Introduction

NASA’s Earth Science Data and Information System (ESDIS) Project began investigating the use of Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) in 2010 with the goal of assigning DOIs to various data products. These climate change research data products produced using Earth observing instruments and environmental models are archived and distributed by twelve Distributed Active Archive Centers (DAACs) located across the United States. Each data center serves a different Earth science discipline user community and, accordingly, has a unique approach and process for generating and archiving a variety of data products. These varied approaches present a challenge for developing a DOI solution. To address this challenge, ESDIS has developed processes, guidelines, and several models for creating and assigning DOIs. Initially the DOI assignment process was started as a prototype. Now it is fully operational. In February 2012, ESDIS started using the California Digital Library (CDL) EZID for registering EODIS-related DOIs.

Goal

Assign DOIs to over 5000 data products that are archived and distributed by ESDIS. Provide users a mechanism of citing data and getting to the data irrespective of the archive location of the data products or the responsible data provider for the distribution.

Objective

Provide confidence in availability and reproducibility of the referenced data products and ensure that such products and their documentation are discoverable by future data users.

Challenges

1. Numerous discipline-based Data Centers responsible for processing, archiving, and distribution of data products
2. DOI structure (models) that is meaningful and address all possible variations
3. Establish DOI uniqueness across all data centers.
4. Copies of the same products may be available from different data centers
5. Data products are from currently active missions produced daily and legacy data that has been already processed.
6. Reprocessing leading to multiple product versions. Multiple versions coexist in some cases, but in other cases later versions supersede older versions.

Data Centers

NASA Distributed Active Archive Centers (DAACs) are NASA Data Centers collocated with science discipline expertise. DAACs are data “publishers”; they archive and distribute standard data products produced by the Science Investigator-led Processing Systems.

Map Showing Location of Data Centers

ESDIS DOI System, Approach, and Future Direction

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Identification of the Products that Get DOIs

ESDIS DOI WIKI URL: https://wiki.earthdata.nasa.gov/display/DOIsforEOSDIS

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