

ITALIAN POLAR DATA CENTER

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In 2003 the development of an Information System for the Italian Research in Antarctica (SIRIA) has started, aiming at collection and management, as NADC, of the information about the scientific research projects funded by the Italian National Antarctic Research Program (PNRA) since its birth in 1985. SIRIA consists in a database of metadata, which summarize the basic characteristics on the various research projects according to the structure of the standard for geospatial data elaborated by the European Committee for Standardization. The PNRA is subdivided into 11 scientific sectors and each scientific community has developed its own technical specific language. In order to take into account the need for a common standard language and the terminology used in each particular discipline, a specific metadata interface has been created for each scientific sector. A web site allows the researchers to convey their metadata directly on line. A task force has been created to support the researchers in writing their metadata and more generally to spread the culture of metadata among the scientific community.

The SIRIA supports National Antarctic Data Center network and sends, after validation, only the Antarctic metadata to the Antarctic Master Directory (AMD) managed by the JCADM (Joint Committee on Antarctic Data Management). SIRIA as Italian polar database gathers also information on research activities conducted in North Pole regions. Currently the Italian metadata are included also in the AMD and can be examined on its web site.

This Information System can be a relevant resource for scientists and others with an interest in the polar sciences, in particular for the people who want to carry out interdisciplinary researches.

In this work the collected information related to scientific sectors are shown. Some statistical examinations and examples of metadata are also reported.