



A Peer Review Process for Best Practice in Ocean Observing

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Documentation on Best Practices (BP) is typically created by teams of experts documenting those methods and techniques which generate result superior to other approaches. At least for BP related to Ocean Observing, we realized that the publication process of the BP documentation is in most cases limited to dedicated websites maintained by the teams of experts or, as a more superior option, publication via a dedicated BP repository. The opportunities to publish BP documentation in peer-reviewed scientific journals such as Journal of Atmospheric and Oceanic Technology or Deep Sea Research ("Methods" section) is of limited use as: (1) only first and novel description of a method are accepted for publication and no regular update of the documentation is possible; (2) only certain aspects of the BP are acceptable for publication and not the comprehensive collection of related documents can be included; (3) the journal content is not open access but a costly subscription are needed.

In general a peer-review publication process of BP is desirable – for the benefit of the document because independent experts (reviewers, editors) review the documentation considering a more generic look and may recommend extension, refinement, and additional aspects not considered by the expert author group. Also for the benefit of the author team because citation is traceable. We present here a newly established BP review process through a dedicated Research Topic as part of the open access journal Frontiers in Marine Science (<https://www.frontiersin.org/research-topics/7173>). Articles in the Research Topic "Best Practices in Ocean Observing" can be linked to the Ocean BP repository hosted and maintained via the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange" (IODE) of the IOC of UNESCO <https://www.oceanbestpractices.net>.