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The RBV metadata catalog

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RBV (Réseau des Bassins Versants) is an initiative to consolidate the national efforts made by more than 15 elementary observatories belonging to various French research institutions (CNRS, Universities, INRA, IRSTEA, IRD) that study river and drainage basins. RBV is a part of a global initiative to create a network of observatories for investigating Earth's surface processes.

The RBV Metadata Catalogue aims to give an unified vision of the work produced by every observatory to both the members of the RBV network and any external person involved in this domain of research. Another goal is to share this information with other catalogues through the compliance with the ISO19115 standard and the INSPIRE directive and the ability of being harvested (globally or partially).

Metadata management is heterogeneous among observatories. The catalogue is designed to face this situation with the following main features:

-Multiple input methods: Metadata records in the catalog can either be entered with the graphical user interface, harvested from an existing catalogue or imported from information system through simplified web services.

-Three hierachical levels: Metadata records may describe either an observatory in general, one of its experimental site or a dataset produced by instruments.

-Multilingualism: Metadata can be entered in several configurable languages.

The catalogue provides many other feature such as search and browse mechanisms to find or discover records.

The RBV metadata catalogue associates a CSW metadata server (Geosource) and a JEE application. The CSW server is in charge of the persistence of the metadata while the JEE application both wraps CSW calls and define the user interface. The latter is built with the GWT Framework to offer a rich client application with a fully ajaxified navigation.

The catalogue is accessible at the following address: http://portailrbv.sedoo.fr/

Next steps will target the following points:
-Description of sensors in accordance with SensorML
-Use of multilingual SKOS thesaurus