IGSN Implementation Organization

The IGSN Implementation Organization (IGSN e.V.) provides the organizational and technical backbone for scientific communities to apply globally unique and resolvable, actionable, and persistent identifiers for physical sample materials.

Membership in the IGSN e.V. is open to all non-profit organizations, not individuals, who wish to allocate IGSN names and use the Registration Agency of IGSN in their capacity as allocating agents. To find out more about becoming a member of the IGSN e.V., please contact us at info@igsn.org.

Use of the IGSN in digital data systems builds linkages between digital representations of samples in community repositories, museums, and university collections, their subsamples, their related data in the literature and in published datasets, and in web-accessible databases.

SESAR, the System for Earth Sample Registration, is a web-based registry for samples and related sampling features from the Ocean, Earth, and Polar Sciences. SESAR’s objective is to promote sharing, linking, and integration of sample-based data using unambiguous naming of samples.

Nearly 4 million samples have already been registered in SESAR. In addition to individual scientists, current IGSN users include the Critical Zone Observatories, the Deep Carbon Observatory, and the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program.

To learn more about registering your samples in SESAR, please visit www.geosamples.org or contact us at info@geosamples.org.

How Can You Obtain IGSNs?

International Geo Sample Number

Enabling the location, identification, and citation of physical samples collected from our natural environment.
Have you ever...
...tried to find all data for a sample ever published in the literature?
...wondered if samples in different publications with the same name or number are actually from the same specimen?
...found samples in your drawer or lab that have a label, but couldn’t remember any information about them?
...lost your field notes about samples you collected?

The Solution: The IGSN

What is the IGSN?
The IGSN (International Geo Sample Number) is a globally unique and persistent identifier for geologic and environmental samples (rocks, cores, soils, water, gas, etc.) and related sampling features (sections, wells & drill holes, dredges, etc.). The IGSN is used to unambiguously identify samples in the laboratory and in the literature, and to access sample metadata.

The IGSN can help you:
- Fulfill sample and data management requirements set by NSF and other funding agencies.
- Build comprehensive datasets by tracking the analytical history of a sample and linking data collected at different times by different investigators.
- Share your samples with others and re-use samples belonging to other investigators.

Coral, Lamont-Doherty Core Repository

Sediment, Antarctic Marine Geology Research Facility

Zr-grain mount prototype, Curtin University

IGSNs in Action

Water samples, Global Rivers Observatory

a) Sample collected; b) Sample registered in SESAR: IGSN is assigned and sample metadata become searchable in the SESAR catalog.

c) Article containing sample data is published, including clickable link that resolves to SESAR metadata profile;

Relevant Links:
http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.gca.2013.09.006

Fraser, Fitzwilliam

IGSN: GRO000009

www.geosamples.org/profile?igsn=GRO000009

b)

Dissolved inorganic constituents of the Fraser River, Canada

d) DOI is linked in SESAR profile.