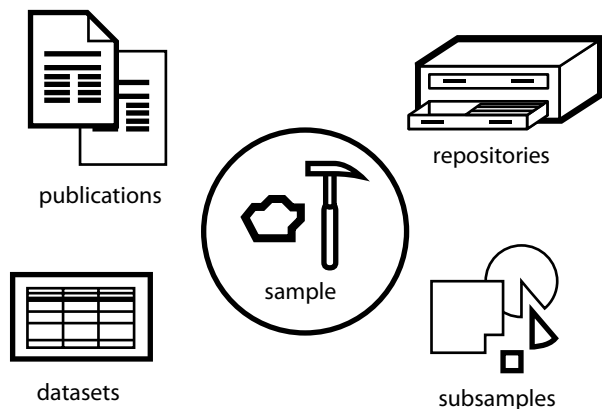


Why do we need the IGSN Implementation Organization?

The application and long-term utility of sample-based data is critically dependent on

- availability of information (metadata) about the samples such as geographical location and time of sampling
- links to other data sets derived from individual samples that are dispersed in the literature and in digital data repositories
- access to the samples themselves

Using persistent identifiers for physical samples, such as the International GeoSample Number (IGSN), provides solutions. **The IGSN Implementation Organisation (IGSN e.V.) offers a system of unique persistent identifiers for samples.** Use of persistent identifiers in digital data systems builds linkages between the digital representation of samples (sample profiles) in community governed portals, their subsamples, their related data in the literature and published datasets, and in web-accessible digital data repositories.



Founding Members

The founding assembly of the IGSN e.V. was held on December 7, 2011, in San Francisco, California. The following founding members signed the statutes

- Arizona State Geological Survey, USA
- Boise State University, USA
- City College of New York, USA
- Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel (GEOMAR) [formerly Leibniz Institute of Marine Sciences (IFM-GEOMAR)], Germany
- GeoForschungsZentrum Potsdam, Germany
- Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University, USA
- Oregon State University, USA
- Scripps Institution of Oceanography / UC San Diego, USA
- University of Minnesota, USA
- Membership of the CSIRO, Australia, Geoscience Australia, and the US Geological Survey is pending.

International Geo Sample Number

Implementation Organization

Enabling the location, identification, and citation of physical samples collected from our natural environment



Contact us at: info@igsn.org

<http://www.igsn.org>

Aim and Scope

Each scientific community has differing needs for referencing physical sample materials, yet all communities benefit from the ability to identify samples in a globally unique and persistent way. **The IGSN Implementation Organisation (IGSN e.V.) provides the organisational and technical backbone for scientific communities to apply globally unique and resolvable, actionable, and persistent identifiers for physical sample materials.**

Physical sample materials encompass any materials referenced for scientific purposes, e.g. minerals, rocks, water samples, holotypes, collection specimens, reference materials, and other types of physical sample materials.

- IGSN e.V. **is not a database** for samples. Discipline specific databases are operated by the respective scientific communities.
- IGSN e.V. **does not prescribe a naming scheme** for samples. Communities are free to govern their IGSN namespaces according to their needs.
- IGSN e.V. **defines the minimal set of metadata to register the sample**, but not a complete schema to describe the sample.

Communities

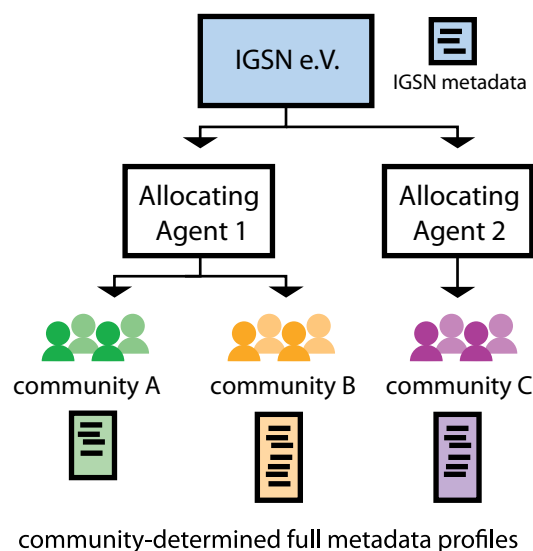
An IGSN Community is a scientific community of practice involving many subdisciplines. These include petrology, oceanography, paleoclimatology, soils science, and many other sample-based communities. The samples registered by a community are made accessible through a common portal. The community also defines the IGSN Naming Convention and metadata application profile.

Metadata

IGSN accommodates a wide diversity of samples, including legacy materials with a limited set of metadata now available. The IGSN metadata scheme is basic, and constitutes only a subset of the full metadata for community-appropriate sample description. It is used only to transmit core metadata needed for the registration, resolution, and administration of the IGSN resolver service. Full metadata schemes in community databases are defined by the respective scientific communities.

The XML schema and documentation of the metadata and schema can be accessed from the IGSN Wiki on the IGSN website:

<http://www.igsn.org/resources>



The figure above illustrates the relationship between the IGSN metadata profile (blue) and community-determined full metadata profiles (other colors).

Membership Info

Membership in the IGSN Implementation Organisation is open to all non-profit organisations who wish to allocate IGSN names and use the Registration Agency of IGSN in their capacity as allocating agents.

Organisations who do not use the Registration Agency of IGSN in their capacity as allocating agents but have an interest in the purpose and objectives of the IGSN Implementation Organisation may apply for an Affiliate Membership with an advisory function and the right to attend the General Assembly.

The amount and due date of annual membership fees will be determined by the General Assembly. The membership fee is currently € 500 per year.

How to Become a Member

Membership is open to organisations only, not to individuals. To become a member in the IGSN Implementation Organisation, your home institution needs to become a member of the association. **Applications for membership in the IGSN Implementation Organisation must be sent in writing to the IGSN e.V. management office.** Contact us at info@igsn.org.