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NOAA Ocean Exploration Digital Video and Image Data: Archiving, Preserving, and Accessing Online Oceanographic Information

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Abstract:

To address the increasing requirements for archiving, preserving and managing digital video, still images, and audio resources, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of Ocean Exploration (OE) embarked on the Video Data Management System (VDMS) Pilot Project, in collaboration with the National Oceanographic Data Center (NODC), National Coastal Data Development Center (NCDDC), and the NOAA Central Library (NCL). Since 2002, the OE Integrated Product Team (IPT) has been developing a standardized capability for archiving these disparate types of data and information.

NCL staff led the development of the Video Data Management System (VDMS) Pilot Project Plan, which is a part of a larger comprehensive OE Data Management Project. The VDMS team was asked to define and establish 'best practices' to support OE video data management requirements. They developed metadata guidelines for digital video (DV12) and digital still images (DI12) to help scientists and data managers in the field create complete metadata about their data. These guidelines also facilitate creation of MARC21, FGDC, or Dublin Core standard metadata records. They also proposed a work-flow for managing digital video by defining the process for moving video data from ship to library to archive, including steps for creating archival backup copies and web-accessible video clips and highlights.

The VDMS Project presently manages offline access to more than 1500 MiniDV and 500 DVCAM tapes, over 1000 DVDs, and online access to more than 100 digital video clips and highlights collected during NOAA ocean exploration cruises. Currently, access to the NOAA cruise video highlights and related documents is provided through NOAALINC, the NCL online catalog at <http://www.lib.noaa.gov>. A growing collection of digital data obtained during OE cruises, including video, still images, and in situ ocean observations, is archived at NODC. These data are accessible through the search and retrieval functions of the NODC Ocean Archive System (OAS) at <http://www.nodc.noaa.gov/Archive/Search/>.

VDMS Project Objectives:

- Provide timely online information about NOAA's Office of Exploration video data to the general public.
- Archive and preserve unique video and related data for future generations.
- Educate our nation about NOAA oceanographic expeditions and underwater explorations through digital video and related information.
- Foster collaboration between NOAA librarians, data managers, and scientists from different NOAA offices and programs.
- Use or extend existing library tools guidelines, and metadata standards to support new media formats: digital video, digital image, and digital text documents.
- Enhance data access and metadata sharing between NCL NOAALINC, NODC Ocean Archive system (OAS), and NCDDC MerMaid catalogs.

VDMS Project's demonstration video:

http://docs.lib.noaa.gov/OEDV/VDMS_DEMO_2005/neaavdmsdemo.rmvb (136 MB; ca. 20 min. runtime)

VDMS poster with project's overview page:

http://docs.lib.noaa.gov/OEDV/VDMS_Poster_and_Intro_2006.pdf (10 MB)

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