: http://www2.dmu.dk/AtmosphericEnvironment/thor/

Data Type: Forecast
Parameters General: Air Quality, Meteorological Data
Parameters Specific: SO2, SO4, O3, NO2, NO, Benzene
Site Classification: Regional, Suburban, Urban, Hot-spot
Observation Type: Modelled Fields (MF)

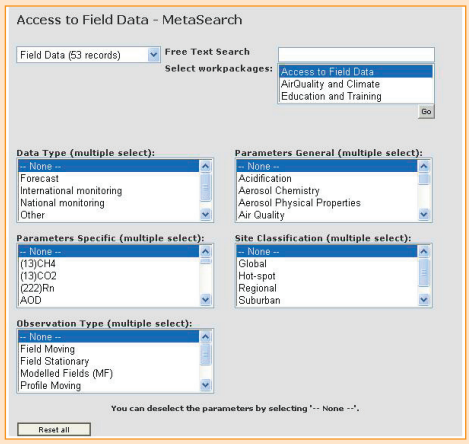


Figure1 (left): An example of a meta-data record used to register information about the Danish THOR programme.

Figure 2 (above): The new filter interface for the ACCENT metadatabase.