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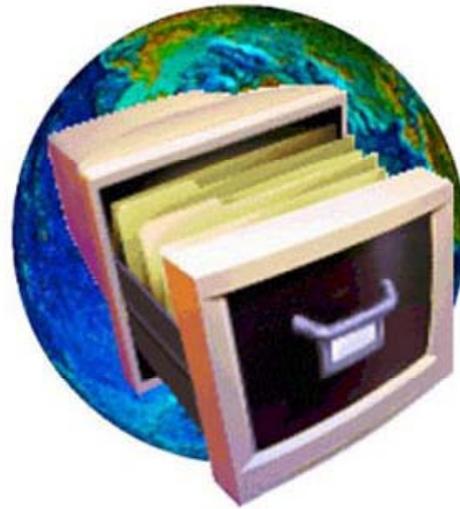


Rationale

"The U. S. Geological Survey Coastal and Marine Geology Program should develop a national knowledge bank on the geologic framework of the country's coastal and marine regions... This knowledge bank should serve as a comprehensive inventory of geologic data developed by all interested agencies... [It] would represent a unique opportunity to foster even greater cooperation with federal, state, and local partners." (National Research Council, 1999. "Science for Decision Making: Coastal and Marine Geology at the U. S. Geological Survey") The Marine Realms Information Bank (MRIB) is the beginning of an information bank as recommended in the NRC report.

What is MRIB?

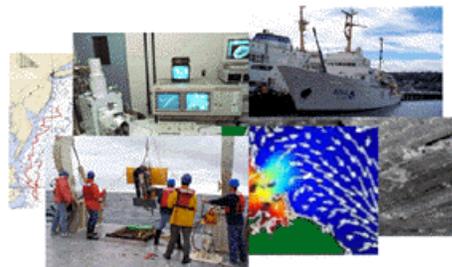
The Marine Realms Information Bank is a distributed geolibrary that catalogues and provides organized access to information about the coastal and marine environments



Objective

By integrating information from distributed and independent sources MRIB provides organized access to knowledge pertaining to the coastal and marine environments. It also attempts to serve a diverse group of users.

MRIB should:



- ❖ **Reveal what information is available**
- ❖ **Present information in context**
- ❖ **Work for a diverse group of users**
- ❖ **Provide a learning experience**
- ❖ **Keep information updated**
- ❖ **Incorporate quality control**

Concept

MRIB provide access to on-line sources, but does not store them in a centralized servers. Its users, services, data and metadata resources are spread among many different locations.

How it works

Each piece of digital information such as text, map, picture, or scientific paper, is classified (**assigned a metadata profile**) by using a controlled vocabulary



Metadata profiles are stored in simple ASCII files called: **Electronic Index Cards (EICs)**

Operational



MRIB is constituted by three independent modules:

EIC Database

Collection of the metadata profiles associated with the referenced information

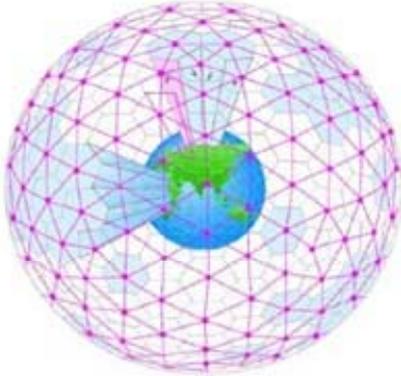
Sorting Engine

Database management software that organizes and sorts the EICs on the basis of the chosen criteria

Web Interface

Web site designed to facilitate the generation of queries and the display of results

Design



Distributed

- ❖ Collection, maintenance and growth of data
- ❖ Information accuracy and revision
- ❖ Data-processing services

Centralized

- ❖ Classification ontology
- ❖ Library catalog
- ❖ Quality-control on information
- ❖ Search and retrieval services



Instructions

In the MRIB, each piece of information can be found through three search strategies, which can be used separately or combined: 1) Browse a Topic, 2) Browse a Map, and 3) Search by Keyword. The Web interface is laid out in three operational sections:

1) *Selection Menu*

Enables users to select one or a combination of information categories to search.

