

JAMSTEC core sample curation - Improvement of usability

TOMIYAMA, Takayuki^{1*}, Yusuke Sato²

¹Kochi Institute for Core Sample Research, JAMSTEC, ²Data Research Center for Marine-Earth Science, JAMSTEC

Marine core samples are important research/educational resources for various scientific fields. Using marine core samples, we can obtain important information to understand the earth-ocean-atmosphere system. Since 2008, JAMSTEC has been providing curation service for marine core samples recovered by the JAMSTEC research cruises. The core samples are available for general research/educational purposes through this service. Currently, we have about 5900 sections of marine core samples, and about 4400 of them are already available for research/education.

To stimulate cross-disciplinary research/education projects through the JAMSTEC core sample curation, we are trying to attract researchers/educators who are interested in marine core samples, as well as those who have been involved in core sample research for a long time. For this purpose, maintaining a large collection of marine core samples and associated data is not sufficient. It is also important to develop a user-friendly system in which users can access relevant information without difficulty.

Information for requesting JAMSTEC core samples and associated data is accessible at following websites; "JAMSTEC Core Sample Curation" and "JAMSTEC Core Data Site" [1, 2]. Users can plan their research/educational projects using online information and can submit sample requests by e-mail. The newly implemented map-based sample search system in the "JAMSTEC Core Sample Curation" website, which used to have only a text-based sample search system, provides a much improved searchability to users. On the other hand, we are accumulating new data, such as high-resolution scanned images, X-ray CT scanogram images and paleontological age information, and these data are added into the "JAMSTEC Core Data Site". These fundamental data will help users to have a better understanding of the nature of samples when they plan a research/educational project.

After 4 years of its services, the JAMSTEC core sample curation is now entering into an expansion phase. In addition to the efforts for integrating sample/data collection and developing a user-friendly system, we will cooperate with various national/international activities which provide databases and sample curation services to the scientific community.

[1] "JAMSTEC Core Sample Curation" http://www.jamstec.go.jp/kochi/jc_curation/e/

[2] "JAMSTEC Core Data Site" <http://www.godac.jamstec.go.jp/coredata/e/>

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