



Github and Open Research Data; an example using the Eurasian Modern Pollen Database

Philipp S. Sommer, Basil A. S. Davis, and Manuel Chevalier

University of Lausanne, Institute of Earth Surface Dynamics (IDYST), Davis Group, Lausanne, Switzerland
(philipp.sommer@unil.ch)

Established in 2011, the Eurasian Modern Pollen Database (EMPD) is a standardized, fully documented and quality-controlled dataset of over 8000 modern pollen samples which can be openly accessed, and to which scientists can also contribute and help maintain. The database has recently been upgraded to include an intuitive client-based JavaScript web-interface hosted on the version control system Github, allowing data and metadata to be accessed and viewed using a clickable map. We present how we manage the FAIR principles, such as well-documented access and handling of data and metadata using the free Github services for open source development, as well as other critical points for open research data, such as data accreditation and referencing.

Our community-based framework allows automated and transparent quality checks through continuous integration, fast and intuitive access to the data, as well as transparency for data contributors and users concerning changes and bugs in the EMPD. Furthermore, it allows a stable and long-lasting access to the web interface (and the data) without any funding requirements for servers or the risk of security holes.