



Earth Sciences data user community feedbacks to PARSE.Insight

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The presentation in point reports on the topic of long term availability of environmental data as perceived by the Earth Science data user community.

In the context of the European strategy for preserving Earth Observation (EO) data and as partner of the EU FP7 PARSE.Insight project (<http://www.parse-insight.eu/>), the European Space Agency (ESA) issued a public consultation on-line targeting its EO data user base. The timely and active participation confirmed the high interest in the addressed topic.

Primary target of such an action is to provide ESA teams dedicated to environmental data access, archiving and re-processing with the first insight from the Earth Science community on the preservation of space data in the long-term.

As a significant example, ESA's Climate Change Initiative requires activities like long-term preservation, recalibration and re-processing of data records. The time-span of EO data archives extends from a few years to decades and their value as scientific time-series increases considerably regarding the topic of global change. Future research in the field of Earth Sciences is of invaluable importance: to carry it on researchers worldwide must be enabled to find and access data of interest quickly.

At present several thousands of scientists, principal investigators and operators, access EO missions' metadata, data and derived information daily. Main objectives may be to study the global climate change, to check the status of the instrument and the quality of EO data. There is a huge worldwide scientific community calling for the need to keep EO data accessible without time constraints, easily and quickly.

The scientific community's standpoint is given over the stewardship of environmental data and the appropriateness of current EO data access systems as enabling digital preservation and offering HPC capabilities. This insight in the Earth Sciences community provides a comprehensive illustration of the users' responses over topics like use experiences with historical EO data, preferences in terms of historical data availability and proposals to better access and use them.

The main achievement this initiative brought is certainly enforcing the link with the worldwide Earth Science community on the topic of environmental and space data preservation. Moreover it confirmed the following aspects:

- The scientific community needs and wants to access historical environmental data and historical time series of Earth observations, for the most disparate applications across Earth Science;
- The community wants to enhance its experiences on historical data exploitation aiming at a more active involvement in the process, e.g. by reporting examples and suggestions to foster data availability and accessibility;
- Users are aware and informed about current infrastructures' limitations to enable data availability and accessibility, and ask for timely and effective solutions.

This work presentation is a very good opportunity to receive further feedback over the preservation of EO data from the user community attending the conference.