Web Visibility of Marine Science Theses from Argentina



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Theses submitted for obtaining academic degrees are important sources of primary research information but are not usually published and are frequently difficult to find. The INIDEP (National Institute of Fisheries Research and Development) Library has always had within its mission the collection, preservation, and provision of access to National marine scientific literature – including Argentine marine theses – even though INIDEP is not a university-academic type institution but a government research one. There are no other institutions in the country providing, within web databases or repositories, their own marine and aquatic theses archives.

The INIDEP Library has an important Marine Theses Archive built up of 350 Argentine documents, which is made available to the world scientific community through the bibliographic databases of SDIALC-IICA, and also shrough ASA-P-roquests. INIDEP has been involved, from the beginning in 2005, with the OceanDocs-IOC Repository. The Library has created a Marine Theses Collection – Tesis en Ciencias Marines — within the Argentine Community which currently and so far includes 60 records (http://iodewebl.viiz.be/coin/honale/1884/1339).

Because the systems interroperbility allows many access points, bibliographic databases such as ASFA-Proquest and SIDALC can be linked to OceanDocs full-text records from this Marine. Theses Collection. Scientists can also include the links in their bibliographies and academic Cvs.

At the national level, the INIDEP Library is leading the initiative to start uploading additional theses archives into this Collection by contacting other universities and research institutions and inviting them to train with INIDEP.

The present work shows the usage statistics from different countries and a subject analysis from the Argentine-Marine-Marine-Marine Thesis Collection through OceanDocs repository.



Since February 2007 till July 2009, 60 records were uploaded in the OceanDocs Repository. Not all documents are full text, some were partially scanned because during 2006 the INIDEP Library received a grant from Fundación Antorchas N° 13900-13 "Importance of ecosystem borders in the Argentine Sea", only scanning of cover, content table, summary and bibliographic references of several Phd Theses.

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From a total of 0 documents, 58% are Phd, and 68% are in full text. Figure 1 shows: -the
different types of documents included in the Collection: Licenciatura (Graduate thesis),
Doctorado (Phd thesis), Curvocan (Final monograph of Biological Oceanography Summer
Courses at INIDEP from University of Buenos Aires students), and -the characteristics of the
DNS Section 1. PDF documents: Partial or Full Text

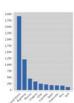
The number of documents ordered by Publication Year (PY), since 1979 till 2008 are distributed as shown Table 1

The "Stat Module" of OceanDocs Repository started The "Stat Module" of Oceanbors Repository started functioning during June 2008, therefore this study refers since then till August 2009, as totals are shown in Figure 2. It is observed that there are very few Views compared to Downloads, probably due to searches performed directly from Google and thus opening directly into the PDF without viewing the Oceanboors reference.

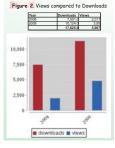
By Countries: it is observed that major users are from Latin American countries and the United States

(Figure 3: Downloads, Figure 4: Views)









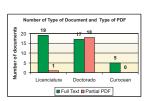


Figure 1. Documents included at the Collection



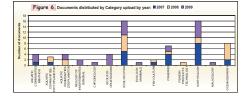
The document Subjects were analyzed in 2 ways:

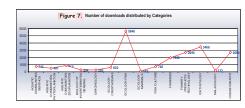
<u>By Descriptors</u>: the connections among them and the contribution of each one in
the 60 documents uploaded are shown (Figure 5). From the 142 descriptors, it is
served that most documents relate to trophic relationships, fish eggs and fish larvae.

<u>Ay Subject Categories</u>: the Categories used at INIDEP Library are based on the ASFIS Subject Categories (ASFIS-2 rev.2, 1995). Only for this study, one or two were allocated for each document but not included in the OceanDocs Repository metadata. The number of documents uploaded distributed by Categories are shown in Figure 6. The major subjects studied correspond to ICHTHYOLOGY and ECOLOGY-FISH.



From analyzing both tools combined (Figure 7) we can read that: The Category ECOLOGY-FLSH with 16 documents uploaded obtained the major percentage, with more than 5000 downloads. But ICHTHYOLOGY, with the same amount of documents, only has 3466 downloads. An unpredictable result was the Category FLSHERES FRODUCTS TECHNOLOGY, with only 1 document uploaded and 2695 downloads. In contrast MALACOLOGY or CARCINOLOGY, with also 1 document each, had very few downloads. We can infer that this Repository is not only used by scientists but also by technical and non-academic users.





This introductory analysis shows a bias because most of the Theses bias because most of the Theses uploaded are from INIDEP Library and from INIDEP romains or related research projects. As progress from this study, in the near future -60 partial PDFs are ready to be uploaded; -University librarians from Potogonian provinces were contacted to start selecting and processing their marine Theses; -another indicators could be analyzed.

The impact within the young Argentina scientific community of web alert notices about this collection is high. Many new Phds request the INIDEP Library to incorporate their just-released born-digital thesis into the Repository.