

The Role of ICSU World Data System in VarSITI

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Solar-terrestrial physics is a typical example of interdisciplinary science, covering a wide variety of research fields. Interdisciplinary usage of observational data and information are essential in the research works to be conducted under VarSITI. ICSU has a long history to promote international collaborations in long-term provision of interdisciplinary data and information. In the IGY era (1957-58), the initial World Data Center (WDC) System was created under the policy of Full and Open Access to data and information. By the early 2000s, about 50 data centers were registered as WDCs, mainly for geophysical researches. ICSU also had another international data-oriented service under the name of Federation of Astronomical and Geophysical data-analysis Services (FAGS), which was created also in the IGY era, including ten services, e.g. International Space Environment Service (ISES). The World Data System (WDS) has been created by the 29th General Assembly of ICSU in 2008 as an Interdisciplinary Body to expand the range of data and information activities conducted by WDC and FAGS to much wider research fields, including social sciences. WDS strives to become a world-wide community of excellence providing trusted data services for global science with searchable common data directories and catalogues, which ensures the long-term stewardship and provision of quality-assessed data and data services. The VarSTEP will be one of the important partners of WDS because WDS includes many data centers came from former WDC and FAGS communities.

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