



Common Metadata for Climate Modelling Digital Repositories

Newsletter 8 – March 2011

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Metafor CMIP5 questionnaire splinter meeting at EGU 2011

The Metafor project will be hosting a CMIP5 questionnaire splinter meeting at the European Geosciences Union General Assembly, Vienna, 3-8 April, 2011.

This session will provide an overview and introduction to the CMIP5 model metadata questionnaire developed by the Metafor group. It is particularly aimed at those climate modellers who will be using the questionnaire to capture the metadata for their models and experiments in the context of CMIP5.

All users of the questionnaire and other interested parties are invited to attend.

The meeting will be held in Room SM1 on Thu, 07 Apr, 10:30–12:00

Further details can be found at <http://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU2011/session/8949>.

Other presentations about Metafor can be seen at EGU during the following sessions:

- XL162 EGU2011-8459
 - Poster Programme / Hall XL / Attendance Tue, 05 Apr, 15:30–17:00
 - Sarah Callaghan, Mark Morgan, Eric Guilyardi, Sophie Valcke, Charlotte Pascoe, Bryan Lawrence and the METAFOR Project Team “Supporting the climate community by providing common metadata for climate modelling digital repositories: the METAFOR project”.
- XL235 EGU2011-7758
 - Poster Programme / Hall XL / Attendance Thu, 07 Apr, 17:30–19:00
 - Gerard Devine, Bryan Lawrence, Charlotte Pascoe, Rupert Ford, Paul Slavin, and Metafor Team “The CMIP5 questionnaire: web-based metadata collection for climate modeling” (solicited)
- ESSI14 Metadata and Data Models, and Markup Languages Oral Programme / Room 19 / Thu, 07 Apr, 17:30–19:00
 - 18:00–18:15 EGU2011-12475 Charlotte Pascoe, Marie-Pierre Moine, Allyn Treshansky, Gerard Devine, Sebastien Denvil, Michel Kolasinski, and Rupert Ford “A Common Information Model paired with scientific Controlled Vocabularies for Climate Models and Statistical Downscaling”



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Open Workshop about the CIM

The Metafor open dissemination workshop **“Using the Metafor Common Information Model (CIM) to store, discover and locate climate modelling data”**, was held in Abingdon, UK, on Monday 14th March 2011.

The workshop was recorded, and webcasts of the sessions will shortly be available on the Metafor website.

CMIP5 Questionnaire update

The CMIP5 metadata questionnaire was launched in Nov 2010 (<http://q.cmip5.ceda.ac.uk>), and is now in use by several of the CMIP5 modelling centres. Instructions for gaining access to the questionnaire can be found at that same address. The most obvious update that users will notice is our re-drafting of the decadal experiments. The redraft matches up the list of experiments in the questionnaire with the experiment names that users will be familiar with from the cmip5 experiment design document http://cmip-pcmdi.llnl.gov/cmip5/docs/Taylor_CMIP5_22Jan11_marked.pdf

The support team are also running live online demonstrations of the questionnaire, to arrange a demonstration for your team please contact cmip5qhelp@stfc.ac.uk.

Filling the model part of the questionnaire has a direct link with IS-ENES for the European ESMs groups as the result will be used to fulfill one IS-ENES deliverable (D4.2), originally due for August 2010 but now delayed until April 2011 (so in a month or so!).

CIM Updates

CIM v1.5 has been released and can be found at <http://metaforclimate.eu/trac/browser/CIM/tags/version-1.5>. This version will be the operational version used by all the METAFOR tools and services. Work on the CIM will continue to make the CIM fully GML-compatible, and will result in a version 2.0 of the CIM; but this work will not impact the tools and services.

TDS2CIM tool

One main usage of the TDS2CIM tool will be as an integrated tool inside the Metafor portal. The design structure makes it possible to use it locally also as a standalone version. The available functions will be the same, only speed of processing will differ on different configurations. The usage will always be a two path process. The first is to parse at least one TDS (Thredds Data Server) and to store this information in an appropriate postgres data base. This parser software is an output of the development process inside the IS-ENES project. This is an example for a close connection between Metafor and the FP7 EU project IS-ENES. The second path is to map stored information from the data base into the correct CIM XML output format, validate this XML with the Metafor CIM validation class or validation web service and add this reported information to the data description. All this is controlled by an external configuration file which will be used of portal's 'process launcher'.

There is one actual additional approach for the TDS2CIM tool. It will be used to generate metadata from the ECMWF ensembles data and upload them directly into the Metafor portal. To use ECMWF ensembles data inside the downscaling portal of the University of Cantabria this CIM metadata must exist to describe their data content.

Metafor project extension

The Metafor project has been extended for another 6 months, and now will be finishing in September 2011.

Metafor at a glance:

Project title: [Common Metadata for Climate Modelling Digital Repositories \(Metafor\)](#)

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