



The NERC Vocabulary Server (NVS) as a shared resource

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The National Environmental Research Council's (NERC) Vocabulary Server (NVS) has been serving the marine and wider community with controlled vocabularies for over a decade. NVS provides access to standardised lists of terms which are used to facilitate data mark-up, interoperability and discovery in the marine and associated earth science domains. The NVS controlled vocabularies are published as Linked Data on the web using the data model of the Simple Knowledge Organisation System (SKOS). They can also be accessed as web services or through a sparql endpoint. NVS is managed by the British Oceanographic Data Centre (BODC) according to rigorous content governance principles. The system in place identifies for each controlled vocabulary its content governance authority and its content governance model which can be either totally internal, collaborative or totally external. Amongst the principles of operation are deprecation of terms versus deletion, versioning of vocabularies and terms, and the provision of internal (NVS to NVS) and external (NVS to other) mappings.

NVS will go through a number of enhancements as part of the SeaDataCloud European project, where the above mentioned principles will be enhanced to improve the transparency of the governance model, encourage wider community participation, and strengthen its reliability by providing versioning and provenance information on the creation of concepts and mappings respectively.

In this presentation, we discuss the enhancement of the NVS model through the adoption of named graphs to support the provenance of mappings, issue tracking of controlled vocabularies via github pages and the embodiment of registration models from ISO19135 to improve the transparency of the governance model.