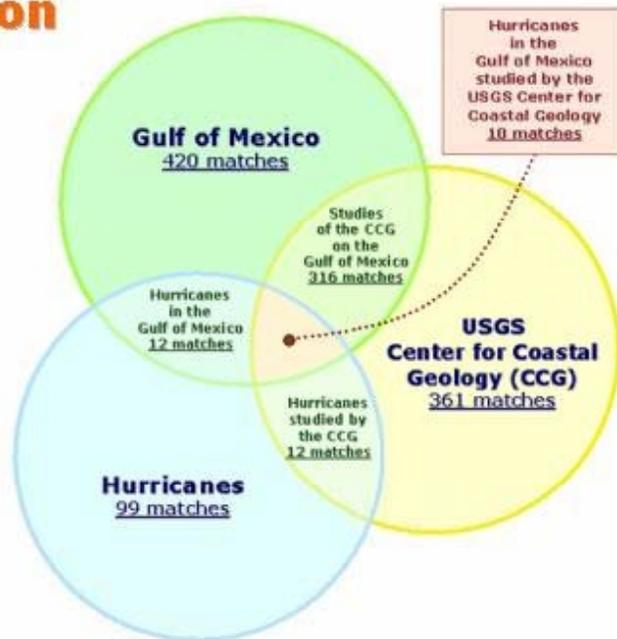
YOU MAY FURTHER REFINE YOUR SEARCH BY CHOOSING:

[Location Name](#) - [Geologic Time](#) - [Features](#) - [Biota](#) - [Discipline](#) - [Method](#) - [Hot Topics](#)
[Project Name](#) - [Agency Name](#) - [Author](#) - [Class](#) - [Format](#) - [Audience](#)

Search MRIB for: 

Finding information

Users can combine the multiple criteria of the MRIB catalog to find exactly the information they need



2) Search History Menu

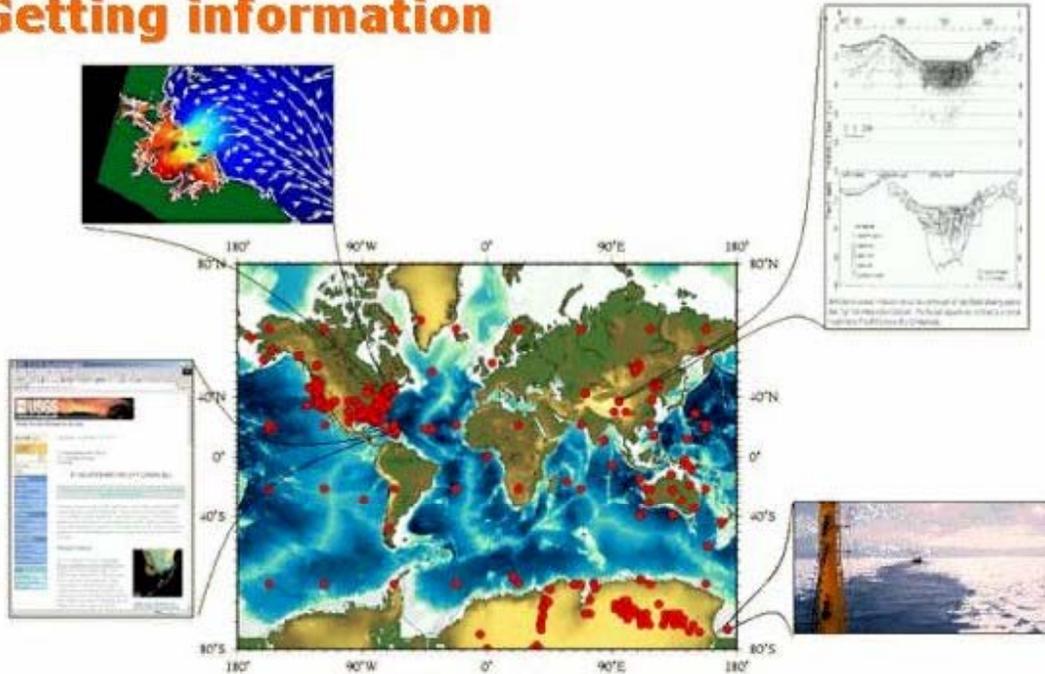
Enables users to see the already selected categories, and if needed to change them.

YOU HAVE SELECTED:		
Zoom: Max/Min Lat: 32/23, Max/Min Lon: -73/-87		
Keywords: 'wetland', 'everglades'		
Discipline	Method	Hot Topics
Biology	Field Observation	Environment
Ichthyology	Biology	Habitat
	Toxicity	Human Impacts

3) **Content Cell**

Displays the search results in map or table form. The pan and zoom map displays the locations of the areas of study and links directly to the remote information sources.

Getting information



Credits

The Marine Realms Information Bank is a collaborative effort of the **U.S. Geological Survey, Coastal and Marine Geology Program at the Woods Hole Field Center** and the **Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution**.

<http://mrrib.usgs.gov>
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