

Introduction

The Arabesque data set is large and quite complex. As you may find this a little daunting and have little idea where to start getting what you want from the data set, this document is designed to provide you with as much help as possible to find your way around.

This Users' Guide is a 'soft document' implemented using Adobe's Acrobat active documentation system. It is therefore more like a Web site than a conventional printed document. Instead of an index containing page numbers, there are 'hot links' which will take you to the appropriate point in the document with a single click of the left mouse button. These may be identified in two ways.

First, when the Acrobat hand cursor is on a hot link, it turns into a pointing finger. This can be a little difficult to see, so to make it easier, any text that lies within a hot link has been highlighted with colour. So, if you see any text that isn't black, click it and you will instantly travel to the relevant part of the document. The manual is implemented as a series of document files arranged in hierarchical layers. Whilst Acrobat includes mechanisms for getting back from a file to the file that called it, these are either not obvious (using the document list in the File menu) or long winded (backspacing through views). To circumvent this, additional help has been provided in the form of 'Parent' and 'Home' buttons at the top of each document. Clicking the 'Parent' button opens the file that called the current file. In other words, it moves you one layer up through the hierarchy. Clicking the 'Home' button opens this file, bringing you instantly back to the beginning.

The Acrobat reader you are now using is a powerful piece of software. In addition to the 'hot link' navigation it has many other features. For those who prefer to read away from their computer screen, documents may be printed either whole or in part. Text and graphics may be copied to other applications and therefore may be regarded as data that may be accessed directly from this document. Please take some time to explore the facilities offered by the software from this document - it is time well spent.

In addition to this document, there are three other broad techniques that may be used to access the data contained within this CD-ROM system. Firstly, there are software utilities developed by BODC to extract data from the databases contained on the CD-ROM. Secondly, much of the data are held in a Microsoft JET database that may be interrogated using Version 2.0 or later of Microsoft's Access relational database system. Thirdly, the data are present as an ASCII 'kit form' database designed to allow users with their own relational system to load data in bulk.

Please take some time to explore this manual. We are sure that the time invested will be amply rewarded.

Contents

Credits and Acknowledgements. Who did what to bring this electronic publication to you, including acknowledgement of copyright and trademarks.

ARABESQUE Roll of Honour. Who did what to collect the ARABESQUE data set.

The ARABESQUE Project. A summary of ARABESQUE science and field work.

CD-ROM Overview. A descriptive electronic brochure providing a summary of the CD-ROM contents.

The ARABESQUE Underway Data Set. Continuously measured sea surface data, meteorology, navigation and bathymetry.

The ARABESQUE Database. All ARABESQUE data excluding the underway and UOR data.

The ARABESQUE UOR Data Set. Continuously measured hydrography on the Undulating Oceanographic Recorder.